

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received DEC 16 1986
date entered FEB 26 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Yolo County Courthouse

RECEIVED

and/or common The Courthouse

JAN 7 1987

2. Location

OHP

street & number 725 Court Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Woodland

N/A vicinity of Congressional District No. 4

state California

code 06

county Yolo 95695

code 013

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name County of Yolo

street & number 725 Court Street

city, town Woodland

N/A vicinity of

state California 95695

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yolo County Administration Building

street & number 625 Court Street

city, town Woodland

state California 95695

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Woodland Historical Resource Inventory, has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981/82

federal state county local

depository for survey records Woodland Public Library,

city, town Woodland

state California

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a 300' by 350' lot known as Courthouse Square, in the center of the City of Woodland, the Yolo County Courthouse is a two-story building elevated on a rusticated masonry basement and capped by an open balustrade. 240' long, 110' wide, and 53' high, this elegant symmetrical rectangular structure reflects an eclectic combination of Greek, Roman and Renaissance architectural styles. Its exterior is unchanged since its completion in 1917.

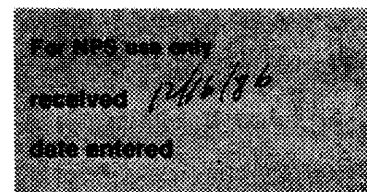
On the south side of the Courthouse is the main entrance, a Corinthian columned portico reached by mounting a grand stairway of 21 stone steps. The wall area behind the entry portico is massively decorated with enframingent, decorated sills and a broken segmental pediment with a grand classical theme. The exterior walls are of Portland cement, faced with Colusa sandstone except for the cornice and other portions faced with terra cotta. The walls are punctuated by engaged square fluted columns. Each end of the building is anchored by protruded forms having engaged round columns. The windows are simple with decoration between floors forming a broken horizontal cornice. A simple architrave caps the columns and top windows. A decorated extended terra cotta cornice and frieze cap the ballustraded parapet in a classic Roman mode.

The ground level basement serves as the first floor of the building and is entered on the south, east and west through glass and oak doors which open on a wide central corridor. The second and third floors each have a prominent central rotunda and a central corridor running the length of the building. Both rotundas have marble pilaster columns which support a decorative frieze and coffered ceiling. The second floor rotunda has four murals depicting "The Procession of the Seasons" painted in pastel colors on cement tablets 60" by 30" mounted just below the ceiling. The third floor rotunda has a colored glass skylight framed in oak. The interior walls are of Vermont marble, the entrance floors are of Columbia marble, and the other floors are terrazzo with marble borders. The doors, paneling and woodwork in the corridors, offices and courtrooms are of eastern white oak, and the furniture is oak with rich Spanish leather trim. Richly decorated copper handrails grace the interior marble stairways, and light fixtures in the corridors have handblown egg-shaped glass globes.

The Courthouse looks, on the outside, almost exactly the way it did upon completion in 1917. There have been no changes to the exterior of the building except for the addition of air conditioners. The grounds have been changed over the years, however. Much of the original landscaping has been removed or replaced, and an effort is underway to reintroduce the same plant varieties specified in the original landscaping plan. The original circular water fountain midway down the south walkway has been replaced by a flagpole plaze. A large building of contemporary Spanish Revival design, the Erwin W. Meier Yolo County Administration Buidling (1), completed in 1984, fronts on Courthouse Square just south of the Courthouse. The building now houses county offices previously housed in the Courthouse. Trees and shrubs have been planted in front of the new building which soften the contrast between the architectural styles of the two county buildings.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 1

There have been no major interior structural alterations to the Courthouse. The rotundas and corridors are almost exactly as they were in 1917. However, individual offices have been remodeled at various times in the Courthouse's 68-year-old history to provide space and comfort for an ever-growing governmental staff. Interior office alterations, begun in 1982 and still continuing under the direction of architect Dean Unger, have been planned with the goal of returning the Courthouse to its original function of housing court and court-related offices, and to its original appearance as much as possible. With the exception of carpeting in the corridor on the ground floor and in some offices, glass doors installed in 1983 in the third floor corridor for fire protection purposes, and modern office equipment in the offices, the interior now closely resembles its 1917 appearance. Marble floors have been cleaned, oak woodwork refinished, oak furniture replaced or added, and walls painted their original colors. The building, when present remodeling is completed, will house two municipal courts and offices on the ground floor, a Superior Court, Traffic Court, County Clerk and offices on the second floor, two Superior Courts, the District Attorney, and offices on the third floor, and offices in the penthouse which was formerly used for storage.

