

PH 362904

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 22 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

**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 WILLIAM B. GIBSON RESIDENCE *House*

AND/OR COMMON
YOLO COUNTY MUSEUM

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 512 Gibson Rd

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Woodland

— VICINITY OF
Fourth Congressional Dist.

STATE Calif CODE 06 COUNTY Yolo CODE 113

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

vacant proposed for museum

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME County of Yolo

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Woodland

— VICINITY OF
STATE Calif

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Yolo County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Court Street

CITY, TOWN
Woodland STATE Calif

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Art history class project under the direction of Dr. Joseph A. Baird
using preliminary inventory sheets

DATE June 7, 1961 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS University of California at Davis

CITY, TOWN
University of California, Davis STATE Calif

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>4/27/76</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The oldest portion of the present structure, according to records of the Yolo County Assessor's Office, Woodland, was a rectangular wooden building 16x20 ft. It is not known whether it had one or two stories.

In 1857, this property with adjoining large agricultural acreage was bought by William Byas Gibson, who made several additions to this nucleus. North of it he added a brick structure 31x37 ft. large, consisting of two stories with porches and balconies on the north and west sides. This was completed by 1872 at a cost of \$7,000. He next added a smaller two-story brick building to the south end of the old wooden structure, approximately 17x35 ft. large, extending several feet on each side of the old building, plus screened enclosed porches on the east side of the original structure. The earlier structures were incorporated into the additions and are recognizable today only upon a structural inspection. The style of the main brick structure is modified Georgian in its massing, its hipped roof, and its floor plan consisting of a central hallway with two rooms off to each side, each having a fireplace on the outside wall, and four bedrooms upstairs. (see floor plan)

From a lithograph print of 1879 it can be seen that the house at that time had a veranda encircling the house on the north and west sides. This veranda was supported by square pillars (six on the north side and five on the west side) which stood on simple square bases; each row of pillars was one story high. A wooden balustrade with simple turned balusters encircled the second story on the north and west sides.

The appearance of the house in 1879 thus suggested a combination of modified Georgian and the two-story veranda of the California Monterey type. The tall, narrow double hung windows, however, are evidence of the Mannerist-Italianate influence which was so strong in the Sacramento area between 1850 and 1880.

Two sets of the square pillars on the veranda were taken down at an undetermined date (presumably between 1890 and 1910) and replaced by a classical portico of four Ionic columns extending the full height of the two stories. A peaked roofline was added above the former hipped roof. Also apparently added at that time were the fanciful consoles on the upper sides of the windows which are again reminiscent of Mannerist.

The four Ionic columns of the north portico are not fluted, but generally suggest the Greek Ionic Order in their capitals, though with an additional pendant leaf ornament in the center above the volute. They have the traditional Ionic bases standing on square blocks. The columns have a slight entasis. They are apparently built of wood and are covered with white plaster.

The balcony on the west side is supported by five double posts, one story high, partly fluted and banded again suggesting Mannerist influences in their ornamentation.

(Continued on attachment #1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

6. Title of Survey

Inventory

HABS report was filed by Dr. Baird with Dept. of Interior. Illustrated term papers are on file in Bancroft Library, U.C. Berkeley and West Yolo County Museum.

Also listed in Inventory of Historic Sites in Yolo County (Addendum #2 to Woodland Historical Zone, #37, submitted to Comprehensive Plan for California History, June 15, 1972.

Also, #53 in Walking Tour of Historic Woodland (1976). Measured drawings were made by U.C. Davis students of Richard Berteaux, 1975.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The main house is built of brick and covered with grey plaster scored to imitate large blocks of stone. There are two doors with flanking pilasters on the north side, one on each level, with the lower being the main entry. The style of the doors is modified Classical Revival framed the undecorated entablature, and the fluted pilasters.

The wall surface of the pediment, on the north side, is shingled in several elaborate patterns.

On the east side of the main brick house is a plan arbor consisting of a simple wooden lattice work, supported by five posts.

The interior walls are of plaster and paper. The floors are of oak (added later) and a floor furnace which also was added at a later date. The formerly two rooms on the east side were made into one large living room. This room had a plain marble fireplace. The two rooms on the west side were used as dining and sitting rooms and are connected by French doors to the older portion of the house which now houses the kitchen.

Upstairs there are now five bedrooms and one bathroom. The fifth bedroom and the bathroom were added into the old portion of the house and are of wood frame construction.

There is a paved walkway from the driveway to the main entrance of the house on the north; the first stone bears the dates 1857-1877.

The house is located on Gibson Road in the southern section of Woodland on property zoned for residential use. The house is almost invisible from the street (Gibson Road) being hidden by large old trees and shrubs. The approach to the house from Gibson Road is via a horseshoe-shaped driveway encircling an elliptical lawn area planted with shrubs and trees. Several out buildings still on the property relate the agricultural heritage of the Gibson Ranch, although they are of a more recent date than the house.

