

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Tuolumne County Courthouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 41 West Yaney Avenue not for publication

city, town Sonora vicinity of congressional district 14

state California 95370 code 06 county Tuolumne code 109

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"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name County of Tuolumne

street & number 2 South Green St.

city, town Sonora vicinity of state California 95370

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 2 S. Green St.

city, town Sonora state California 95370

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

RECEIVED
JUN 26 1981

OFF

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Tuolumne County Courthouse is located in the center of a square block in downtown Sonora bounded by North Norlin St., West Yaney Avenue, North Green Street and West Jackson Street. It is a three-story building with clock tower on the north side. The central block measures approximately 60' by 90' feet. Centered on the south side of the building is a three-story ell measuring 35 by 30 feet at the base and included as part of the overall dimensions of the building. The walls of the first floor, originally called the basement, are concrete scored to imitate stone. The second and third story walls are buff colored Roman pressed brick. Colusa sandstone is used for all water tables, lintels on the first floor, as accents to entrances on West Yaney Avenue and North Green Street, as trim around two round windows on the east side of the first floor and as a decorative element between the first and second floors where concrete and brick would otherwise meet. All windows designed to open are double hung.

The main entrance to the Tuolumne County Courthouse is via two curved concrete staircases flanking the first floor entry on West Yaney Avenue. The steps lead to a balconied entry portico supported by two groups of three stone Corinthian columns and two half-columns mounted flush on the north wall. Two copper-sheathed oak doors with beveled glass panes provide egress to the second floor from a recessed arched alcove. This elevation (northern) is the most ornate because the building's main entrance is there. On the third floor of the northern elevation is a fan light window with door unit leading from a hallway onto a landing area that is the roof of the main entrance below. The clock tower rises 88 feet above street level on the northern elevation and features small windows with balconies on three sides, clocks facing all four points of the compass and finally a bell that still chimes every hour covered by a small dome. A weathervane sits atop the dome.

The western elevation is notable for the introduction of three arched windows. The southern elevation features an ell with recessed areas on the second floor where windows could have gone. Instead, they are filled in with bricks, giving added fire protection to the valuable papers on file in the Recorder's office. There is a utility entrance on the first floor of the ell. The eastern elevation is almost completely obscured by evergreen trees; however, this side features two round windows framed in sandstone. The windows flank an entrance to the first floor. The roof of the Tuolumne County Courthouse is covered with sheets of red metal which was channeled and in some places (ridges) embossed to imitate terra cotta tile. The building's architecture can be characterized as being classical revival.

Elements of note in the interior of the second and third floors are floor tiles imported from Europe, wainscoting fashioned from local (Columbia) marble, 16-foot ceilings and the continuation (from the first floor) of a cast iron stairway with local marble treads. All doors leading into offices and rooms on all three levels are pine with a single glass pane and wood panels below. There are three built-in safes in the building. The building cost \$105,000 to complete, including furnishings.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 21 1981
DATE ENTERED SEP 17 1981

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

A concrete retaining wall surrounds the property and abuts sidewalks on all four sides of the property. Portions of the south and north walls and all of the west wall are capped with a decorative wrought iron fence. Iron lamp posts are mounted on the southeast and northeast corners of the wall. Four evergreen trees planted in 1930 replaced original palm trees along the east side although one original palm can be found in the southeast corner of the ell.

The only alterations of significance occurred from 1967 to 1970 when three offices were given mezzanines by the insertion of a floor halfway between original 16-foot ceilings and original floors.