One (1) contributing building.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1917

Builder/Architect William Henry Weeks (1864-1936)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Yolo County Courthouse, which was constructed in 1917 at a cost of \$300,000 is significant for its historical association with the development of the City of Woodland and local government in Yolo County. The building is a fine example of monumental government buildings of the period and is significant for its beauty and innovative use of building materials.

The selection of Woodland as the county seat in 1862, twelve years after the County of Yolo was established, was a significant event in the development of the city. Franklin S. Freeman, a local landowner and businessman who is credited with being the founder of the city, deeded a city block, now known as Courthouse Square, on June 11, 1862, for \$300 to the County of Yolo "as a public square upon which public buildings of said county shall be erected and stand... forever." A courthouse was built on the square in 1863, and an adjacent Hall of Records was erected in 1889. The foundation of the original courthouse was faulty and had to be repaired. It was further weakened by the earthquake of 1902 and was condemned as unsafe in 1911. After two unsuccessful bond elections, voters approved \$200,000 in 1916 for the construction of a new courthouse. The old courthouse was razed, and the cornerstone of the present courthouse was laid on January 18, 1917, in an elaborate ceremony. Construction proceeded throughout that year, and the Board of Supervisors met for the first time in the new courthouse on March 4, 1918, at which time the old Hall of Records was also razed. Within two months the impressive new building, which stood alone in the middle of the square, was surrounded by walkways, flower beds, shrubs and trees.

The City of Woodland was incorporated in 1871 and soon became the social and commercial as well as governmental center of the county. Hotels and office buildings grew up near the Courthouse. A large opera house was built a block away, on Second Street between Court and Main Streets, in 1885. It was destroyed by fire in 1892, and a new opera house (2) was built in 1895 which has recently been restored and today is a California State Park. Three historic civic buildings near the Courthouse are still in use. The Woodland Library (3) on First Street, a Carnegie library built in Mission Revival style in 1904, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Woodland City Hall (4) on First Street and the Post Office (5) on Court Street, both originally built in 1935 and recently restored, are impressive Spanish Revival style buildings. The new County Administration Building (1) was constructed in 1984 on the west side of Courthouse Square principally because the site is the governmental and commercial center of the city and county. The Woodland City Council designated the square a Historical District on March 5, 1985.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, No. 3, page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.41 Ac. ±

Quadrangle name Woodland, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	0	6	0	7	0	0	0	4	2	8	1	7	1	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing					

C

Zone			Easting					Northing					

D

Zone			Easting					Northing					

E

Zone			Easting					Northing					

F

Zone			Easting					Northing					

G

Zone			Easting					Northing					

H

Zone			Easting					Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property occupies the eastern 2.41 acres of accessors parcel #5-202-16, denoted as Block 9 of recorder's MB 1, pg 40½ - Call's addition. The lot is 300' x 350'. It is the historic boundary for the Courthouse property known as Courthouse Square before Second St. was blocked off between Court St. and North St.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Earl A. Balch, Director of Parks, Museum & Grounds and Shipley Walters, historian *756-7911 resolution*

organization Yolo County date December 12, 1985

street & number 625 Court Street telephone (916) 666-8179

city or town Woodland state California 95695

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 *Kathryn Gueltz*

title _____ date 12/8/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 2-26-87

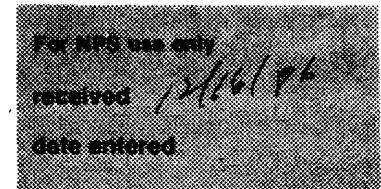
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet 3

Item number 9

Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

The Daily Democrat, Woodland, California

"Landscaping of the Courthouse," January 30, 1918, p. 1

"Durand's Paintings in the County Building," February 5, 1918, p. 1

"Architect Visits Courthouse," February 12, 1918, p. 1

Lewis, Betty, "William H. Weeks: Architect of the Plain Citizen."
in California Historical Courier, vol. 40, no. 3, July 1978, p.6

Russell, William O., History of Yolo County, California: Its Resources
and Its People. Woodland, California. 1940. pp. 97,98,387.

