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

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bank of Napa

other name/site number: Bank of America

2. Location

street & number: 903 Main Street and 908 Brown 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not for publication: N/A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. C. ...
Signature of certifying official

May 12, 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 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): _____

Adelouste ...
National Register
6/18/92

for 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
Modern Movement: Art Deco

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt
walls stucco other _____

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: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1923, 1934

Significant Dates : 1923 1934

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

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
- 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>562540</u>	<u>4239060</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.
Napa County Assessor's parcel 003-221-12

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: March 25, 1992

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

City or Town: Sacramento State: CA ZIP: 95816

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Description

The Bank of Napa is a Classical Revival commercial building with a large Art Deco annex in the rear. The original section of the bank (1923) is a two-story, stucco-clad building set beneath a flat roof. The annex (1934) is a shorter two-story, stucco-clad addition also set beneath a flat roof. The design of the original section is distinguished by the decorative cornice, columns, and frieze. The Annex features zigzag and geometric motifs. The building stretches a city block and is located on two prominent downtown intersections. The original section still retains a few interior decorative elements, while the interior of the annex has been altered considerably. The building has never had any landscaping.

The original building has two stories and is constructed of reinforced concrete. Atop the cornice is a false balustrade with balusters and panels in bas relief. The cornice is a plain band with dentil work under the eaves. The frieze is plain except for two circular ornaments and the name of the financial institution that now occupies the building. The architrave beneath is a plain band. The front (east) elevation of the structure is dominated by six engaged Doric columns that define three bays. The four in the center are paired around the front entrance. The two on the side stand next to broad plain pilasters at the corners of the building. The columns are separated by large multi-paned windows with cast iron frames. The entrance is topped by a triangular pediment with dentil work and sculpted frieze. The pilasters, windows, and columns rest on a plain base about five feet in height; the entrance is at ground level.

The south elevation of the original building carries on the balustrade and entablature from the front. It has three large multi-paned windows with cast iron frames extending to the base and one window of slightly different design that extends almost to the sidewalk. This window has the old Bank of Napa emblem stamped into the iron work and at one time served as an entranceway to upstairs offices. Separating the windows are two plain pilasters at each end and three pairs of raised pilasters with prominent capitals.

The two-story annex is attached to the west facade of the original building. It has smooth stucco siding and a rectangular plan. Its main (west) elevation has a slightly asymmetrical design. At the flat roofline is a narrow band with geometric ornamentation. Approximately five feet below the roofline is a cluster of decorative elements that wrap around the west and south walls: a band with a geometric motif, ribbon windows generally separated into groups of three by six panels of floral and geometric motifs, two belt courses with a plain frieze in between and

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interrupted by three bracket-like elements that on the south elevation extend toward the ground to form pilasters.

The major feature of the annex's main elevation is its shallow and slightly off-center entrance portico. The portico has a decorated roofline band that is wider than that on the rest of the annex. On either side of the entryway are ornamented pilasters that point at the cornice. The most elaborate part of the addition is the door frame, which is accented by relief work of vine and geometric designs, culminating with a stylized eagle on the lintel. The door frame is topped with a large stained glass window featuring the Bank of America logo. The windows at street level, circa 1960, are tinted plate glass with anodized aluminum frames. Near the southwest corner of the building the windows break to reveal a recessed doorway. There is another doorway at the northwest corner. A two-foot base of glazed tile wraps around the ground level of the west and south facades except for a ten foot section on the west wall beyond the portico.

The north wall of the building is blank, having been designed to be flush against another structure. On the annex the wall rises eight feet above the roofline. Much of the north wall is covered by vines.

The building, which is located in the center of Napa's downtown commercial area, completely covers its lot. It has never had any landscaping. Another commercial building once stood immediately adjacent on the north. This structure has been replaced by a city parking lot.

The interior of the original building contains one large room used for public banking purposes, and has a stairway leading to a mezzanine with additional office space. The room has marble wainscoting. The ceiling is made of elaborately sculptured plaster, which is divided in to many large squares, each containing a central flower design. The background of the center is blue, and the rest of the ceiling is accented by silver and gold. Originally all the gold color was gold leaf, but much of that has worn away. The cornice, immediately below the ceiling, is ornamented with sculpted laurels and faded red, white, and blue union emblems.

The building basically retains the integrity of original design and materials, but some interior and exterior alterations have taken place. The structure had offices on the second floor which were reached by a stairway and entrance that opened onto Second Street. These were eliminated in 1929 when the entire building was dedicated to banking uses. The annex originally had, in addition to extra space for bank activities and a hallway to the lobby in the main part of the building, two storefronts, one on each side of the entrance. Only one of these now remains, and it no longer has a separate use. Both of the original main

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doors have been replaced (ca. 1960) as have all of the original windows in the annex (ca. 1970). Interior remodelings in the original building include the replacement of the chandeliers in the 1950s and remodeling of the cashier booths, which originally were high metal cages. The annex retains no important interior design features. The Bank of Napa is in very good condition and despite its alterations retains its architectural integrity.

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Significance

The Bank of Napa is significant as a rare remaining example of two important architectural styles--Classical Revival and Art Deco. The original building (1923) is a well executed example of classicism in its waning years, in which the simplicity of the basic design is complemented by subdued detailing. The annex (1934) represents a reaction to archaic designs, especially in the use of diagonal and floral pattern details. Together, the two sections of the building show the radical change in architectural taste that occurred in Napa (and elsewhere) between the mid-1920s and mid-1930s. The city has few remaining examples of either style and no instance in which both appear in the same building.

