

**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 Alexandria Hotel and Annex

and/or common Plaza Hotel and Annex

2. Location

street & number 840-844 Brown Street _____ not for publication

city, town Napa _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 2nd

state California _____ code 06 _____ county Napa _____ code 055

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 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 Vicki Burr-Lawler, Martin J. Lawler, William J. Lawler, and Miriam Lawler

street & number 115 Sansome Street, Suite 1111

city, town San Francisco, CA _____ vicinity of _____ state CA 94104

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder, Napa County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse

city, town Napa _____ state CA 94558

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978 _____ federal state county _____ local

depository for survey records City of Napa Planning Department and California
Office of Historic Preservation

city, town Napa and Sacramento _____ state California

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This three-story brick mission revival hotel with metal tile roofs was built circa 1900-1910. The building next to it was annexed at some early date, and it was changed inside and out to match the main section. There are three square corner towers on the two street facades of the Hotel. The two street facades are identical on the top two floors. The tile is believed formed of tungstun, extremely unusual. The roof has overhanging eaves with modillions and dentils underneath. The towers are divided into three sections by string courses, one right below the third floor windows and the other even with the roofline between the towers. There are sets of three windows with arched brick hood molds on both floors of the tower. The central section has two round headed windows with hood molds flanked by two-story wooden slanted bay windows. All of the windows are one over one sash. Between the bay windows on each side of the Hotel are two wrought iron fire escapes which are not original. The first floor is separated from the upper two floors by an overhanging eave similar to the roof with modillions underneath. The cornice is plain. The large plate glass windows are divided by flat brick pilasters with a doric capital. Above the large glass windows are transoms with twelve lights in each of them.

Alterations include the glazed tile below the first floor windows done in 1939-40. Another is the removal of the wooden balustrade above the front door and what once was a door on the north side facing Second Street which is now a plate glass window. The transoms were once leaded glass in an elongated diamond shape.

The annex predates the Hotel. Within ten years of the building of the Hotel, the facade was changed to match the Hotel. A tile roof with modillions and dentils was added with a string course which is slightly lower than the string course in the main building. On the end of the building, a set of three arched windows identical to the ones in the tower was added. To balance the rest of the annex are two roundheaded windows with a smaller rectangular window in between. They have arched brick hood molds to give them the appearance of the other ones. The windows are one over one sash with three wrought iron balconies. The overhanging eave dividing the first floor from the other floors is extended to include the annex, likewise, the transoms, the pilasters and the glazed tile. There are two different shops in the annex, so the plate glass windows have doorways. However, the overall effect is the same as it is in the Hotel.

Alterations:

At an unknown date the following alterations were made:

1. Original fire escapes have been replaced with larger ones with counterbalanced ladders.
2. Balustrades above entries have been removed.

In 1939-40, the brick column bases and show windows bulkheads were covered with black tile, the front of the bar was remodeled and the spandrel glass was replaced. The front of the restaurant was remodeled with grooved plywood and canted glass.

There are two existing lightwells in the Hotel installed to afford light and ventilation to the second and third floor Hotel rooms. The annex has three shallow lightwells that open to clerestory windows in the second floor bathrooms.

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1904-1910 (Hotel) **Builder/Architect** of Hotel, William H. Corlett

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Alexandria Hotel and annex strongly exemplify California's Mission-Mediterranean architecture at the turn of the century. Although the Mission-Style was based largely upon a romanticized ideal of California's Spanish Mission architecture, it also fit into a broader context--the Mediterranean imagery of California of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Old World Mediterranean design influences including those of Italian villas, palazzos, and farmhouses, were incorporated frequently into California's Mission Revival buildings. Here, the Italianate elements are clearly seen in carrying out the Mission-Mediterranean theme of the building. Its overall integrity of design makes it an excellent local example of an important phase of California's early 20th century architecture.

The Hotel was designed by William H. Corlett. Mr. Corlett was born on the Isle of Man, England on March 21, 1856. He was known as an excellent architect, having designed several fine building in the Napa Valley, the Alexandria being the only commercial building still standing. He was renowned for his establishment of a large architectural and planning office. He was especially interested in intelligent building design and planning.