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 checked="" 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 1898-1900 **Builder/Architect** Wm. Mooser and Son, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Since its completion in the Spring of 1900, the Tuolumne County Courthouse has symbolized county government to the residents of this part of California's Gold Rush country. The building, designed by the San Francisco architectural firm of Wm. Mooser and Son, housed all departments of Tuolumne County government: clerk, assessor, treasurer, tax collector, recorder, superior court, sheriff, district attorney, surveyor, superintendent of schools, coroner and public administrator. It replaced a two-story wooden frame building that was the original courthouse and that had stood on the same site since 1853. In choosing the plans of Wm. Mooser and Son architects over nine others that had been submitted, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors began a construction project that was destined to provide larger, more efficient working areas for county employees and a building where valuable records and documents could be stored with the assurance of safety and protection from fire. The public, which had voiced concern over the delapidated condition of the original courthouse and its lack of sufficient space, gained a handsome and imposing building that endures today, 82 years later, as an integral part of county government and with its architectural integrity virtually intact. This architecturally significant structure, a landmark in the heart of downtown Sonora, is part of the legacy of Wm. Mooser and Son, architects, a respected Northern California firm. Wm. Mooser, Jr., the principal, was the son of Wm. Mooser, a native of Switzerland who died in 1896. The younger Mooser was San Francisco City Architect and is credited with organizing The City's Bureau of Buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Union Democrat newspaper, 1897-1900
 The Tuolumne Independent newspaper, 1897-1900
San Francisco, A Brief Biographical Sketch of Some of the Most Prominent Men who Will Preside Over Her Destiny for at Least Two Years. Compiled by Everts I. Blake. San Francisco: Pacific Publishing Co., 1902.

10. Geographical Data UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .3660 acre ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED
 Quadrangle name Sonora Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>729830</u>	<u>4207240</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Tuolumne County Courthouse is being nominated as a single building. It occupies a city block bounded by North Norlin St., West Yaney Ave., North Green St., and West Jackson St.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharon Marovich, President
 organization Tuolumne County Historical Society date June 11, 1981
 street & number P. O. Box 695 telephone (209) 532-1733
 city or town Sonora state California 95370

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K. Mellon

title SHPO date 8/11/81

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Aloua Byers Entered in the National Register date 9/17/81
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration


low factory

EXHIBIT "A"

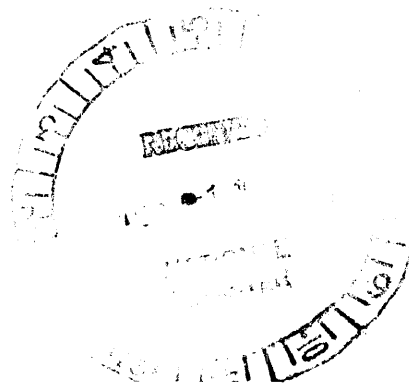
All that certain real property situated in the State of California, in an incorporated area of Tuolumne County, lying within Section 36, T. 2 N., R. 14 E., M.D.B. & M., being all of Block 40, in the City of Sonora, as surveyed by Beauvois and Dart, under contract of March 2, 1872, recorded in Volume 1, Pages 1-114, of Field Notes of Incorporated Cities and Towns of Tuolumne County, Tuolumne County Records, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the southwest corner of Block 40, City of Sonora, which bears N. 28° 30' W., a distance of 32.10 feet from the northwest corner of Block 39, City of Sonora, thence, N. 31° 30' W., a distance of 110 feet, thence, N. 0° 15' W., a distance of 14 feet, thence, N. 21° E., a distance of 14 feet, thence, N. 57° 15' E., a distance of 107.6 feet, thence, S. 34° 45' E., a distance of 73.1 feet, thence, S. 29° 15' E., a distance of 49.2 feet, thence, S. 54° 30' W., a distance of 127.6 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel contains .3660 acres, more or less.

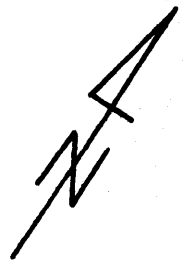
APPROVED AS TO DESCRIPTION:


CYRUS A. HOBLITT, L.S. 4377
County Surveyor
County of Tuolumne

June 1981



SEP 17 1981



1" = 20'

