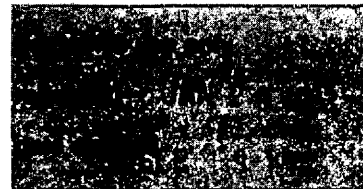


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Old Napa Register Building

and/or common

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**2. Location**

street & number 1202 <sup>1st</sup> First Street not for publication

city, town Napa vicinity of congressional district Second District

state CA 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 The Gordon Trust

street & number 1130 First Street

city, town Napa vicinity of state CA 94558

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Napa County Hall of Records

street & number 821 Coombs Street

city, town Napa, state CA 94558

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records California State Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Parks & Recreation

city, town P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento state CA

①

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Napa Register Building is one of the few remaining examples of turn of the century commercial architecture in the City of Napa's old downtown area. The building is located on a 2485 sq. ft. lot at the northwest corner of First and Coombs Streets. The total square footage of the building is 4970 sq. ft.

The structure is two stories in height, and is constructed of brick. The brick is covered with a cement facing which has been rusticated to give the general appearance of stone. The main entrance of the building faces the corner. The arched entrance is topped by a fine scrolled pediment with applied plaster ornamentation and is supported by two large scrolled brackets.

Each level of the building has ten arched window openings. The segmental arches and keystone protrude on the first floor, and are identical yet recessed on the second floor. This creates an interesting light and shadow contrast. The second floor windows are wood frame double hung. The first floor windows are fixed glass store windows.

The main cornice of the building is relatively plain with a single row of dentil work as ornamentation. The corner facade is topped by a triangular pediment with applied plaster ornamentation.

Major renovation work was completed on the building in 1979. After completion of the Historic Preservation Certification Application, the building received preliminary certification of significance. The building received certification of rehabilitation after it was determined that the renovation work met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Part II of the Historic Preservation Certification Application details the 1979 rehabilitation work. The work replaced or duplicated many interior features that had been removed with previous remodelings.

Originally, both the first and second floors contained one large room each. The first floor housed the newspaper operations and the second floor was used as a dance studio. Entrance to the second floor was via stairways located at the southwest and northeast corners of the building. These staircases were entered from the street, although the northeast staircase also served as direct access from the first floor to the second floor. In 1968, the southwest staircase was removed, and the interior space it occupied was incorporated into the first floor retail space. The entrance doors were replaced with a large store window. At this time all the wood sash double hung windows on the first floor were replaced with fixed glass store windows in order to accommodate retail uses. In 1979 this staircase was rebuilt and the entrance doors were replaced. The new doors were constructed to match the original front entrance doors which remain at the central southeast corner entrance.

In 1968 the entrance doors at the northeast corner of the building were replaced with utility doors. In 1979, new doors which match the front entrance doors, were replaced at this entrance. The staircase at this entrance was also modified to meet the Uniform Building Code by enlarging a mid floor landing.

(continued)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Another modification to the interior first floor was the removal of partition walls (constructed in 1968) and the construction of an elevator shaft, restroom and kitchen facilities.

All non-original partition walls were removed from the second floor of the building in 1979. Only one wall, at the location of the front staircase, was original from the 1905 construction date. Various wall coverings from previous years were removed. The brick walls were exposed and carefully cleaned. The double hung windows were cleaned and repaired, as was the original woodsash.

Second floor restrooms, constructed c. 1950-1952, were removed. New restrooms, an elevator shaft, and janitorial room was constructed. The large second floor space has been partitioned into five offices, and is currently leased to a law firm.

