

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 27 1984
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

U.S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Napa Franklin Station

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1351 2nd Street

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Napa

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

California

NA VICINITY OF

CODE

06

COUNTY

Napa

CODE

055

**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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	NA IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Ave.

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE  
CA 94099

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Napa County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

1195 3rd Street

CITY, TOWN

Napa

STATE  
CA

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Napa County Cultural Resource Survey

DATE

1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Napa County Planning Department

CITY, TOWN

Napa

STATE  
CA

## 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
<input type="checkbox"/> _FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> _UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>NA</u>

4/27/84

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Napa Post Office is one of the three buildings in this nomination most strongly identified with the Art Deco movement. As is the case with the Porterville and Visalia offices, the Napa Post Office has a projected central area flanked by two recessed wings. Ornament consists of decorative brickwork and terracotta panels in geometric motifs. The cornice formed of terracotta rams' and cows' heads is a decorative feature unique to the Napa office. The interior is in an excellent state of preservation, and boasts its original cast bronze drop lights and raised plaster ceiling.

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The building is in excellent structural condition and has received careful and consistent maintenance. The basement and foundation are reinforced concrete on spread concrete footings, and the floors are concrete beam and solid slabs. The structure has a flat roof and is covered with an asphalt composition material; the exterior facing is a smooth surfaced red brick.

The front facade is strictly symmetrical, and the end wings are recessed in two steps dividing the facade into three segments. Fenestration divides the central portion into six bays, separated by seven large brick piers. Each pier is topped by a terracotta "capital" in a stylized floral motif, which echoes the molding at the top of each window. The composition is topped by a cornice extending a few feet above the roofline. This cornice is crowned with light tan terracotta molding containing sculpted rams' and cows' heads, alternated with oval shields.

The entrances to the lobby are located in each wing end, and are flanked by two cast-bronze and milk glass urn-shaped lighting fixtures. A large terracotta panel containing an Art Deco eagle is placed above each door. The structure's idiosyncratic style is reminiscent of Art Deco design, and of the Starved Classicism which was evolving in the early thirties.

A terracotta panel with a geometricized floral (acanthus leaf) pattern is placed at each end of the central frieze.

The side facades are identical, and contain five rectangular windows, recessed with fluted pilasters.

The public lobby has a twenty-foot ceiling, which is decorated with bas-relief gilt plaster. Marble strips divide the terrazzo floor into bays that correspond to the bays on the ceiling, and a similar star pattern was used on both the floor and ceiling. The original drop lights and brass post office boxes are still in place.

The workroom has plaster walls and tongue-in-groove oak flooring.

The basement contains the boiler room, storage space, and office space. The bulk of the basement was originally used for mail processing; however, the 3,800 gross square foot

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
<b>X Thematic Group</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES	Begun/completed 1933.	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	William H. Corlett, Reed and Corlett Associated Architects
----------------	-----------------------	-------------------	--

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Napa Post Office is important in its local context as an example of William Corlett's work, and as a rare example of the Art Deco Style in Napa. The structure, with a construction date of 1933, is representative of the massive building programs of the New Deal. It is a well preserved example of its type.

ARCHITECTURE

William H. Corlett, 1856-1937.

Corlett was an active local architect, and designed numerous buildings in Napa and other nearby towns. The Napa High School and Napa Elks Hall were among his major commissions. In addition to his architectural practice, Corlett operated a planing mill, served on the Napa City Council for three terms, and on the Napa County School Board for 11 years.

The Napa Franklin Station is unusually well preserved, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is one of a few post office buildings constructed in California with such overtly Art Deco elements. The basic form, though, remains true to the classical ideals of the Supervising Architect's office in the early thirties. Along with the Oroville Main Office, the Napa Franklin Station is an important example of the transition to the Starved Classicism characteristic of federal design in the mid-to-late thirties, and makes plain the debt Starved Classicism owed to Art Deco stylistic concepts.

In addition to its significance as an example of a type, it possesses considerable aesthetic value in its own right. The simple geometry of the building's massing contrasts with the elaborate terracotta ornament and textured brick to create an imposing, yet human-scaled building. The lobby is one of the most flamboyantly decorated post office lobbies in California, and contains a rare (for federal construction) use of raised and painted plaster in the ceiling. The terrazzo floor, while less unique than the ceiling, is one of the last surviving in Napa.

The structure is significant on both the state and local levels as an important example of a type, and as possessing high artistic values, as per National Register Criterion C.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Corlett, W. H. - Obituary", Architect & Engineer, Vol. 131, Nov. 1937.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .75

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	562310 663440	9000 4,213,8830	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 208, Lot 1, Town of Napa, Napa County. The site is a rectangle with a 240' northern frontage along 2nd Street and a 120' eastern frontage on Randolph Street and western frontage on Franklin Street.

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

STATE NA	CODE NA	COUNTY NA	CODE NA
STATE NA	CODE NA	COUNTY NA	CODE NA

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Doug Robertson, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Beland/Associates, Inc.

DATE

April 27, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

16 S. Oakland Ave. #204

TELEPHONE

(818) 796-8093

CITY OR TOWN

Pasadena

STATE

CA 91101

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_ NONE\_\_\_

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_National \_\_\_State \_\_\_Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>	
RECEIVED	JAN 11 1983
DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET Napa, Franklin Station ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

---

workroom was renovated in 1965 and turned into office space, now leased to federal agencies. There are exterior entrances to the basement on the east and west sides of the building.