Weeks, William Henry, "Specifications for Yolo County Courthouse,"
August 30, 1916. (in County Clerk's Office, Purchasing File 16)

Wirth, Gary, Woodland Historical Resources Inventory, Final Report, 1981-82

Woodland, City of. Ordinance No. 1059. March 5, 1985.

The Woodland Mail, Woodland, California

"Courthouse Bid Let to Trost Co.," August 22, 1916, p.1

"Courthouse Bid", August 30, 1916, p.1

"Courthouse Definitely Located by Contractor," September 6, 1916

"Yolo County Courthouse is Example of Good Building," April 25, 1917

Yolo County Board of Supervisors, Minutes of Meetings.

County Clerk's Office, Woodland, California

Volume M, October 5, 1914, p. 491

Volume N, August 14, 1916, p. 86

Volume N, August 14, 1916, p. 89

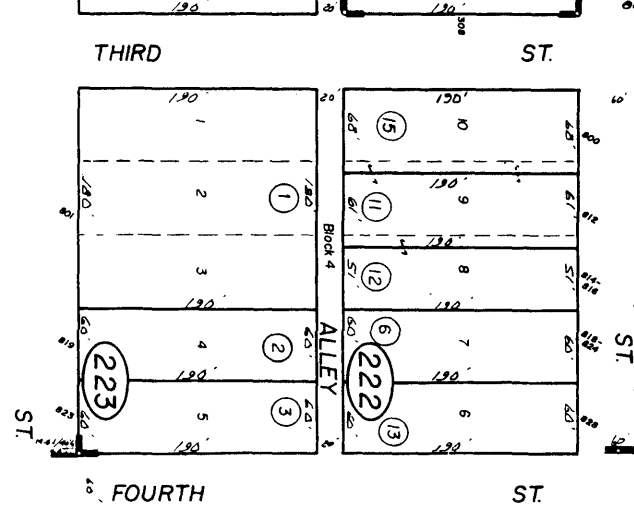
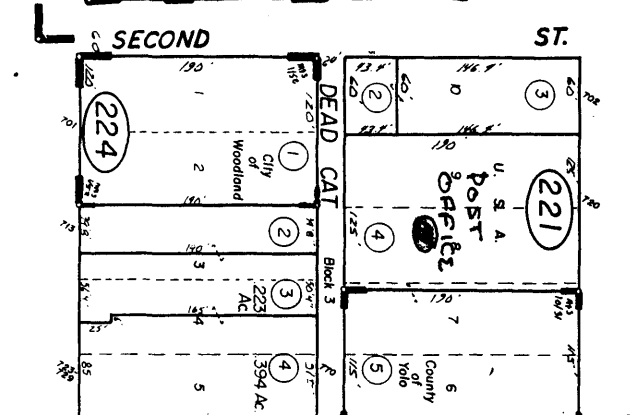
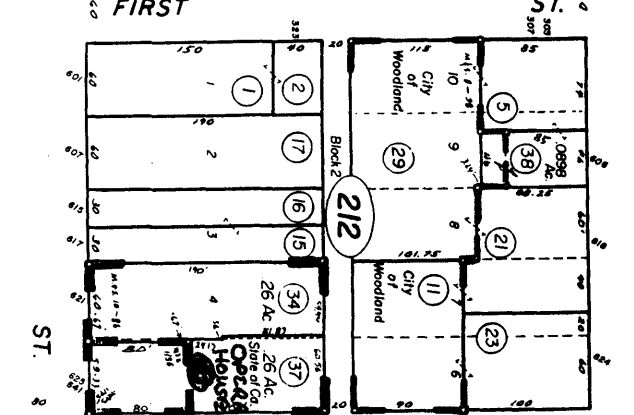
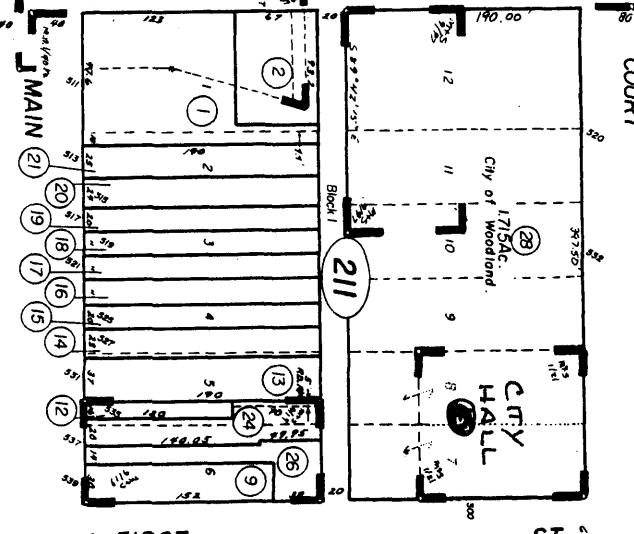
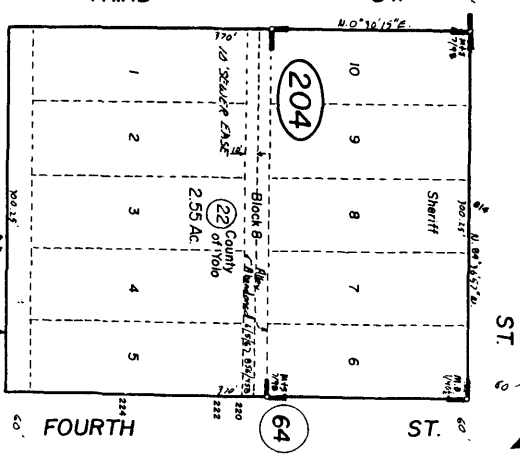
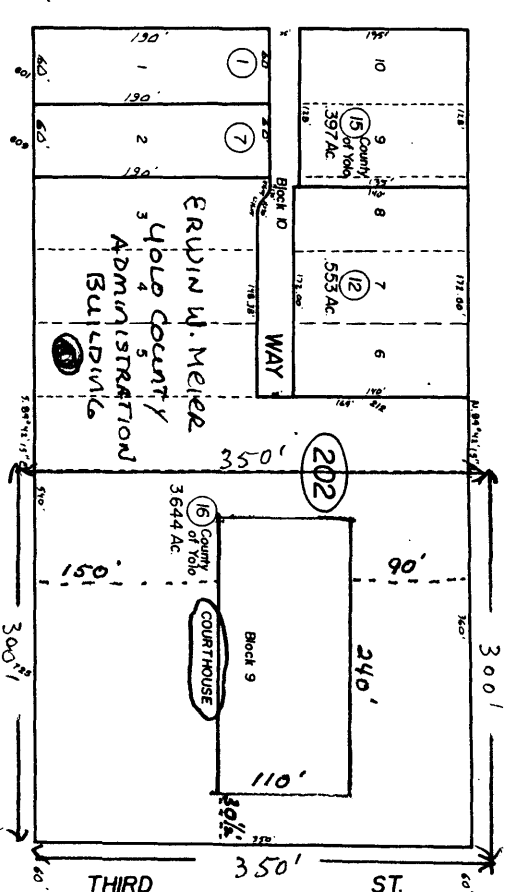
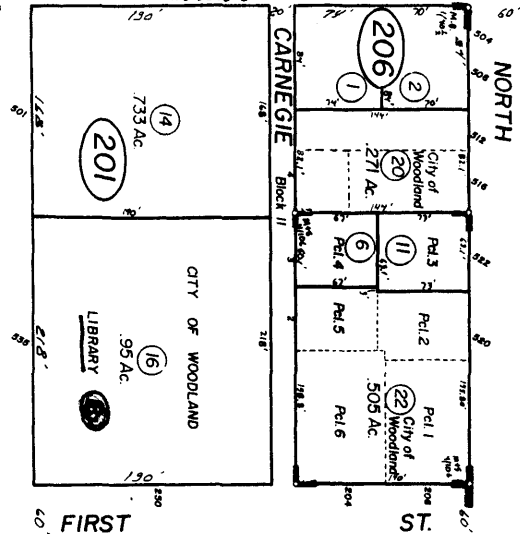
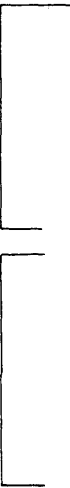
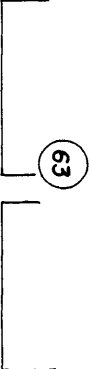
Volume N, November 15, 1917, p. 276