The original blueprints for the Hotel (attached) show that the building was designed for one Charles Dryer. However, Mrs. Arlene Hughes (nee Alexander) and her sister state that it was always their understanding that their father, William Frank Alexander, had the Hotel designed and built for his wife, their mother, Mrs. Alexander, after whom the Hotel was named.

The Alexander sisters recall their mother as somewhat of a feminist for the period. Mrs. Alexander wished to have her own business and income separate from her husband's. She proved herself to be a very successful hotel operator. Some few years after the Alexandria was built, she sold it and built another hotel one half block away, the Conner Hotel (which was demolished by the City of Napa about five years ago) which she operated for many years.

Guests of the Hotel were salesmen, attorneys, circuit judges, other professionals and individuals who lived too far away from the city center to accomplish their business in one day and required lodging for the night.

It was apparently the new owner who annexed 844 Brown Street to the Hotel.

The name was changed to the Plaza either at the time Mrs. Alexander sold it or in 1939-40 when the major remodeling was done.

844 Brown Street was formerly the Napa Roachedale Union, a very successful general store. It was actively in operation in 1908 when the attached photo, Number 1, was taken. It is unknown how long before that it was built. The Main Street side of the annex was occupied by Newman's Mens Clothing Store, as shown in photo, Number 6, taken in 1904.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Architecture in Napa: A Guide to the Land, the Buildings, and the Styles of Napa County
Napa County Napa Landmarks. (Napa, CA 1978).

(Cont. on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

UTM ~~Zone~~

Acreage of nominated property 0.18 acres

*See attached Supplemental Sheet

Quadrangle name Napa

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	6	2	6	2	0	4	2	3	8	9	6	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 is an irregularly shaped lot, basically an approximately 60' by 100.5' rectangle with a 60' by 35.5' eastern rectangular extension.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vicki Burr-Lawler, Owner

organization N/A

date April 26, 1980
Revised June 25, 1980

street & number 115 Sansome Street, Suite 1111

telephone (415) 391-2010

city or town San Francisco

state CA 94104

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

[Handwritten Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10-20-81

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

[Handwritten Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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

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DATE ENTERED JAN 11 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

History of Solano and Napa Counties. T. J. Gregory. Los Angeles: Historic Record. 1912.

Napa City and County Portfolio and Directory, 1908. H. A. Darms. (Napa, CA, 1908).

Napa County Historic Resources Inventory; Napa City Landmark Evaluation. Napa County Samborn Map (Fire Insurance).

Interviews:

Mr. Jess Doud, Executive Director, Napa County Historical Society, 12/28/79 and 1/31/80.

Mrs. Arlene Hughel (nee Alexander), 215 East Napa Street, Sonoma, CA (Daughter of original owner), 6/11/80, 6/2/80.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