The main part of the house is in a fair state of repair; however, immediate attention must be given to the roof before the deterioration process of the interior becomes irreversible.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Byas Gibson, after whom the house is named, was born in Louisa County, Virginia in 1831. In 1837 he moved with his parents to Howard County, Missouri.

William Byas Gibson came overland by mule team to California in 1850. He first built a home on Cache Creek in Yolo County, where he homesteaded and became a grain grower and stock raiser. Six years later he sold this property and bought the aforementioned property with some 320 acres.

Located just south of the City of Woodland which became the seat of Yolo County government in 1862, this "home ranch" became the nucleus of his subsequent 3,000 acre estate in Yolo County, where he and his sons specialized in the breeding of high-grade Shorthorn cattle and large-scale farming.

He was married in 1857 to Mary Isabelle Cook, daughter of Yolo County pioneers of Joseph J. and Elizabeth (Chiles) Cook. The Gibsons and their three sons, Robert J., Thomas B. and Joseph W. all played active roles in the agricultural and commercial development of Yolo County. The eldest, Robert J. Gibson, married Elnora Root of Zamora, who occupied the Gibson House until recently. The property had been in the possession of the Gibson family since its first acquisition in 1857.

Gigantic native oak trees mark the site of the original home and additional plantings of citrus, olives and ornamental trees during the 1870's give the substantially enlarged house a park like setting, particularly suited to development of a two acre museum complex. Preservation of these landmark trees is of general concern to Yolo County and the City of Woodland.

The house serves as a physical reminder of the wide spread influence the Gibson family had on agricultural, commercial and civic affairs during the early development of Woodland and Yolo County. Architecturally, it is the only remaining example of Modified Classical Style in a city with an abundance of various Victorian structures that are in a remarkably good state of preservation. With over two acres of land surrounding the home included in the county's acquisition of the site and available for reconstruction of its imposing setting, there is the potential to create a "living monument" to the Gibson Family, while at the same time the fireproof nature of the brick structure would lend itself to the development of a museum housing cultural artifacts and information relative to Yolo County's past heritage.

(Continued on Attachment #2)

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PAGE 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Attachment #2)

Measured drawings of the entire residence have been prepared for submission to HABS.

A county-wide Bicentennial Celebration on May 16, 1976, will coincide with dedication of the site as the Yolo County Museum. Several rooms have been refurbished for display purposes and plans for additional restoration work is underway. Further research on the Gibson family and their home is also in progress.

Property *Gibson, William B., Residence*

House

76000542

Yolo Co.

State *Calif*

Working Number *7.22.76.379*

TECHNICAL

Photos *7*
Maps *2*

CONTROL

OK pl
7.26.76

HISTORIAN

accept
B. Grover
10/22/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
LEBOWITZ
10.26.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

