

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 23 1985

date entered OCT 24 1985

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

1. Name

historic Will H. Buck House

and/or common Will H. Buck House

2. Location

street & number 301 Buck Avenue (Carriage House 312 Kentucky St) N/A not for publication

city, town Vacaville N/A vicinity of

state California code 06 county Solano code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mary C. Rohret

street & number 301 Buck Avenue

city, town Vacaville N/A vicinity of state California 95688

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Solano County Courthouse

city, town Fairfield state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Vacaville City Hall

city, town Vacaville state California 95688

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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This large Queen Anne Victorian residence of 2-1/2 stories plus an attic was completed in the 1890s. Built of redwood framing with redwood tongue-and-groove siding, the house has approximately 9,000 square feet of floor space, with exemplary Eastlake oak interior woodwork. A tiled fireplace in the front parlor is uniquely decorative. The house is substantially original throughout. The Carriage House (312 Kentucky Street) at the rear of the main residence has been converted to a two-story apartment building while retaining its basic structure. The Will H. Buck residence parcel, 100' x 222', is located at the northwest corner of the F. H. Buck Western Addition, which was originally a tract of 147.6 acres that had been purchased by the Buck Family in 1887.

The main residence roof has three gables with decorated boxed cornices and returns. A fourth gable, to the west, has a pediment boxed cornice with a half-round window. At the front of the recessed porch is a gable with a sunburst design and beneath this is a checkerboard area. A ten-foot-wide straight stairway composed of 11 steps and balustrades leads to the recessed main porch. Seven turned columns, two of which are engaged, support the roof of this porch. Between the plain frieze and the columns is a series of open rectangles and spandrels which are decorated with Eastlake spindle and spool. The double doors opening off the main porch have lower wooden panels and rectangular glass panes with smoked glass etching. The transom over the front doors contains opalescent stained glass surrounding a smoked glass etching of the name "W. H. Buck." Transoms over two large front windows are also of opalescent stained glass in geometric designs which surround circles of smoked glass etchings. The largest and most ornate panels of stained glass are found in the lower halves of three windows located on the second landing of the Will H. Buck House main interior stairway. These windows are a combination of opalescent stained glass featuring flower designs and surrounding lavender leaded glass and lattice. These windows are contained in a small slanted bay which faces south.

There is a second-floor balconet as well as an attic balconet. The latter displays elaborate use of the fish scale patterned shingle. A door with lower wooden panels and large rectangular panes of glass which is flanked by two large rectangular windows opens onto the second-floor balconet. This is ornamented with Eastlake spindle and spool as well as spandrels and coves with geometric designs. A checkerboard area crosses the upper front. To the front of the residence on the second floor are cut-away corners with hooded windows featuring spandrels and pendants. The hooded window on the northeast corner also has a tiny triangular balconet in front.

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There are three slanted bays on the first floor, two of which face north and are comprised of three windows each. The remaining bay is on the east side of the residence and is comprised of five windows. Immediately to the left of this slanted bay is another roofed and recessed porch. An eight-foot-wide straight stairway of 11 steps and balustrades leads to the porch; and four turned columns, one of which is engaged, support the porch roof. Below the boxed cornice and plain frieze are Eastlake spindle and spool ornaments, open rectangles and spandrels. On the south side of the W. H. Buck House is a straight stairway composed of 11 steps and open railing which leads to a first-floor screened recessed porch. A triangular dormer is clearly visible only from the south side of the residence. This dormer features a diamond-shaped window and fish scale patterned shingles. Below this dormer and to the right is a small slanted bay which encloses the second landing of the main interior staircase. The west side of the W. H. Buck House is distinguished by two quarter-round windows in the gable and by the checkerboard ornamentation below the gable.

Exteriors are unchanged except for a small kitchen addition at the southwest corner and four basement apartment doorways, all dating from the 1930s. Bathrooms and main kitchen facilities have been modernized in recent years. A sauna and laundry now occupy a small second-floor bedroom space at the southeast corner. Fire escape ladders have been installed at front and rear.