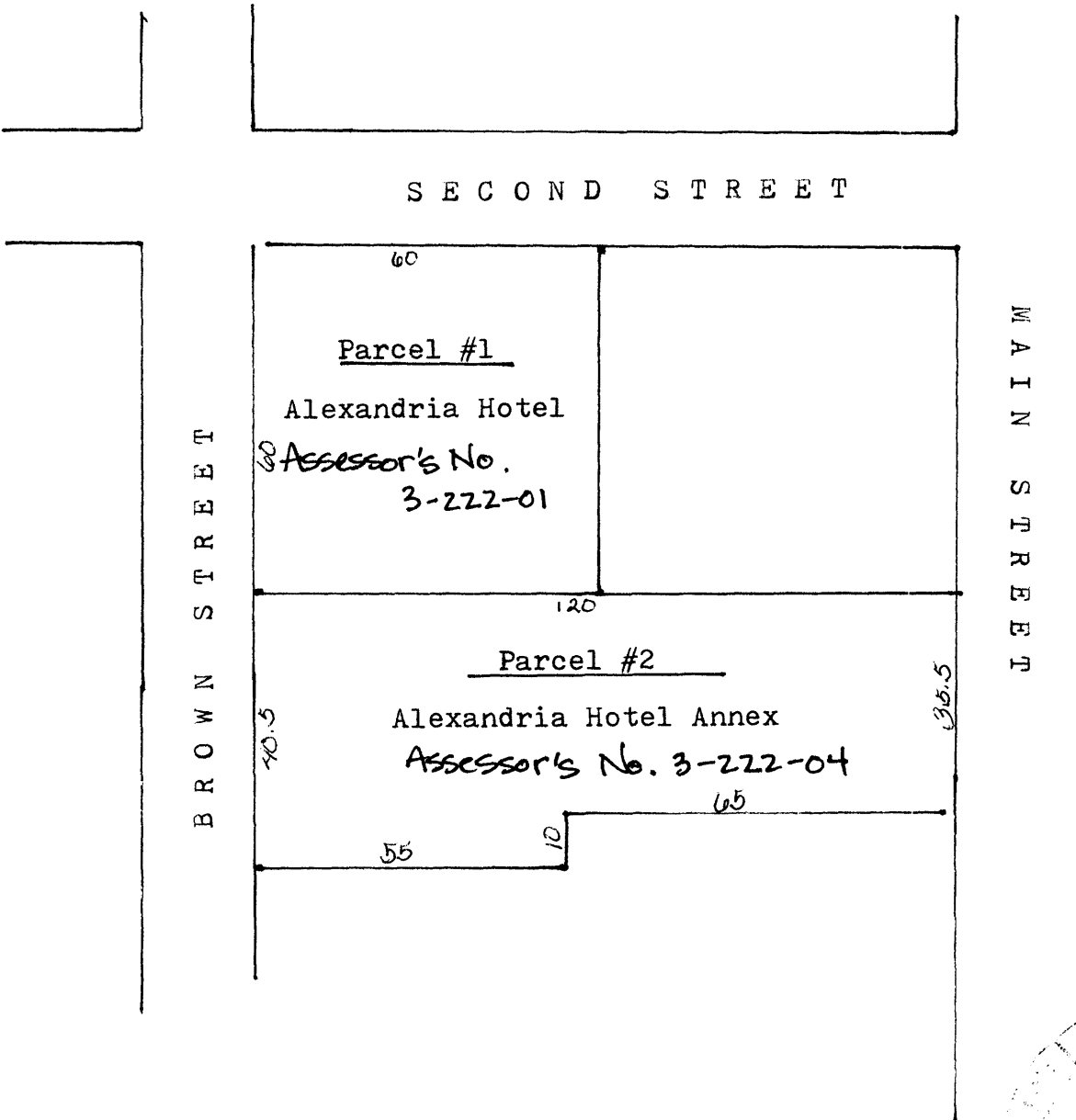
FOR HCRS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED JAN 11 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