active
BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Cole
10-29-76

KEEPER

Wm
11/2/76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered *NOV 7 1976*

Federal Register Entry *12-7-76*

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74







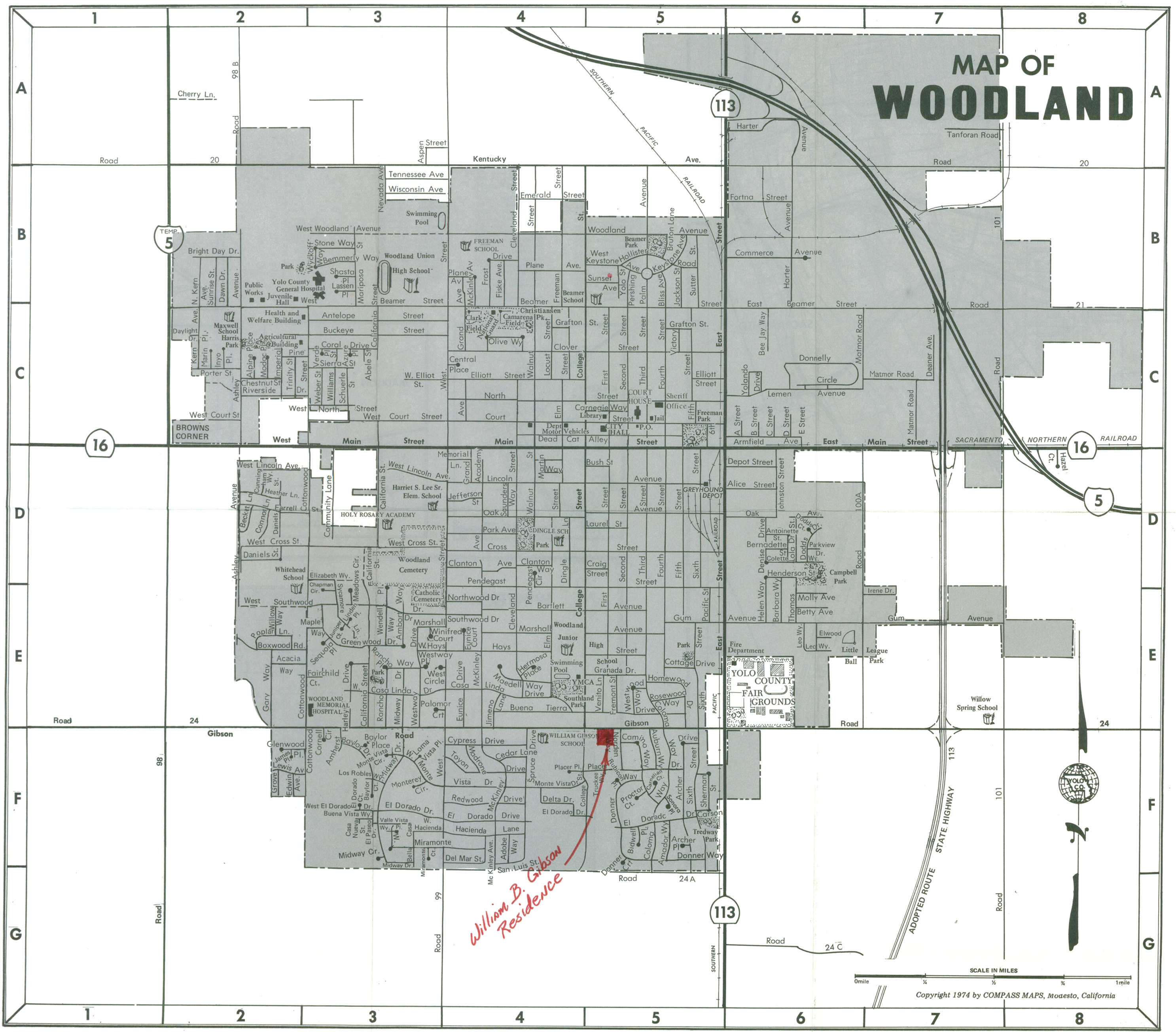








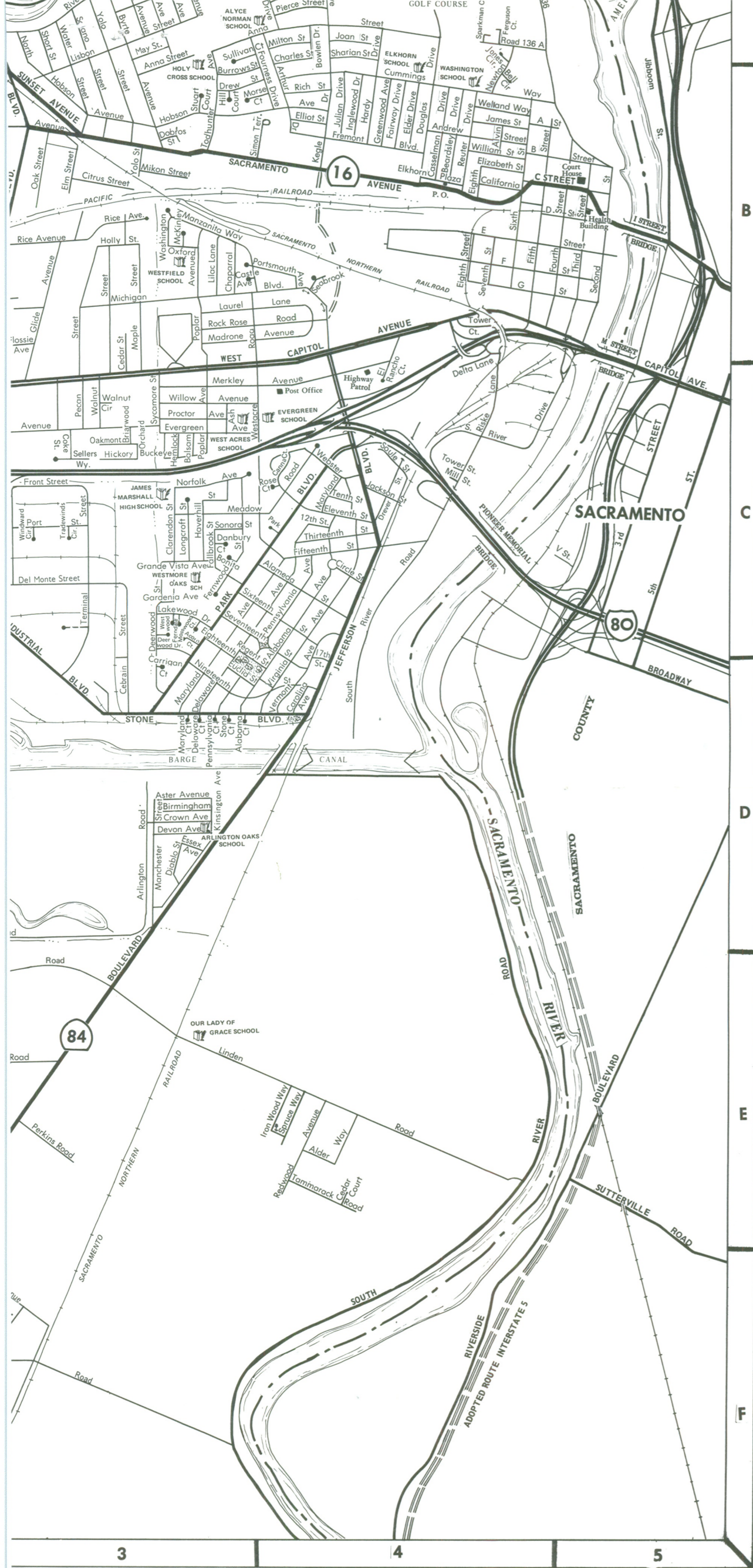
MAP OF WOODLAND



*William B. Gibson
Residence*

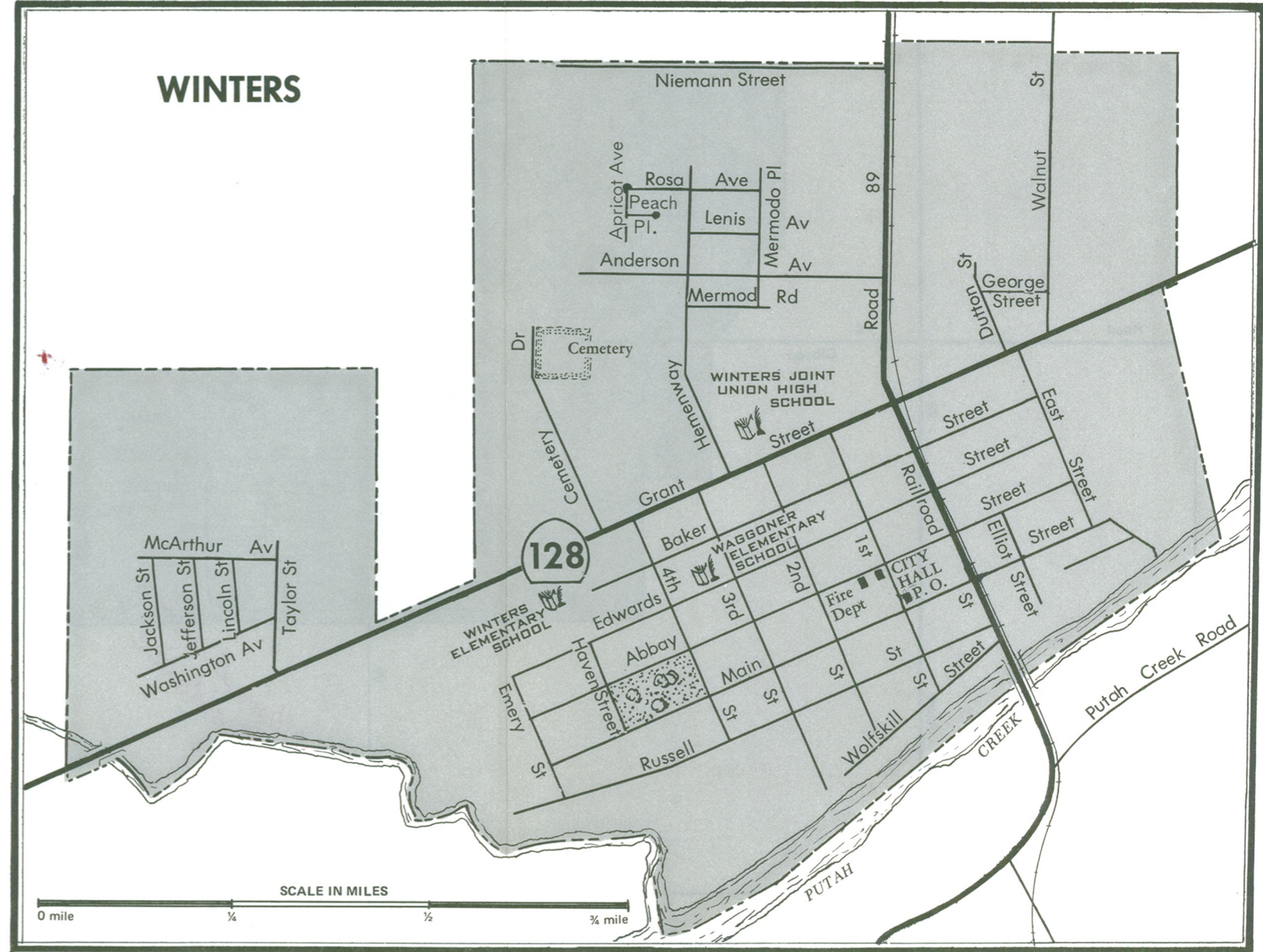
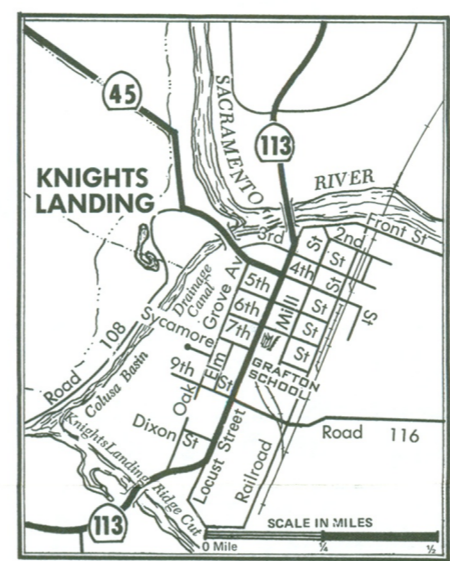
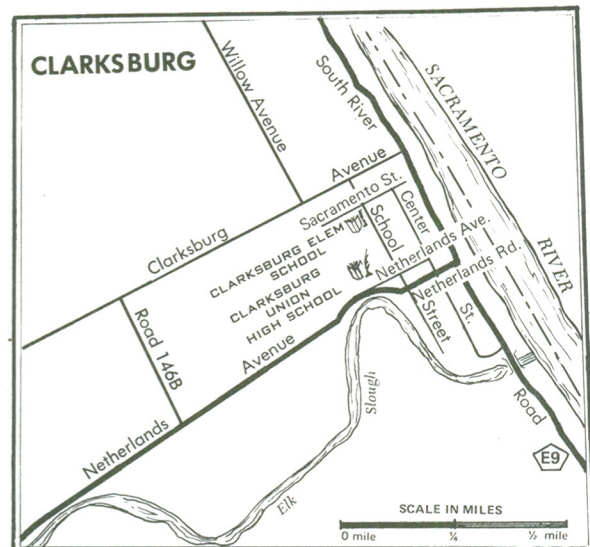