The building at the rear of the property, today known as 312 Kentucky Street, is still part of the Will H. Buck parcel fronting on Buck Avenue. This two-story building served the main home as a carriage house and/or garage from 1892 until about 1935. A driveway, now used for parking space for tenants of both houses, originally ran from Buck Avenue to the carriage house, parallel to Kentucky Street. The carriage house has been converted to apartments since the 1930s.

The former carriage house has a medium gable roof with a plain cornice and overhanging eaves. The second floor has a central doorway with an elaborately carved, windowed door. This doorway is flanked on either side with double hung windows which have wooden shutters. A balcony across the entire facade is furnished with a plain balustrade. The first floor mirrors the second, with the porch supported by square posts and a balustrade. A second small porch with a balustrade over a side doorway faces the north. A brick chimney is on the central portion of the south wall.

A-2995H

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 1892 **Builder/Architect** George Sharpe

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Will H. Buck House, with its ornate exterior and outstanding Eastlake interior woodwork, is an excellent example of late Queen Anne Victorian architecture. David Gebhard et. al. in their Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California have noted the Buck House as one of Vacaville's architecturally significant structures. The house was built by William Henry Buck in 1892. Buck was a prominent fruit grower, packer, and shipper during the last two decades of the 19th century.

William Henry Buck, born in Cortland County, New York on September 13, 1846, attended school in Seneca Falls, New York. He enlisted in the Union troops at the age of 17 and served in Company G, Third Regiment of the New York Light Artillery. He was discharged after the Civil War in 1865. Buck arrived in California in 1881 and joined relatives Leonard W. Buck and I. K. Buck in the fruit orchard and shipping business then centered in an area of Pleasants Valley that came to be known as Bucktown, about three miles northwest of Vacaville. The Buck family pioneered in Solano County's important contribution to the California commercial fruit farming, packing, and shipping industry. The Bucks, with other growers, developed the consignment railroad shipping of fresh fruits to eastern markets. By 1895 Vacaville had reached its peak with over 25% of California's fresh deciduous fruit marketing. (Vacaville Historic Resources Inventory, Vacaville, 1979; Ronald H. Limbaugh and Walter A. Payne, Vacaville: The Heritage of a California Community, Vacaville, 1978).

Will Buck had married Jennie Griffith from Illinois in 1876 when he was living in Iowa. They had three daughters: May, Lillian, and Maude. The land upon which the present house stands was purchased by the Buck family from a Vacaville pioneer, Luzena Stanley Wilson, on October 1, 1887. The original tract of land contained 147.6 acres. Later lots were sold for many of the homes along Buck Avenue, an extension of Main Street. The F. H. Buck Western Addition was subdivided and annexed by the City of Vacaville in 1906. The Will H. Buck residence and the nearby F. H. Buck home were built amidst fruit orchards in 1892, the year of Vacaville's incorporation. (Tom Gregory, et al., History of Solano and Napa Counties, Los Angeles, 1913).

The William H. Buck family moved to San Francisco sometime around 1935. The property at 301 Buck Avenue was sold to Tina (Katherine T.) Mowers, who began the conversion to rental apartments. About 1963 Fred R. and Pauline J. Salsman purchased the property. The Salsmans in turn sold the Will H. Buck House to Mary C. Rohret and her mother, Mary D. Rohret, in 1977.