## 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 checked="" 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** Completed 1905 **Builder/Architect** L. M. Turton (Architect)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Napa Register Building is important both architecturally and historically to the City of Napa. The building is one of the few remaining examples of turn of the century commercial architecture in Napa's downtown, and was designed by Napa's leading architect of the time, Luther M. Turton. The structure was built for use by the Napa Register, the City's oldest newspaper in continuous operation

Luther M. Turton was a practicing architect in Napa for forty years, from 1887 to 1927. His designs range from the ornate brick and sandstone Italianate style Semorille Building in downtown Napa (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) to the Frank Lloyd Wright influence of his own cement faced bungalow home. Turton grew up in Napa, but studied architecture in San Francisco. He apprenticed with the San Francisco firm of McDougall and Marquis until 1887, when he returned to Napa. Turton had more influence on the commercial and residential architectural development in the City of Napa than any other architect. He designed dozens of buildings during his years of practice, some of which are still regarded as the best architecture in the City.

The Napa Register, which is Napa County's largest newspaper, was founded in 1863. It was printed weekly, under a variety of owners and publishers until 1872. In that year the Register began to run a daily and a weekly paper; it was also the year that George Milton Francis became involved in the publishing of the paper. Francis had a number of partners in the ownership of the paper until 1876 when he became sole owner and publisher. He remained in control for over fifty years until the late 1920's when his son, George R. Francis took over duties.

Until Francis took charge, the paper was a rather undependable publication. Its offices changed location many times. In 1904 Francis bought the lot at Coombs and First Streets to erect a permanent location for the paper. At the time of purchase fellow businessmen thought it was a poor move, noting that it was too far removed from the core of the downtown. Francis recalled that it was the spot where "circuses pitched their tents and boys played ball." In 1905 Francis completed the building at a cost of \$9,000. Other businesses followed, changing the directional thrust of commercial development of Napa from north and south on Main Street to east and west along First Street.

When the building was completed, the newspaper functions were located on the first floor, and the second floor was leased as a dance studio. It continued this way until the 1930's when the paper expanded to encompass the second floor. After World War II an annex was constructed to serve as a composing and press room. The Register continued in this location until 1965, at which time they moved to new offices. The building stood vacant until 1968 when it was bought by Sam Gordon Sr., father of the present owners.

(continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gregory, Tom. History of Napa and Solano Counties, CA. Historic Record Co., Los Angeles, CA, 1912.  
 Menefee, C.A. Historical and Descriptive Sketch Book of Napa, Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino. Reporter Publishing House, Napa, CA 1873. (continued)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .57 acres

Quadrangle name Napa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 10 562430 4239000  
 Zone Easting Northing

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Located on the Northwest corner of First and Coombs Streets, the rectangular lot measures 35 by 71 feet. The Assessor's parcel number is 3-164-05.

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

state	code	county	code
<u>CA</u>			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Perkins Poole for the Gordon Trust  
 organization Board of Directors, Napa Landmarks date August 1980  
 street & number 904 Main St. telephone 707-252-8422  
 city or town Napa state CA 94558

# 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. M. Egan

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-13-81

**For HCPRS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
Deloris Byers date 2/19/82  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

George Francis Sr. was a highly competitive and politically active man. The Register was always a Republican newspaper and its competition was always Democratic. Only once did the Register stray from the Republican party and that was to endorse Teddy Roosevelt's Progressive Party in 1912. Francis was appointed postmaster of Napa by President Arthur in 1881 and served until 1885 when a Democratic president was elected and he resigned. He was again appointed by President McKinley in 1894 and continued under the administrations of McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft until January 1910, when he resigned. Francis was trustee to the Napa State Asylum by Governor Waterman in 1889, was reappointed by Governor Markham, but resigned when Governor Budd was elected. He was elected a presidential elector in 1896, when McKinley was the Republican nominee, and as messenger carried California's vote to Washington.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)**