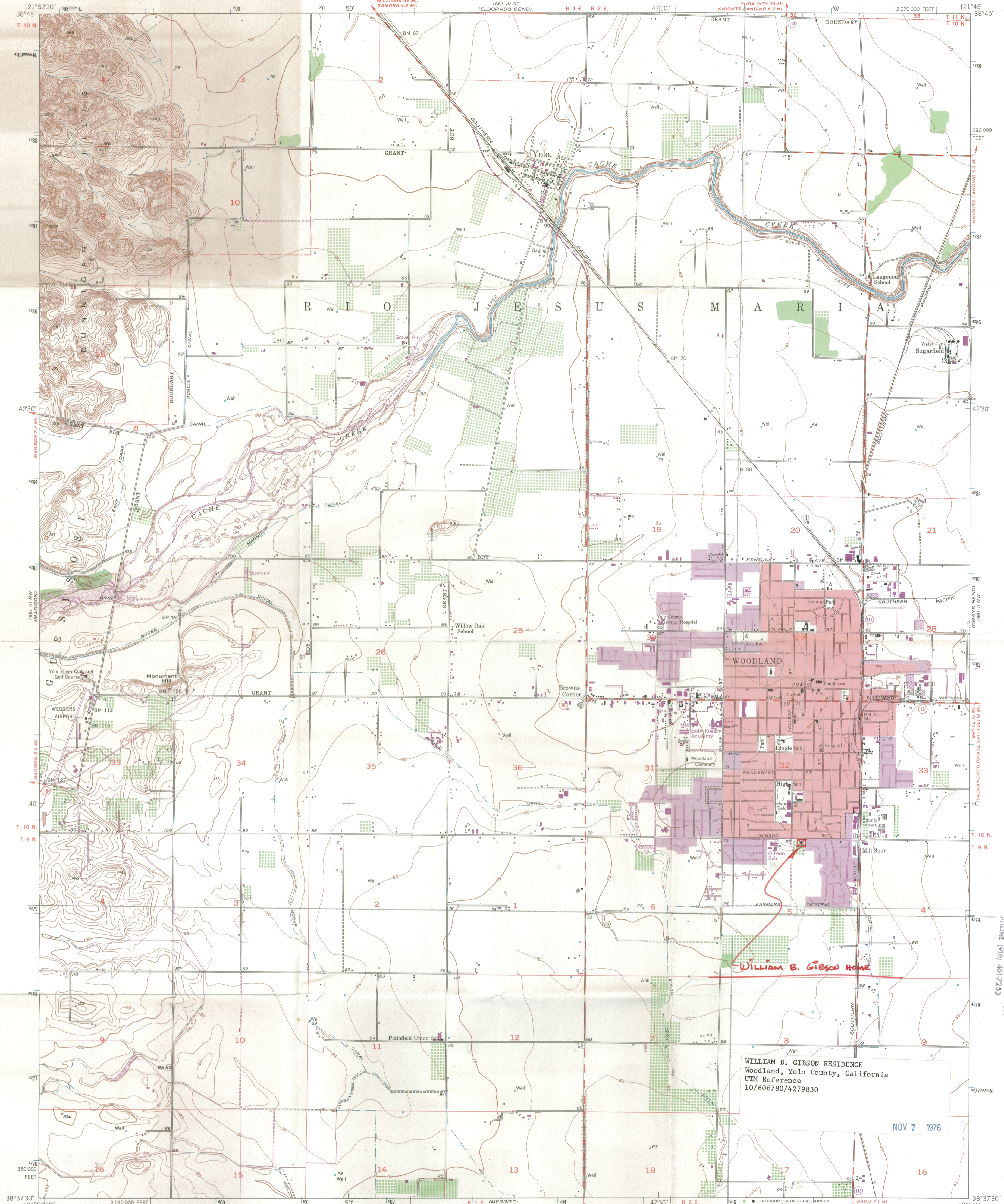
SCALE IN MILES
0mile 1/4 1/2 3/4 1mile
Copyright 1974 by COMPASS MAPS, Moesto, California