The original section represents the last phase of the architectural classicism that sought to apply Greek and Roman forms directly to modern buildings. Classical styles enjoyed a revival in America which started in the late nineteenth century and continued through the 1920s. By the end of the period the more flamboyant Beaux-Arts and Renaissance Revival versions had largely been replaced by a simplified neo-classicism. Bank buildings, in particular, used classical models, presumably because their solidity and historical references gave customers a sense of security. Typical features of the classical style appear in the Bank of Napa: a symmetrical facade, decorated parapet, prominent entablature, and Doric columns and pilasters. They are combined in a competent if somewhat unimaginative design that seeks to convey stability and trustworthiness. The structure carries the quest for classical simplicity even further by rendering all of the detailing in concrete. This material is less finely surfaced than either marble, which was typically used on earlier classical buildings, or terra cotta, which came into favor during the 1920s. Another sign of restraint appears at the parapet, where the balustrade is done in bas-relief rather than with actual balusters.

The annex exemplifies the Art Deco style, which became popular in the late 1920s. Essential to the style is the use of low relief ornamentation in diagonal or floral designs. The former pattern occurs on the horizontal bands at the cornice and atop the windows, and the latter on the pilasters flanking the entrance and the windows. Also typical of the Art Deco is a composition of distinct blocks, shown in the annex in the slightly projecting rectangular portico and emphasized in plain wall surface of the building's main volume. The annex's abbreviated pilasters, which point at but do not reach the cornice, are another characteristic Art Deco feature. Not so usual is the horizontal orientation, which is produced by the shape of the building and accentuated by the window bands. The original storefronts, which have been replaced, probably added to the horizontality

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of the design. The tile bands above the sidewalk still remain and constitute another design feature from the period.

Taken together, the original section of the building and the annex show the evolution of architectural design between the mid-1920s and mid-1930s. Both sections extend to the parcel line and have a rectangular shape. Both contain vertical and horizontal elements. Both were designed to perform the same function and convey the same sense of security to customers. In 1923 that sense arose from references to centuries before: fluted columns, full entablature, pedimented entrance. The Bank of Napa understandably commissioned a neo-classical building as its new headquarters. In 1934 the past--especially the recent past, in which financial institutions helped to produce a grinding economic depression--no longer seemed like a bastion of safety. Thus the designers of the annex (and the new owners, the Bank of America) abandoned classicism and adopted an up-to-the minute style that seemed ready to embrace the future.

Napa has no other building that represents both the roaring twenties and the depressed thirties. It has few well designed examples from either decade and only a handful illustrating the entire neo-classical movement. In comparison with other commercial buildings in town, the Bank of Napa is significant as an example of two architectural styles and two periods of construction. The original section is virtually unaltered. The annex, despite its altered storefronts, retains its architectural integrity. Together they convey important historical associations in Napa's architectural development.

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Major Bibliographical References

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Fogarty, Walter. Interview, 2 May 1977.

Napa, California. Cultural Heritage Commission. File HP-19

Sacramento, California. State Department of Parks and Recreation. Napa
Historic Resources Inventory, 1978.

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture since 1780. Cambridge, Mass.:
M.I.T. Press, 1969.

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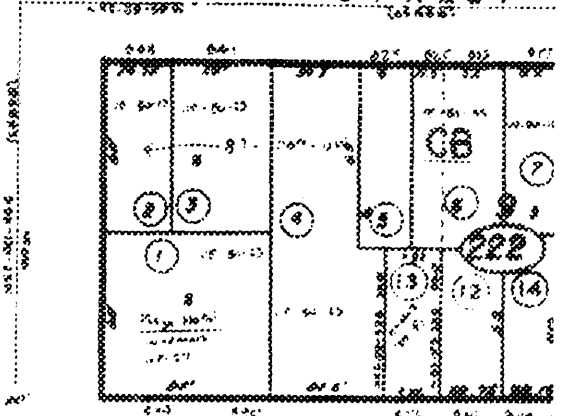
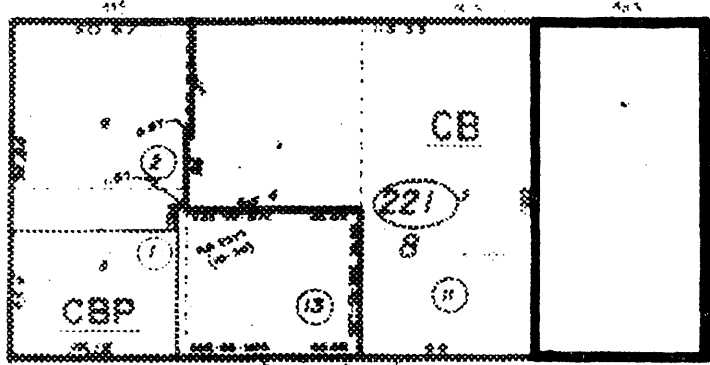
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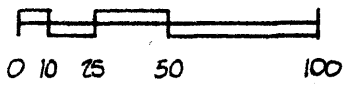
STREET



Bank of Napa

STREET

Bank of Napa



903 Main Street
 Napa, California
 Napa County



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Additional Documentation

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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 Northeast

Photo No. 2

6. View from the South

Photo No. 3

6. View from the Southwest

Photo No. 4

6. View from the North