YANEY AVENUE

N. 57° 15' E. 107.6'

N. 0° 15' W. 17'
N. 21° E. 14'

S. 34° 45' E. 73.1'

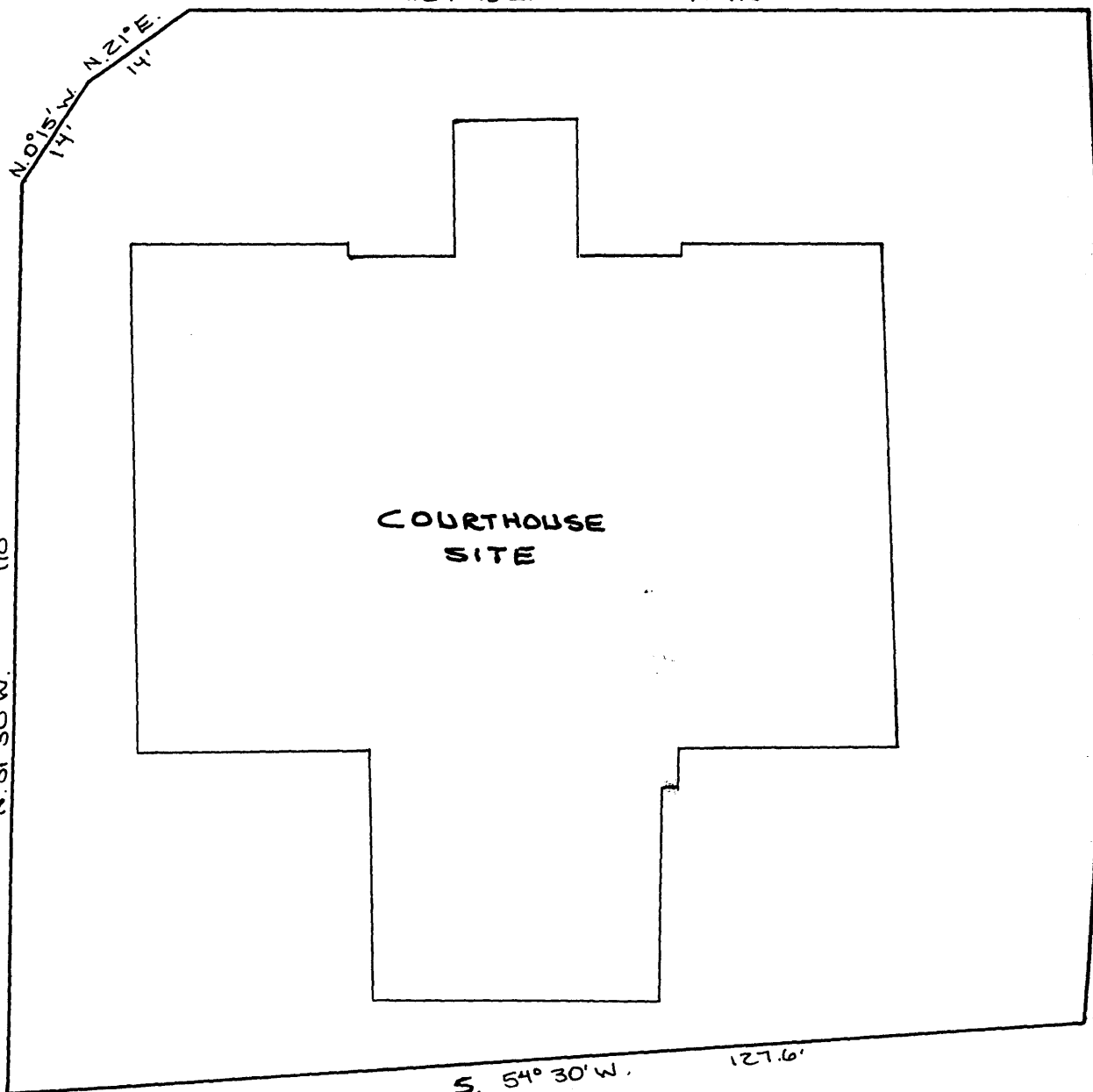
GREEN STREET

S. 29° 15' E. 49.2'

S. 54° 30' W. 127.6'

NORLAN STREET

N. 31° 30' W. 110'



COURTHOUSE SITE

TUOLUMNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE SITE
BLOCK 40 CITY OF SONORA, CALIFORNIA

ACREAGE = 15944 SQ. FT.
.3660 AC.

Assessor's parcel number: 01-170-01