Castle Avenue	B-3
Cebrian Street	C-D-3
Cedar Court	E-4
Cedar Street	B-C-3
Chapparral Way	B-3
Charles Street	A-4
Circle Street	C-4
Citrus Street	B-3
Clarendon Street	C-3
Coke Street	C-3
Constitution Avenue	E-2
Crown Avenue	D-3
Cummings Way	B-4
D Street	B-5
Danbury Court	C-3
Davis Road	F-2-3
Deerwood Circle	C-3
Deerwood Street	C-3
Delaware Avenue	C-4-D-3
Delaware Court	D-3
Del Monte Street	C-3
Delta Lane	B-C-4
Devon Avenue	D-3
Diablo Street	D-3
Dobros Street	B-3
Doran Avenue	C-2
Douglas Drive	A-B-4
Drake Boulevard	C-1
Drever Street	C-4
Drew Street	B-3-4
Dubois Street	A-4
Duluth Street	B-2-3
E Street	B-4-5
Elder Drive	B-4
Elizabeth Street	B-4
Elliot Street	B-4
Elkhorn Plaza	B-4
Elm Street	B-3
El Rancho Court	C-4
Essex Avenue	C-3
Evergreen Avenue	C-2-3
F Street	B-4-5
Fairway Drive	B-4
Fallbrook Street	C-3
Ferguson Court	A-4
Fernwood Street	C-3
Ferdale Court	C-3
First Street	B-2
Flossie Avenue	B-3
Fourness Drive	A-B-4
Jasmine Avenue	A-3
Jefferson Boulevard	A-3
Jibboom Street	A-B-5
Joan Street	A-4
Jones Circle	A-4
Julian Drive	B-4
Keagle Drive	A-B-4
Kingston Avenue	D-3
Lake Road	C-1
Lakewood Drive	C-3
Laurel Lane	B-3-4
Lilac Lane	B-3
Linden Road	E-3-4
Libson Street	A-B-3
Longcroft Street	C-3
Madrone Avenue	B-3-4
Manchester Street	D-3
Manzanita Way	B-3
Maple Street	B-3
Marigold Street	C-2
Marshall Road	F-1-2
Maryland Avenue	C-4-D-3
Maryland Court	D-3
May Street	A-3
McKinley Way	B-3
Meadow Road	C-3-4
Merkley Avenue	C-3-4
Michigan Boulevard	B-3-4
Mikon Street	B-3
Milton Street	A-4
Morning Glory Street	C-2
Morse Court	B-3-4
Mosswood Court	C-3
Myrtle Avenue	A-3
Newton Avenue	A-B-4
Norfolk Avenue	C-3
Oak Street	B-3
Oakmont Avenue	C-3
Orchard Way	C-3
Otis Avenue	F-1
Oxford Way	B-3
Palomar Avenue	C-2
Park Boulevard	C-4-D-3
Partridge Avenue	F-2-3
Pecan Street	B-C-3
Pennsylvania Avenue	C-4-D-3
Pennsylvania Court	D-3

Stone Court	D-3
Stuart Court	B-3
Sullivan Court	A-3
Sunset Avenue	B-3
Sutter Avenue	B-C-2
Sycamore Street	C-3
Taber Street	A-4
Tamarack Road	E-4
Tapley Avenue	F-3
Terminal Street	C-3
Thorpe Road	D-3-E-1
Todhunter Avenue	A-B-3
Tower Court	B-4
Tower Street	C-4
Tradewinds Circle	C-3
Vermont Avenue	C-D-4
Virginia Avenue	C-D-4
Walnut Circle	C-3
Walnut Street	B-C-3
Washington Way	B-3
Water Street	A-B-3
Webster Street	A-B-3
Welland Way	B-4
Westacre Road	B-C-3
Westwood Court	C-3
William Street	B-4
Willow Avenue	C-3
Windward Circle	C-3
Yolo Causeway	C-1
Yolo Street	A-B-3

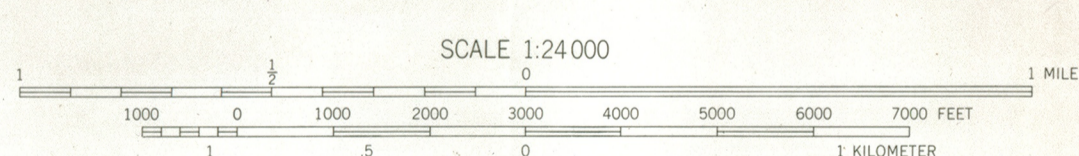
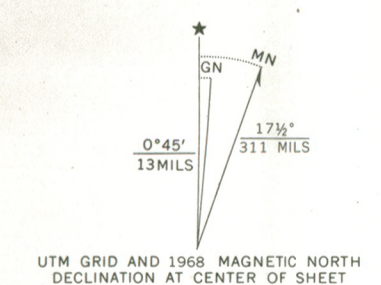




