

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 5 1981
DATE ENTERED SEP 3 1981

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
Bloss Mansion also: (George S. Bloss House)
AND/OR COMMON
Bloss Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1020 Cedar Avenue
CITY, TOWN
Atwater
STATE
California
VICINITY OF
27th
COUNTY
Merced
CODE
06
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CODE
047

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	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 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: Atwater Historical Society

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City of Atwater
STREET & NUMBER
750 Bellevue Road
CITY, TOWN
Atwater
VICINITY OF
California
STATE
95301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Merced County Recorder's Office
STREET & NUMBER
2222 "M" Street
CITY, TOWN
Merced, CA 95340
California
STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historical Point of Interest Mer-007
DATE
March 15, 1974
STATE
California
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
State Office of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 2390
CITY, TOWN
Sacramento
STATE
California 95811

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Bloss Home was built in 1914 at a cost of \$ 11,930. It was designed by Bedesen & Cowell, Architects from the City of Merced, Ca., and built by Wilcox & Groom.

The building is a two-story concrete structure, comprising a total of 4,710 square feet (2,012 on the first floor, 2,012 sq.ft. on the second floor, and a partial basement of 686 square feet).

Outside the exterior building walls are 1,975 square feet of outside living area as follows:

First Floor: 1 Pergola of 237 sq.ft. with 6 columns
1 Rear Porch of 120 sq.ft. with 3 columns
1 Front Porch 192 sq.ft. with 8 columns
1 Side Porch of 309 sq.ft. with 10 columns
2 Piazzas with 496 sq.ft., located to both sides of the front porch.

Second Floor: 3 Decks with 621 sq.ft. (above rear, side & front porches)

Rooms inside the building are as follows:

First Floor: 1 Reception Hall
1 Living Room with Fireplace
1 Dining Room with Fireplace and access to built-on elevator
1 Sun Room
1 Rear Hall
1 Toilet
1 Kitchen
1 Pantry
1 Store Room
1 walled-in Screen Porch

Second Floor: 4 Bedrooms (one of them with access to elevator)
4 Bathrooms
1 Servants Room
1 Sleeping Porch

Accessory Buildings, detached but on the same site are:

1 Tank House, 14' x 14', same construction, tile roof and height as the main building, and
1 Garage, 20' x 22', used by the Bloss Family.

Other accessory buildings on the same site are

1 Residence for the Gardner and his Family (and still occupied by them), and 1 garage for the gardner's family, but detached from his residence. Frame construction and siding.

An elevator tower was added to the house at some later date. It was designed to harmonize with the architectural character of the building, and does not detract from the original design.

The adjacent formally landscaped park was part of the original grounds of the Bloss mansion.

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 checked="" 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/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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Bedesen & Cowell/ Wilcox & Groom

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Bloss Family was very community-minded, and has shaped the history of this area. The Bloss Mansion is significant architecturally and for its association with this prominent local family. At the age of 10, George Bloss and his family moved to Merced County from Connecticut. The year was 1884, and the site is now the City of Atwater. George Bloss was involved in cattle ranching from 1894 until 1954, when an equilibrium disorder brought that career to an end.

Shortly after George Bloss married Christine Thompson, he had this house built for her in 1914. George Bloss worked actively in the interest of the community, and served as Atwater's first Mayor after he was instrumental getting the City incorporated in 1922. A total of 600 votes were cast.

George Bloss died in 1963, leaving "Bloss Home" to the City of Atwater for public use after his wife's demise. Christine passed on in 1971.

The Atwater Historical Society had the house listed as a Historical Point of Interest in the State of California in honor of the Bloss family, who gave so much to the community.

The Bloss family also deeded to the community the Bloss Memorial Library, the Women's Club House, Bloss Hospital, a church, a school, the "plunge", city park and fire house, and established a scholarship which is known as the "Bloss Memorial Scholarship".

The Atwater Historical Society is presently in the process of attempting to furnish the house in the period of the turn of the century when Bloss Home was built. The Atwater Chamber of Commerce and the Atwater Historical Society now have their offices in the Bloss Home, which is open to the public. Tours are being conducted, and the building and the beautiful garden served many public and private functions, including wedding ceremonies.