David Gebhard, et al. in the Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California noted the Buck House as one of Vacaville's architecturally significant structures. It has also been identified as significant in the comprehensive historical survey of the community which rated it as individually eligible for listing in the National Register.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gebhard, David, et al., A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco & Northern California, Peregrine Smith, Inc., Santa Barbara & Salt Lake City, 1973.
 Vacaville, City of, Vacaville Historic Resources Inventory, Vacaville City, Council, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .505 acre

Quadrangle name Elmira, California

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification Boundaries are drawn on current lot lines. The property nominated is a rectangular parcel 100' X 222" (Map #2M9, Solano County Hall of Records) and includes 301 Buck Avenue and 312 Kentucky Street. Assessor's Parcel No. 0130-161-100, Subdivision Date: April, 1906.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cliff M. Bisbee, Historian

organization Vacaville Heritage Council date May 1, 1985 (OHP Staff revision: 5/85)

street & number 301 Buck Avenue telephone (707) 447-0580

city or town Vacaville state CA 95688

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 Gualtieri Kathryn Gualtieri

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/10/85

For NPS use only

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

Melores Byers Entered in the National Register date 10-27-85
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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APPENDIX

Item number 8

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Will H. Buck was a cousin of Leonard W. Buck and his son, Frank H. Buck, who had engaged in the fruit growing and shipping business in the Vaca Valley area in the 1870's. Participating with his Buck family relatives in such enterprises as improvements in refrigerated railroads cars, the California Fruit Exchange, and later cooperative growers and shippers companies, Will H. Buck became economically and socially established.

DATES OF FRUIT SHIPMENTS.

Winters claims the distinction of having for several years loaded the first full car of fruit for Chicago. This year, 1888, the first car started May 17th—two days earlier than ever before. Other cars followed on May 19th, 23d, 26th, 29th and 31st—making six cars in May for the East—twice as many as were ever sent in May before. The car of May 26th carried the first peaches—476 boxes of Briggs' Red May. These were grown in Pleasants valley and Upper Vaca valley, a few being hauled from Upper Vaca valley to Winters, for shipment with the Pleasants' valley fruit.

DATES OF SHIPMENT FROM VACAVILLE.

J. W. Gates, Gates' Cañon :

Cherries	April 29.	Grapes	July 1.
Apricots	June 1.	Plums	July 9.
Peaches	June 15.	Nectarines	July 10.
Apples	June 24.	Oranges	November 16.
Figs	June 28.	Japanese Persimmons .	November 13.

Concerning the season for each kind of fruit, Mr. Gates writes:

"The cherry season lasts about one month; apricots the same; peaches until December; apples till Christmas; oranges till January; persimmons about one month; figs until October; grapes last until frost kills them—sometimes as late as January; plums about three months, and nectarines about one month."

W. H. Buck, Vaca Valley.

1886.

KIND OF FRUIT.	FIRST SHIPMENT.	LAST SHIPMENT.	AVERAGE PRICE.
Royal apricots	June 24	July 13	3 cents.
Alexander peaches	June 16		
Early Crawford peaches	July 19	August	5 cents.
Fontainbleau grapes	July 20	August 15	
Susquehanna peaches	August 7	August 31	5½ cents.
Salway peaches	September 17	October 8	6 cents.
Muscat grapes		November 23	

F. B. McKeivitt, Vaca Valley.

1886.

KIND OF FRUIT.	FIRST SHIPMENT.	LAST SHIPMENT.
Royal apricots	June 17	July 14.
Crawford peaches	July 20	August 5.
Susquehanna peaches	August 4	September 2.
Salway peaches	September 20	October 3.

In 1887 Mr. McKeivitt's first fruit shipment was June 16th, and his last November 8th. The duration of the Salway peach in the district is shown in the fact that Mr. McKeivitt shipped fifty-four boxes of Salways September 15th, and four boxes on November 8th.

D. J. Parmele, on hills east of Vaca Valley.

Alexander peaches	May 31.
Fontainbleau grapes	June 18.

FRUIT DRYING AND CANNING.

FAVORITE VARIETIES FOR CANNING AND DRYING.