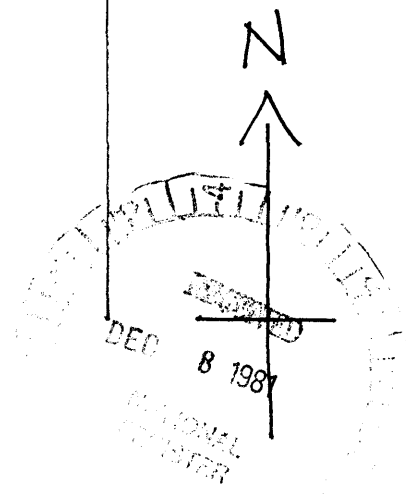
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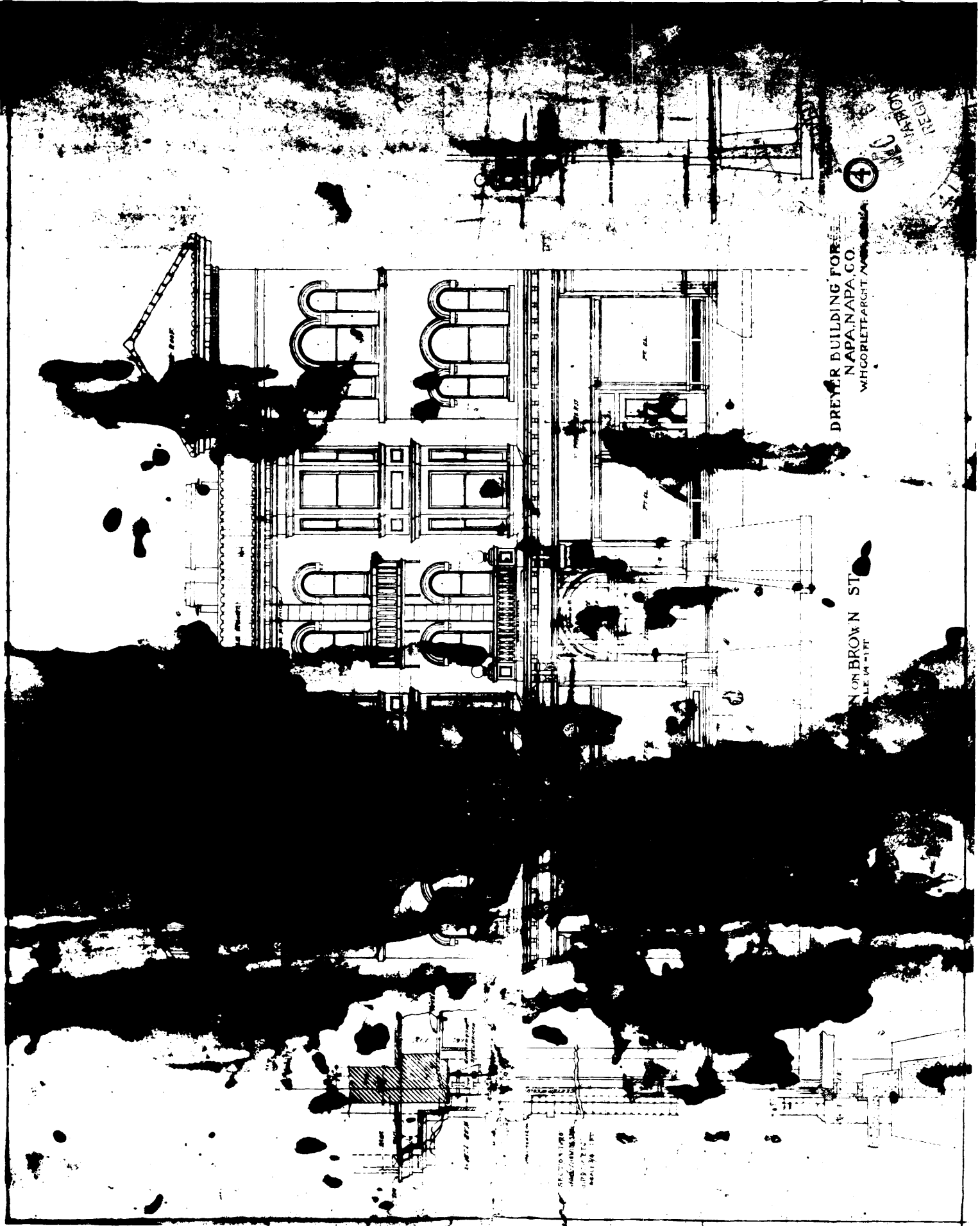
PAGE