In 1977 the then Mayor of Atwater attempted to return Bloss Home back to the Estate, because it costs the taxpayers money for maintenance and repairs without bringing in any revenues. A public outcry could prevent this. The people collected 2,551 signatures within a very few days, declaring "their support and interest in preserving the historical significance of the Bloss Home for the present and future generations", requesting that the City of Atwater keep title to the Bloss Home and adjacent Bloss Park.

The Bloss House, set in its spacious landscaped grounds, is the most important design statement of the early 20th century in this small Central Valley farming community. It reflects several architectural trends which were popular during the period. The influence of the California Mission Revival can be seen in

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

G. W. Clark, History of Merced County

Jack Bleiman, History of Atwater, Atwater Historical Society.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.79 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Atwater

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 71201210 71359010

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated comprises two city blocks, 250' x 200' and 140' x 200', a total of 78,000 sq. ft. and is bounded in the north by Drakeley Avenue, in the east by First Street, in the south by ~~D~~ Roadway, and in the west by Second Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Trudi Mestnik, Planning Director

ORGANIZATION

City of Atwater

DATE

January 1980

STREET & NUMBER

750 Bellevue Road

TELEPHONE

(209) 358-5606

CITY OR TOWN

Atwater

STATE

California

95301

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

IC Mestnik

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

7/31/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Delores Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

9/3/81

ATTEST

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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 5 1981
DATE ENTERED	SEP 3 1981

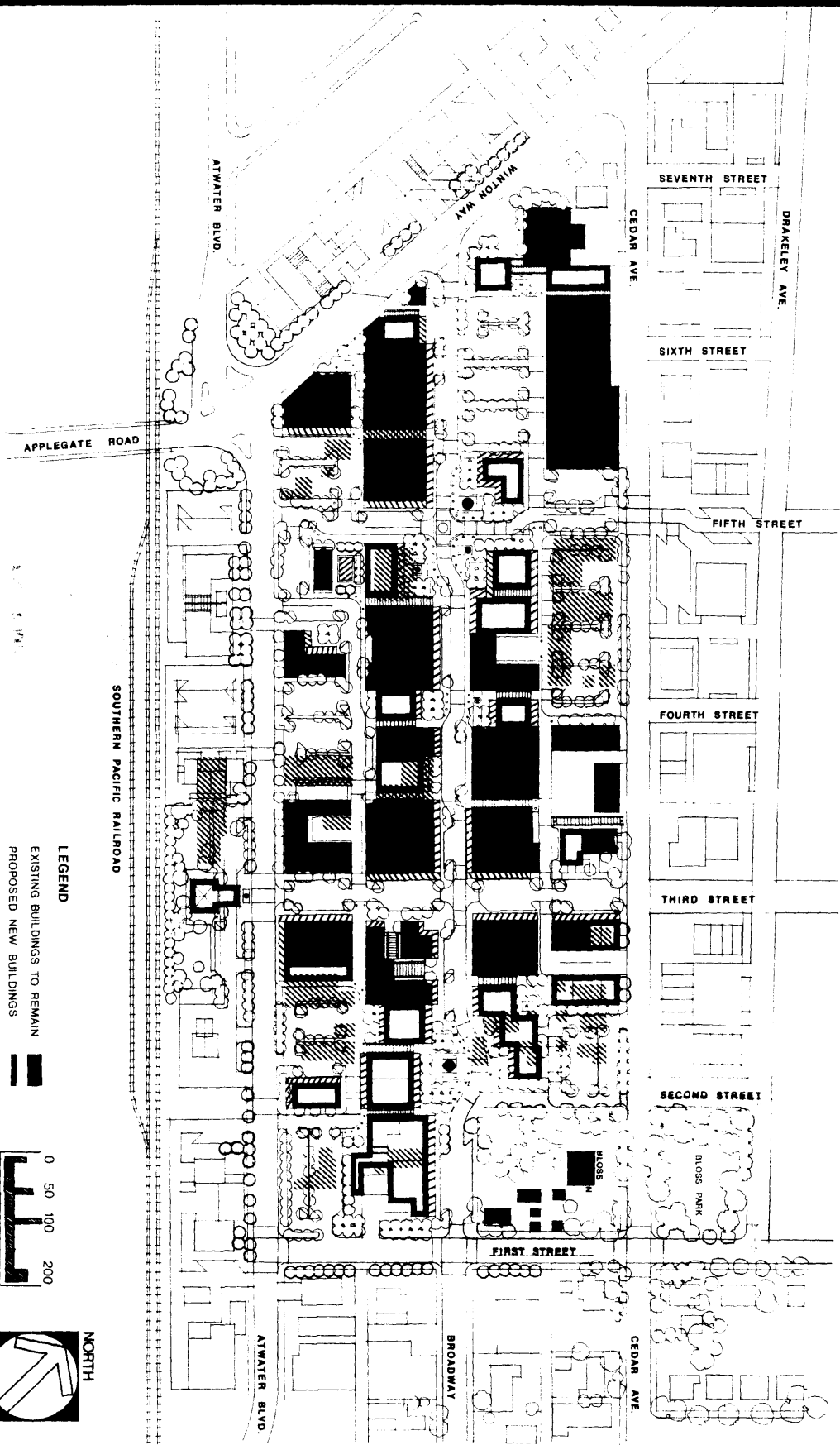
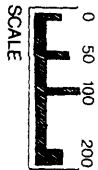
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