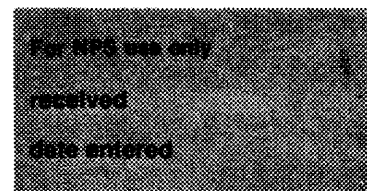
The following table gives the varieties of fruit which several growers have found most profitable for drying or in greatest request by buyers for the canneries :

GROWER.	BEST FRUIT-FOR-DRYING.	FAVORITE FRUITS WITH THE CANNERS.
J. M. Bassford, Jr. . .	Royal apricots, Muir and Susquehanna peaches.	Royal apricots, Bartlett pears, peaches.
J. M. Bassford, Sr. . .	Muir, Susquehanna, Foster, Salway peaches.	Orange and McKeivitt's Cling peaches.
F. M. Buck	Royal apricots, Old Mixon, Early Crawford, Susquehanna and Salway peaches.	Early Crawford, Susquehanna, Salway and White Cling peaches.
W. H. Buck	Royal apricots, Early Crawford, Susquehanna, Salway peaches, Muscat grapes, Late White nectarines.	Royal apricots, Susquehanna, Salway, Orange Cling, White Cling peaches, Bartlett pears, Muscat grapes.
W. P. Buckingham . .	Triumph apricots, Susquehanna peaches, Bartlett pears and Muscat grapes.	Same as for drying, adding Orange Cling peaches.
W. J. Dobbins	Salway peaches yield best of the varieties I am growing.	Early Crawford, Foster, Susquehanna and different clings.
A. M. Esquivel	Apricots, peaches, prunes and grapes.	Yellow peaches.
O. Garlich	Royal apricots, Early Crawford, Foster, Susquehanna, Salway and Orange Cling peaches, nectarines, prunes, figs and Muscat grapes.	Cherries, apricots, peaches, pears, nectarines and Muscat grapes.
J. W. Gates	Royal apricots, Muir peaches, White nectarines, Muscat grapes.	All these also sell well to canners; also Grover Cleveland peaches and Bartlett pears.
A. C. Hawkins	Peaches, apricots, nectarines and Muscat grapes.	Royal apricots, Crawford, Susquehanna and McKeivitt's Cling peaches.
G. W. Hinclay	Apricots, peaches and figs.	Apricots and peaches.
A. McKeivitt	Apricots, and all peaches after Hale's Early.	Apricots, yellow free and choice White Cling peaches.
F. B. McKeivitt	Apricots, all except early peaches, but yellow freestone preferred.	Apricots, yellow free and White Cling peaches.
J. F. McMurtry	Apricots and peaches.	Royal apricots, Crawford and Orange Cling peaches.
George H. Peabody . .	Susquehanna, Muir and Salway peaches, White nectarines, Muscat and Sultana grapes.	Salway peaches, Bartlett pears, Washington plums.
J. M. Pleasants	Royal apricots and Muir peaches.	Late Crawford and Muir peaches.
W. J. Pleasants	Muir peach is best; Lovell, Late Crawford and others.	Muir peaches.
Sears & Clarke	Muir, Susquehanna and Salway peaches.	Lemon, Orange Cling and Salway peaches.
W. W. Smith	Apricots, peaches, prunes, grapes and figs.	Apricots, yellow peaches and Bartlett pears.

Citing experience of different growers involves, of course, considerable repetition; but in such a case the repetition is of the greatest possible value as indicating the agreement of experience among a number of leading growers. A fruit planter cannot have a safer guide than general experience.

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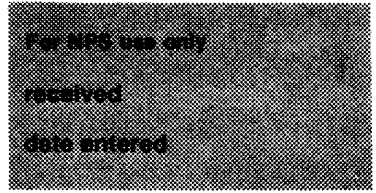


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Boundary justification:

The boundaries encompass what remains of the 147.6 acre tract originally purchased by the Buck family in the 1880s.