Sketch Map



Alexandria Hotel and Annex
Napa, Napa County, California



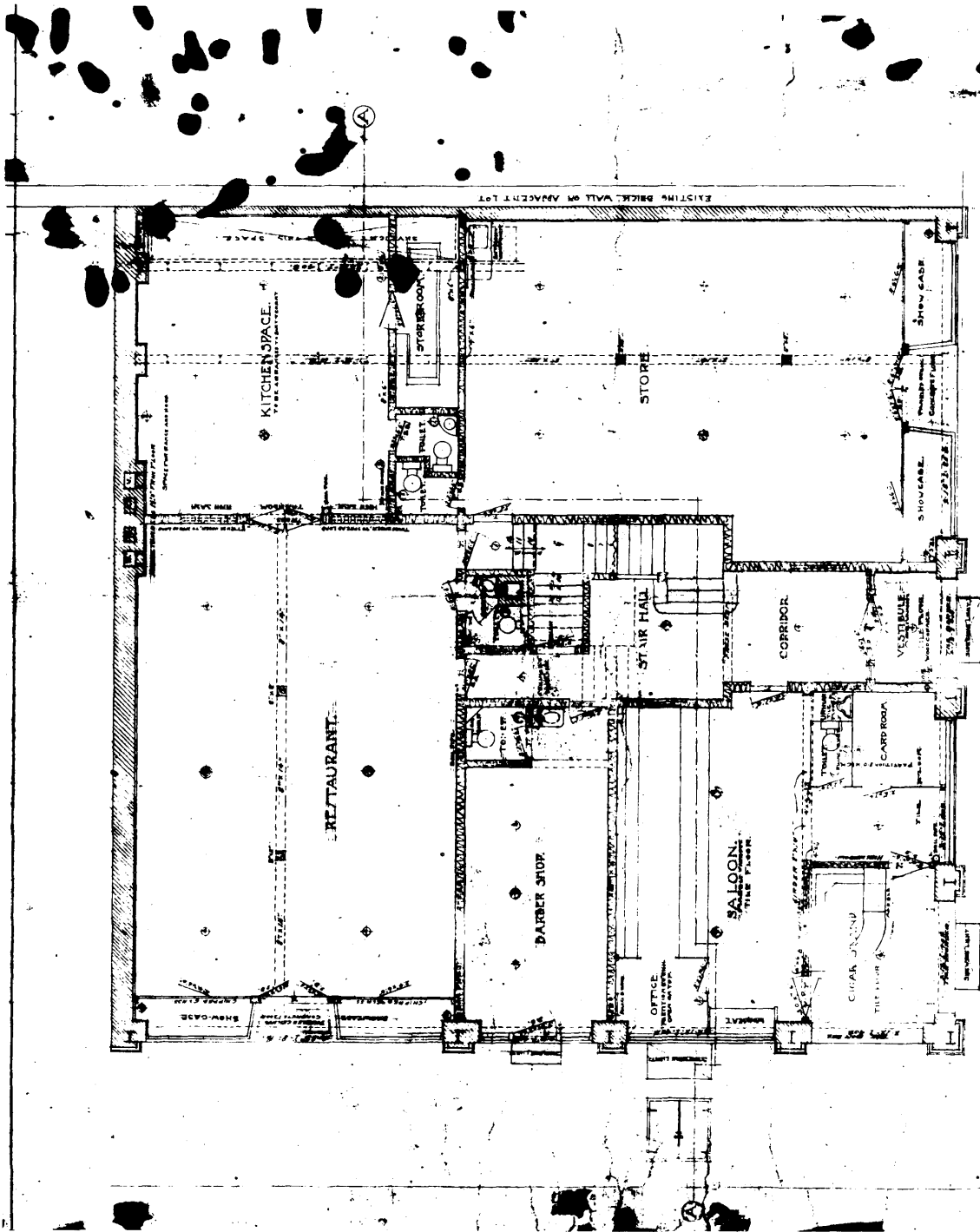


DREYER BUILDING FOR
NAPA, NAPA CO.
W. H. CORLETT ARCHT. NAPA

ON BROWN ST.
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

REC'D
MAY 10 1917
NAPA
4

SECTION
NAPA, NAPA CO.
MAY 10 1917
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