the overall form of the building with its hipped tile roof and stucco exterior. Prairie Style influences are evident in the horizontal emphasis of the building, the broad eaves, and numerous three-part "Chicago" windows. A formal appearance is created by Classical elements skillfully integrated into the composition in the imposing entrance portico and the large side porch on the west; both utilize heavy Tuscan columns to support classical entablatures capped by ballustrades. The resultant building is the finest example of residential architecture in the city of Atwater.

SEP 3 1981

LEGEND
EXISTING BUILDINGS TO REMAIN
PROPOSED NEW BUILDINGS
BUILDINGS TO BE REMOVED



CONSENSUS PLAN-POTENTIAL IMPACTS ATWATER DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION ATWATER, CALIFORNIA

WILLIAMS
PLATZEK &
MOCINE
SAUSALITO, CALIFORNIA

RM 3-1
DRAKELEY

RM 3-1
STREET

RM 3-1
STREET

RM 4-1
AVENUE

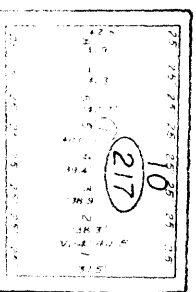
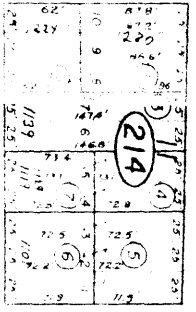
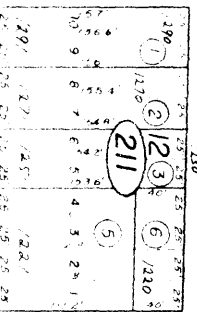
RM 4-1
STREET

1-05
2-21

STREET

STREET

STREET

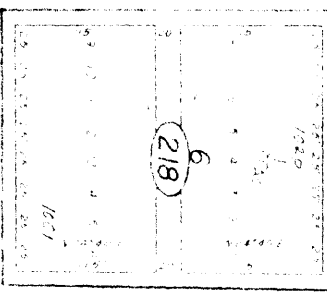
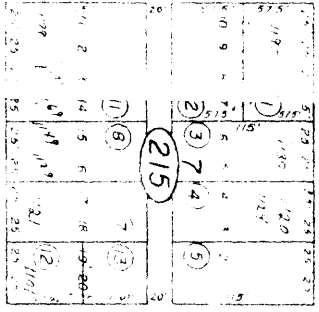
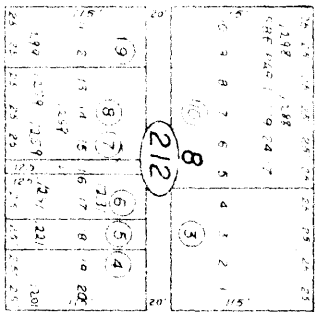


20

N 24° 40' E

N 24° 40' E

N 24° 40' E



S BROADWAY

S BROADWAY

AVENUE

FOURTH

THIRD

SECOND

FIRST

ATWATER

ATWATER

BLVD

Bloss Addition R.M. Vol. 4, Pg. 1,
Fin De Siecle Investment Co. Add'n R.M. Vol. 3, Pg. 43

NOTE: Assessor's Block Numbers shown in Ellipses
Assessor's Parcel Numbers shown in Circles

Bk 3

City of Atwater
Assessor's Map Bk 2 Pg. 21
County of Merced, Calif.
1956
SEP 3 1981

RECEIVED
AUG 5 1981
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REGISTER