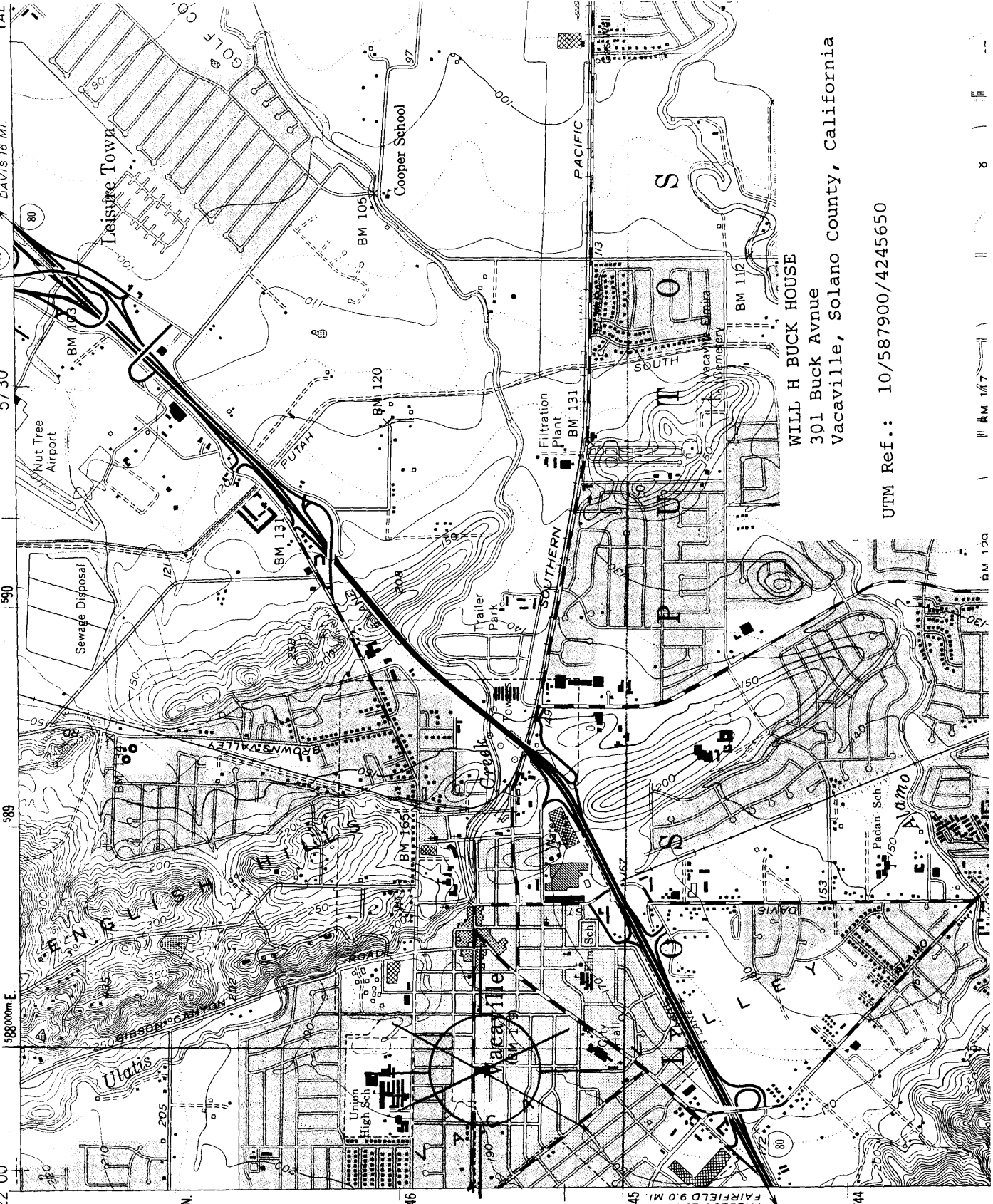
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WILL H BUCK HOUSE
301 Buck Avenue
Vacaville, Solano County, California