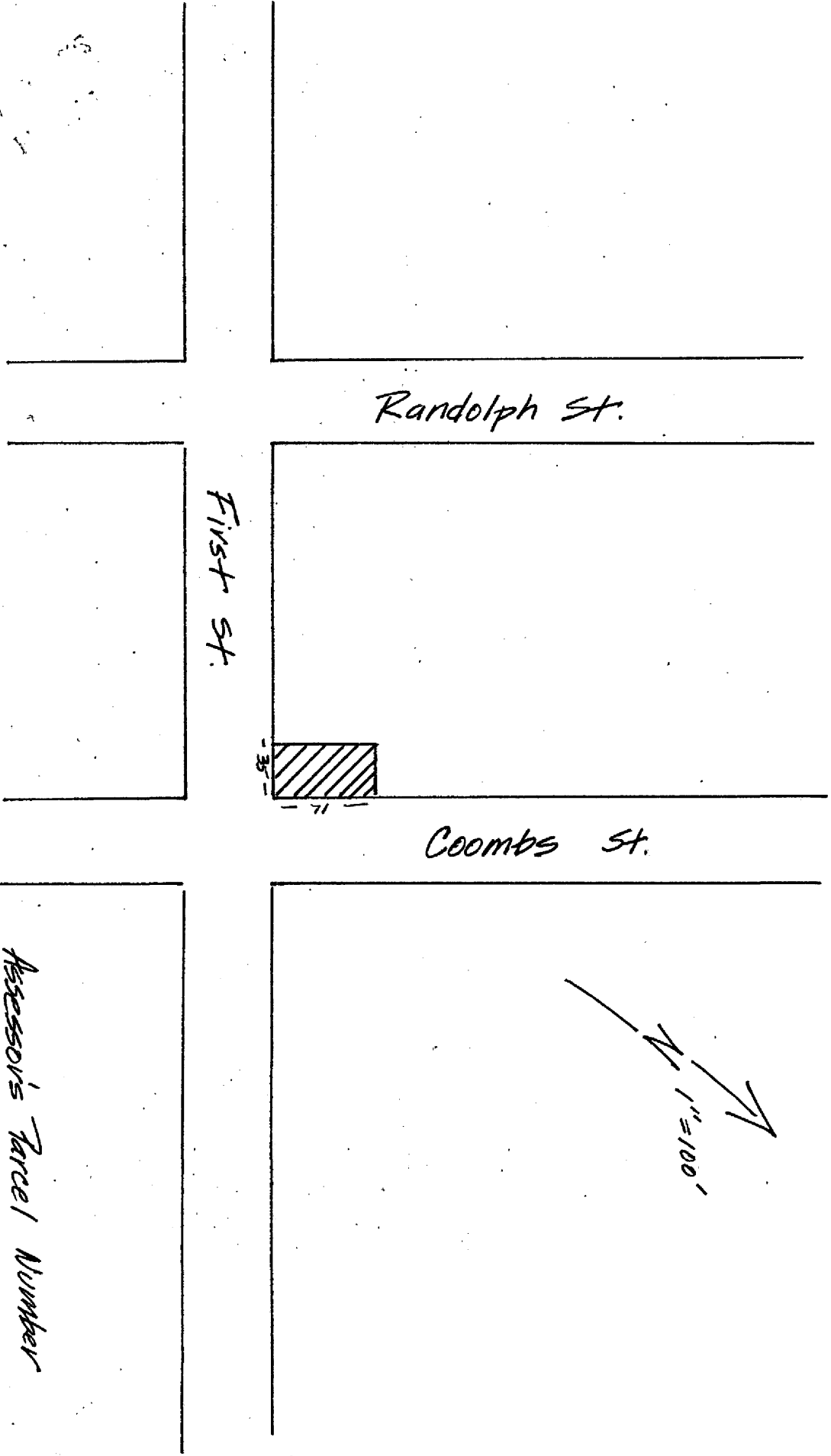
Napa Register: March 30, 1963.  
March 12, 1968

Napa County Historic Resources Inventory. Napa Register Building. April 21, 1978, Napa Landmarks, Inc., P.O. Box 702, Napa, CA 94558

United States Department of the Interior, Office of Archaeology and Historic Presentation. Historic Preservation Certification Application - Part 2, Old Napa Register Building. April 24, 1979.

5

Old Napa Register Building  
1202 First St.  
Napa, Ca. 94558.



Assessor's Parcel Number

3-164-05