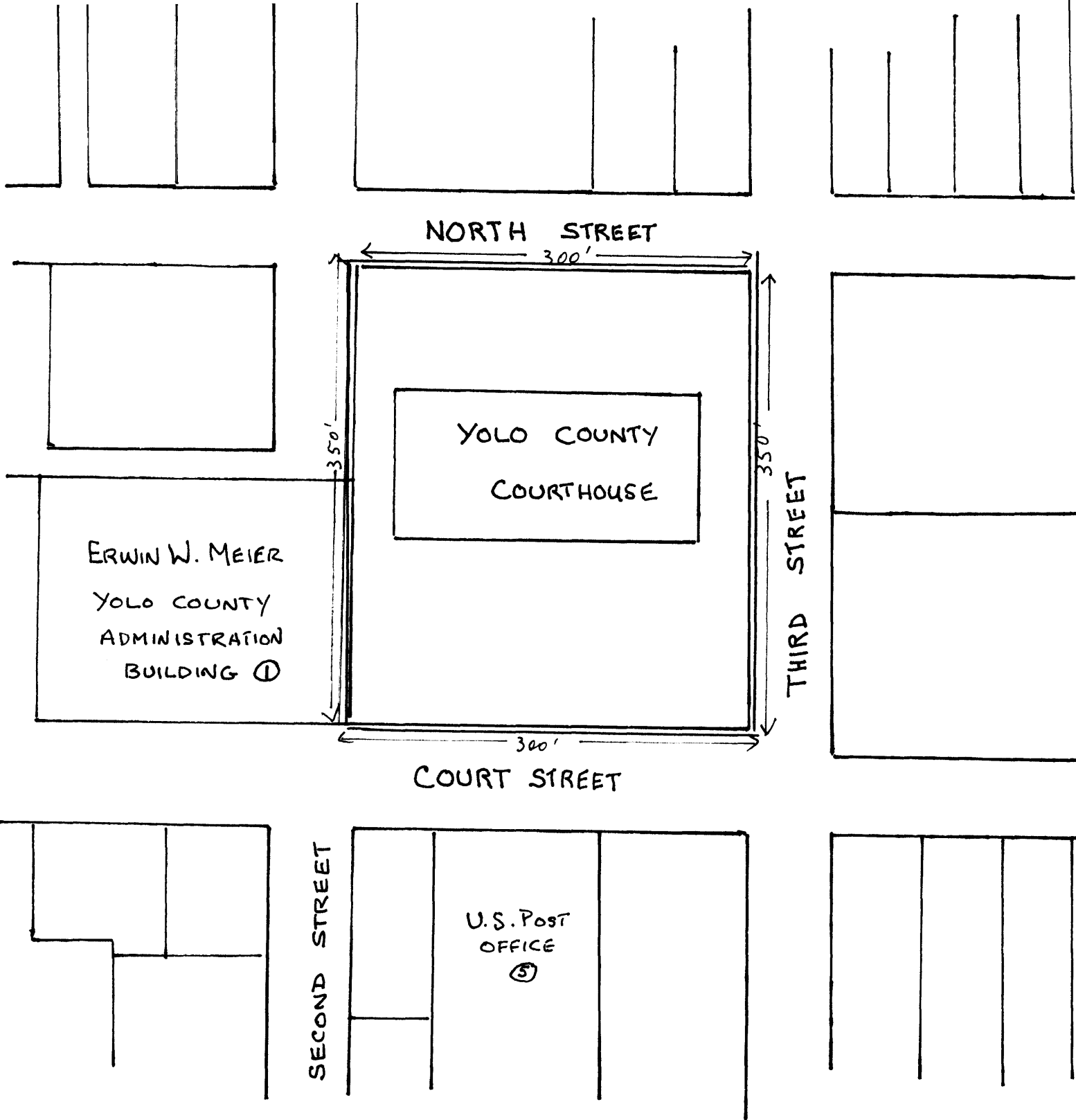
CAUTION - These maps ARE NOT to be used for legal descriptions.
CITY OF WOODLAND
Assessor's Map Bk. 5, Pg. 22.
County of Yolo, Calif.

NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles

85/86

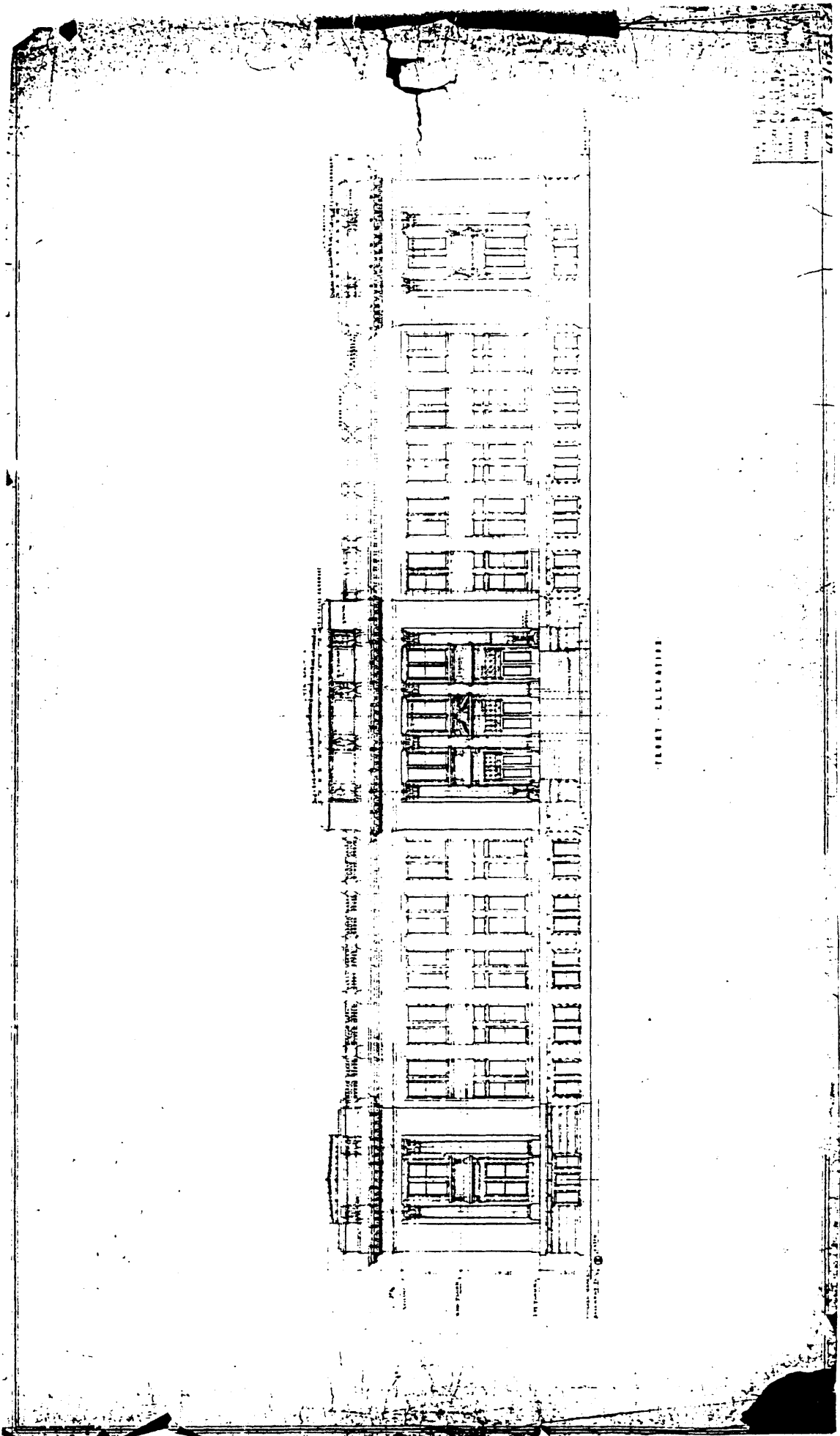
SECOND ST.