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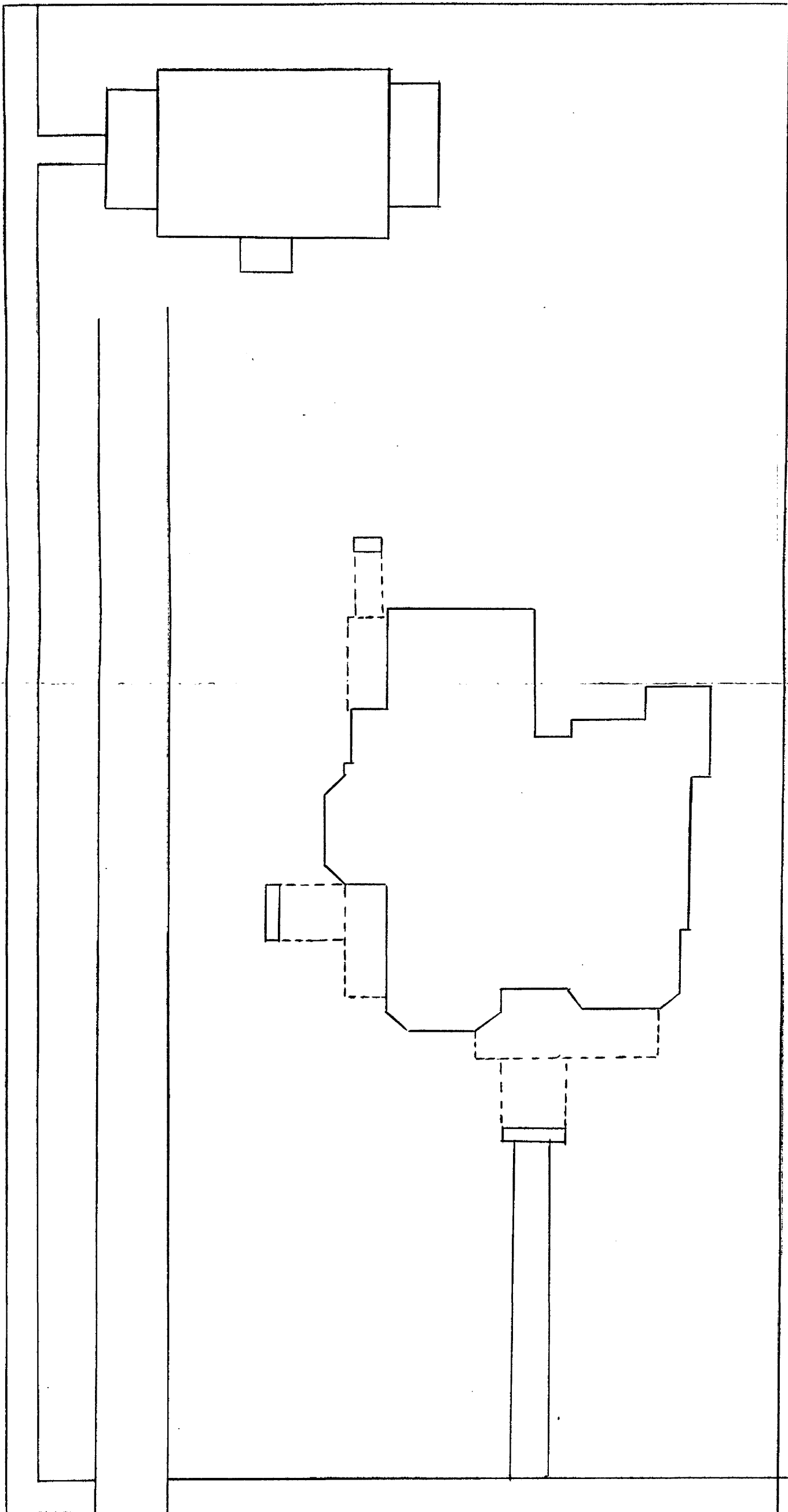
VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA
95688

WILL H. BUCK HOUSE

301 BUCK AVE./312 KENTUCKY

VACAVILLE, SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

KENTUCKY STREET



SCALE: 1/16" = 1'

BUCK AVENUE