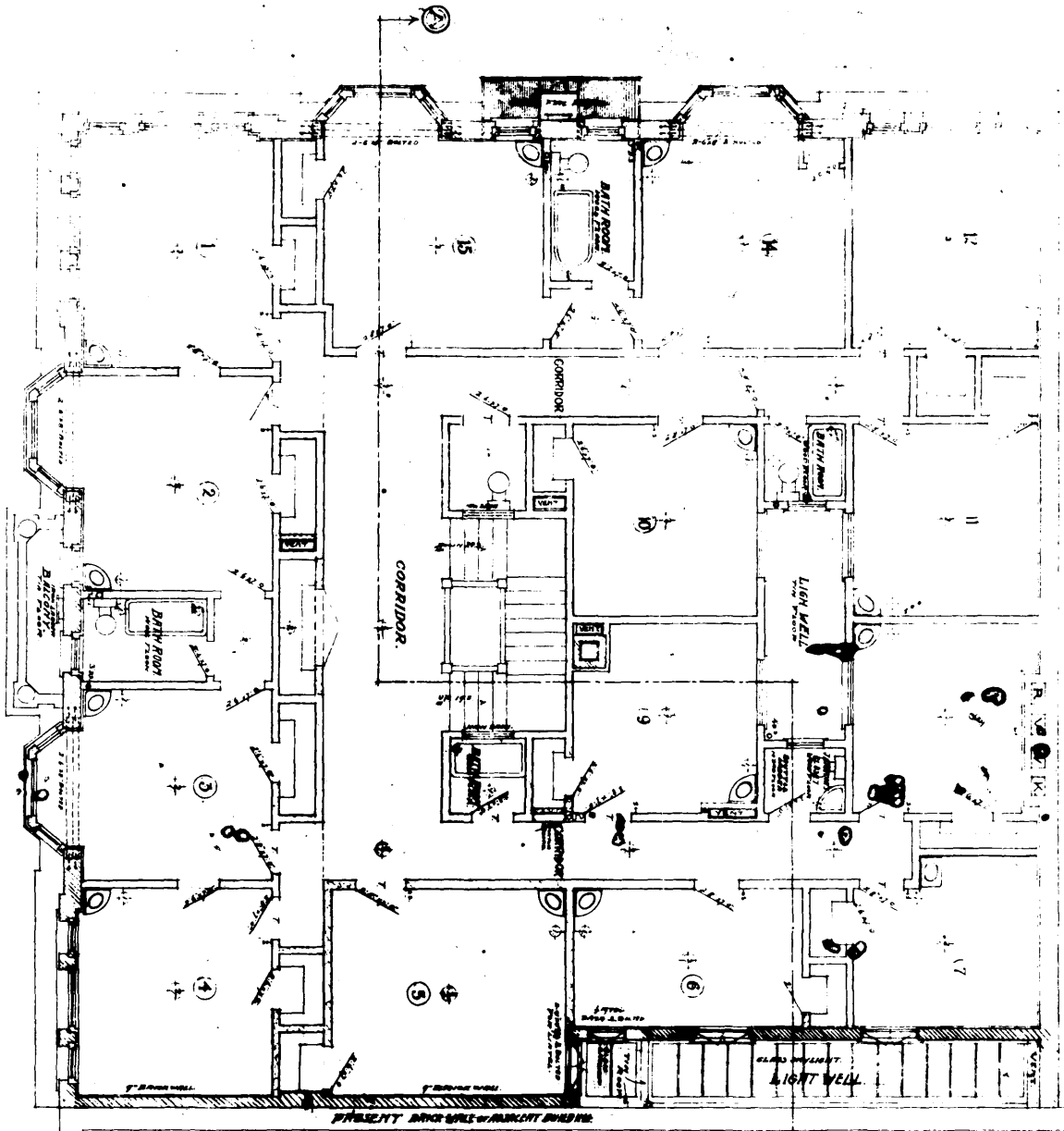
2

DREYER BUILDING FOR
 ANAPA NAPA CO
 WINDORLE, LAURENT, NAPA, CALIF.

PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.

JAN

PLAN OF SECOND FLOOR
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



DREYER BUILDING FOR
NAPA, NAPA CO.
W.H. CORLETT, ARCHT. NAPA, CALIF.

3

MODIFICATION FOR THE 3RD FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