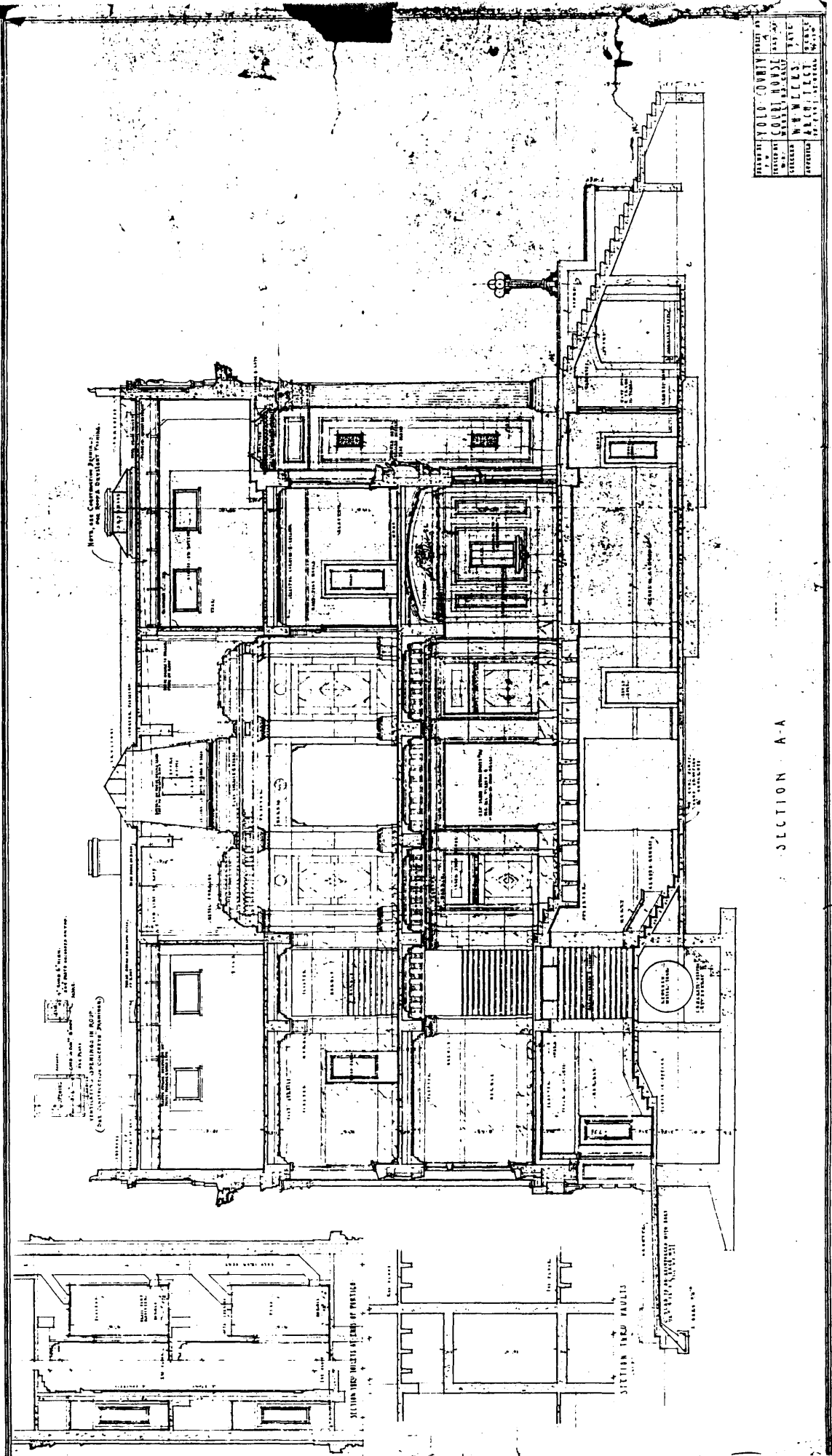
SCALE: 1" = 100'