WILLIAM B. GIBSON RESIDENCE
Woodland, Yolo County, California
UIM Reference
10/606780/4279830

NOV 7 1976

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Mapped 1905, remapped 1952
Culture and drainage by multiplex methods
from aerial photographs taken 1949
Topography by plane-table surveys 1952
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 2
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 10, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
CONTOURS INCOMPLETE ALONG EMBANKMENTS AND DITCHES
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
○ State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

WOODLAND, CALIF. NE/4 WOODLAND 15' QUADRANGLE N3837.5-W12145/7.5

1952 PHOTO REPRODUCED 1968
AMS 1661 III NE-SERIES V895

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1968. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

J. A. FINE & ENGINEERING SUPPLIES
CADDEN SURVEYING EQUIPMENT CO.
5520 HAVAS AVE.
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95819
PHONE (916) 451-7253



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CALIFORNIA

Date Entered NOV 7 1976

Name

Location

Southern Pacific Railroad Station	Davis Yolo County
Gibson, William B., House	Woodland Yolo County
Vallejo City Hall and County Building Branch	Vallejo Solano County
Benicia Arsenal, Benicia Barracks	Benicia Solano County
Kotani-En Garden	Los Gatos Santa Clara County
Santa Fe Passenger Depot	Fresno Fresno County
Point Lobos Archeological Sites	San Francisco vicinity San Francisco County
Balclutha (ex: Star of Alaska)	San Francisco San Francisco County

Also Notified

Hon. Alan Cranston	State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John V. Tunney	Mr. Herbert Rhodes
Hon. Robert L. Leggett	Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Hon. Norman Y. Mineta	State Resources Agency
Hon. B. F. Fisk	P. O. Box 2390
Hon. John L. Burton	Sacramento, California 95811

Regional Director, Western Region
Mott
880
11/9/76
Mr. Robert Creech - DOT

ROBERT L. LEGGETT, M.C.
4TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

MEMBER OF
COMMITTEES ON:
ARMED SERVICES
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES
BUDGET

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
ROOM 2263
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202/225-5716

OWEN CHAFFEE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT DIRECTOR
JAMES COAKLEY
1522 TENNESSEE STREET
VALLEJO

SACRAMENTO OFFICE:
STAFF ASSISTANTS:
VIRGINIA HARPER
EDWARD CHEEVER
650 CAPITOL MALL

Please Reply To:
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 8, 1977

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

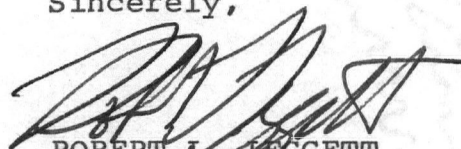
Dear Mr. Murtagh:

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the State of California requested on July 15, 1976 that the William B. Gibson Residence in my district be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. To my knowledge a determination by your agency has not yet been made.

Placement on the National Register is warranted in my view given the significance this residence has played in the history of Yolo County. The facility is now being developed into a museum for Yolo County. The ability of local agencies to secure funds to further develop this fine house will be substantially increased if your office acts favorably on the pending request.

Please inform my Sacramento Office of the status of this request and when final action can be expected, if such a determination has not yet been made. Early action by your office would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



ROBERT L. LEGGETT
Member of Congress

LISTED 11/7/76
NOTICE TO
CONGRESS
11/10/76

H34-880

Yolo Co,

*Burns
Cole
Murtagh
for 760
T. W. 2/25
Whelan 2/25*

FEB 28 1977

Honorable Robert L. Leggett
Member, United States House
of Representatives
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Leggett:

Thank you for your letter concerning the nomination of the William B. Gibson Residence, Yolo County, California, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to advise you that the William B. Gibson House was listed in the National Register on November 7, 1976, and the usual form notification was sent to your office on November 10, 1976. A copy of this notification and a leaflet describing the National Register program are enclosed.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Allen Connolly
Associate
Director

Enclosures

cc: Your Washington Office

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Mr. Herbert Rhodes
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
State Resources Agency
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811)
Regional Director, Western Region)

001-Reading File / 700 / 760 / 880) / 190) / 160) / 190-001 chron.