Two entrances to the lobby on the main floor are in the east and west corners of the front facade. A small foyer at each doorway leads to the public lobby along the north side of the building; the service counters are in the central portion of the lobby. An office, originally for the postmaster's use, is adjacent to the southwest corner of the lobby; a vault and toilet separate it from the workroom. A majority of the main floor is taken up by the workroom. A mailing platform, with direct access from the workroom, is to the rear.

A mezzanine over the east side of the workroom contains a swing room and toilet. A lookout gallery above the center of the workroom was removed for the installation of air conditioning equipment in 1965. Stairs to the basement and mezzanine are southeast of the work area.

The site, on the south side of Second Street between Franklin and Randolph Streets, is 240 feet by 120 feet and contains 28,800 gross square feet. The building is centered on the north (front) edge of the site. A paved parking and maneuvering area is located to the rear with access to both Franklin and Randolph Streets. The property is landscaped on the east and west ends with lawns and small trees and bushes. Two tall evergreen trees stand at each corner of the building. A thin strip of grass in the front is planted with small trees.

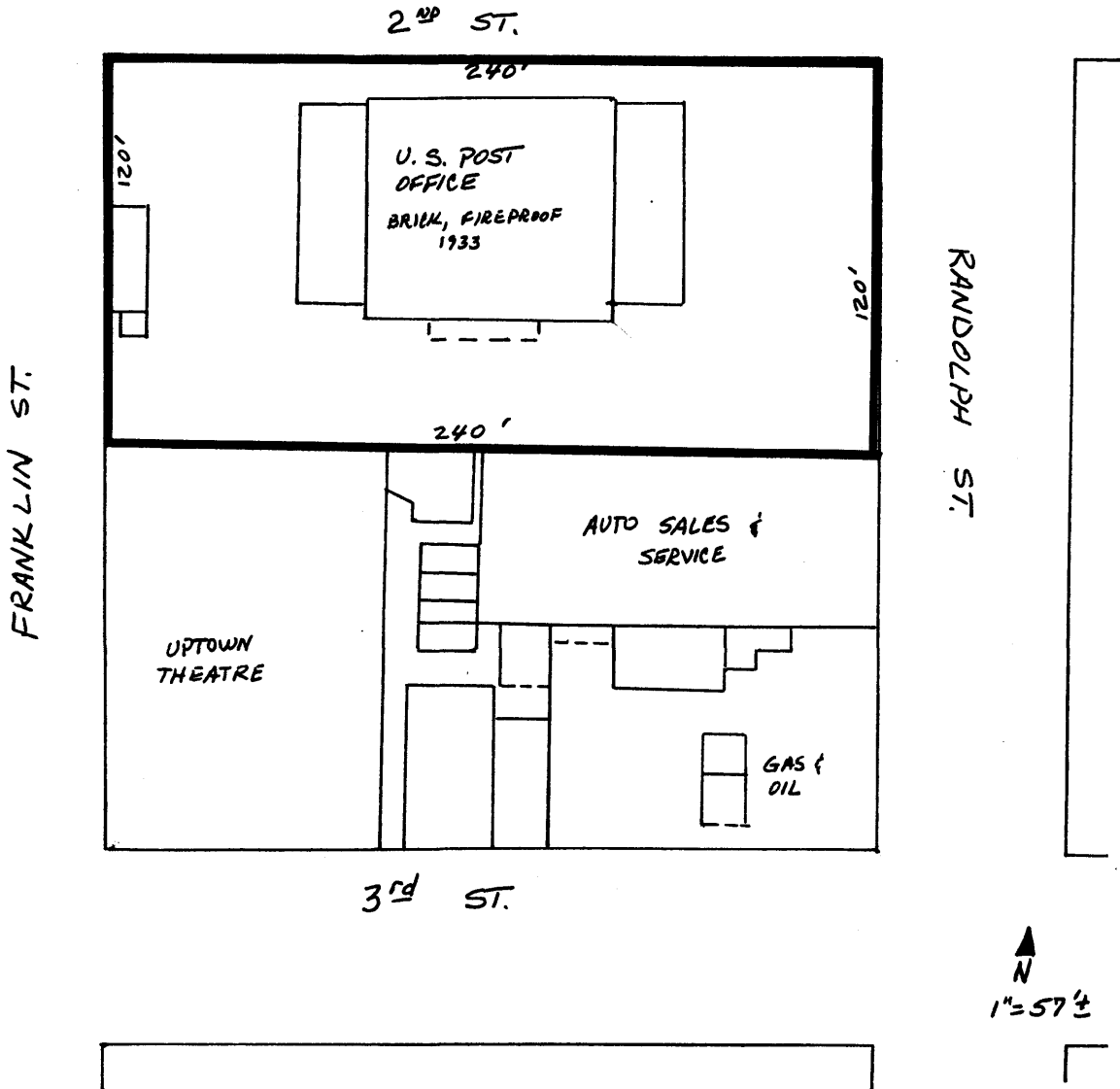
All changes to the building have been minor; the floor plan remains largely unchanged since the building was completed in 1933.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET Napa-Franklin Station ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE two



Note: Post office site outlined in red.

Source: Sanborn Map, Napa Book, page 21, 1945; Geography Dept. California State University, Northridge, Calif.