rd/6/88

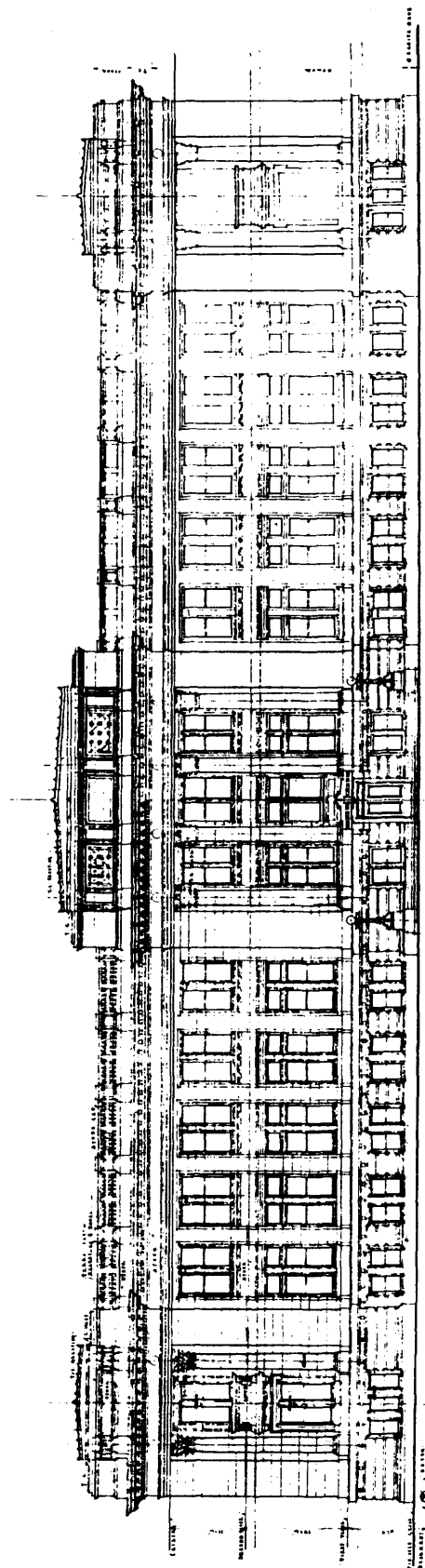


YOLO COUNTY COURTHOUSE, WOODLAND, CA 95695
SEPT. 17, 1916
SPECIFICATIONS. Wm. H. Weeks, ARCHITECT
FRONT ELEVATION

12/16/16



YOLO COUNTY COURTHOUSE, WOODLAND, CA 95695
 Sept 17, 1916
 Specifications. Wm H. Weeks, Architect
 West elevation



REAR ELEVATION

NOTE: ALL CORNICES PLATED BY STEAK CUTTER

PLANS BY	Y. O. COUNTY	DATE	1916
DRAWN BY	W. H. WEEKS	SCALE	1/4" = 1'-0"
CHECKED BY	W. H. WEEKS	DATE	9/17/16
APPROVED BY	A. J. HILL	DATE	9/17/16

61831 29x31

YOLO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 SEPT 17, 1916
 Specifications. Wm H. Weeks, architect
 REAR ELEVATION