FNP:K Burns:cac:2/24/77

✓ (BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880)

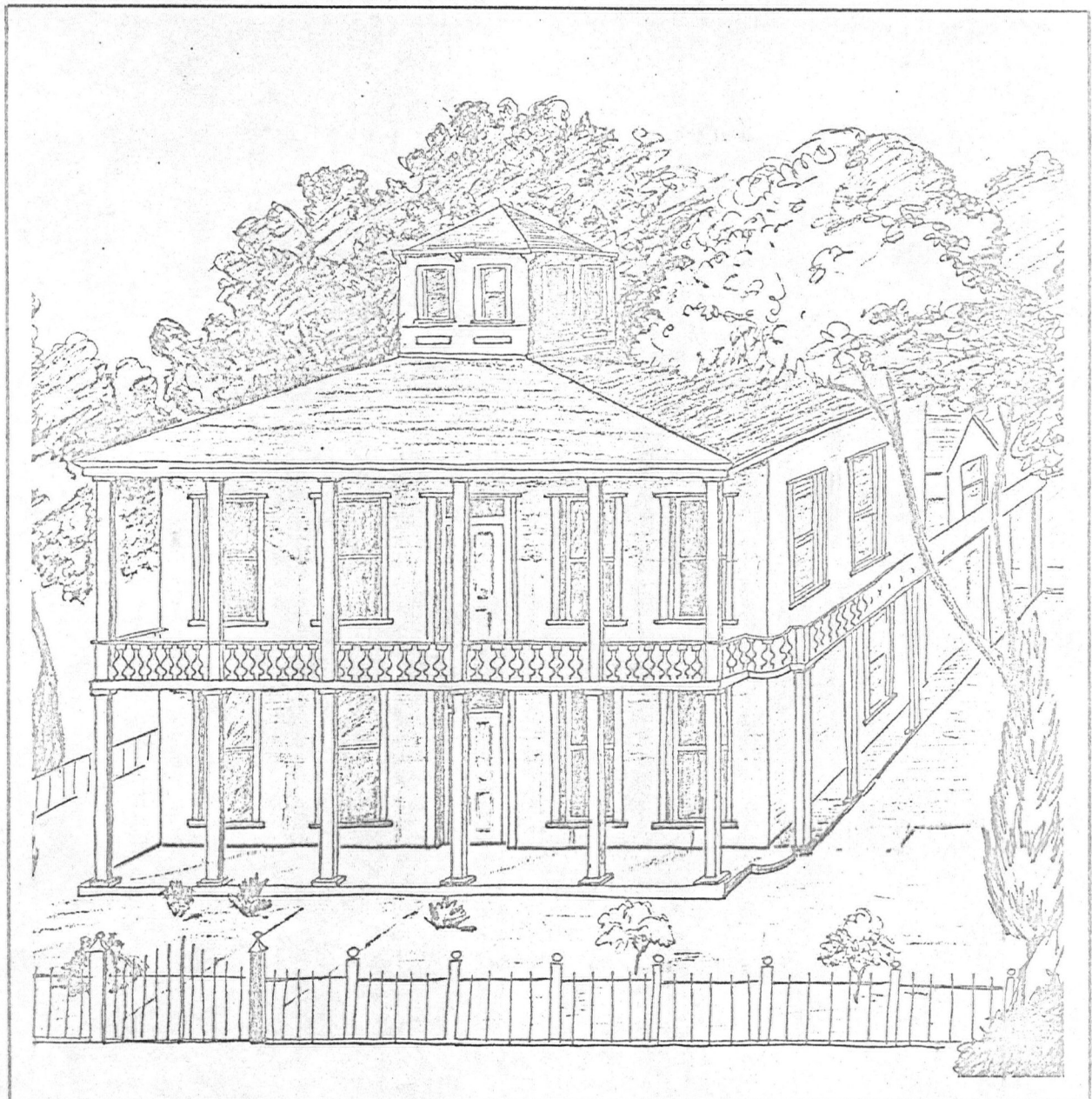
*ed
2/25*

Yolo County Historical Society

Woodland, California

Volume 8, Number 3

October 1974



Gibson House, Woodland
Proposed County Museum Site

Gibson House: Proposed County Museum

Museum Advisory Committee Report

Establishment of a Yolo County museum has been an important concern of the Yolo County Historical Society since its organization in 1963. The county Board of Supervisors has appointed a Museum Advisory Committee, composed of Anna Marie Beeman, chairman, Ethel Burns, Dean Gaumer, Don Hanson, Joann Larkey, Harry Needham, David Poole, Jane Reiff, Robert Sarlos, Addie Molson, Leila Hardy, and Lucile Shumaker. For the past year this group has consulted with museum officials throughout California. As a result, they have established recommendations pertaining to the goals, function, and site location of a museum that would be dedicated to the interpretation and preservation of all aspects of Yolo County's history, thus providing facilities for repository of historical artifacts and a center for educational study and research.

In 1973 a broadly-based citizen effort to acquire the 1915 county jail building for museum purposes was launched, but unresolved decisions regarding location of a new county administration building forced the museum committee to look elsewhere for an available site. To date, the W. B. Gibson Home, 512 Gibson Road, Woodland, is considered to be the most desirable prospect, pending detailed structural studies. While other sites may become available at some future date, the committee's decision to recommend county acquisition of the former Gibson property was strongly influenced by two important factors: the immediate availability at a minimum cost of spacious, landscaped grounds that offer ample access, parking, and outdoor display area; and the urgency of preserving a historically significant structure that must have immediate repair if it is to be preserved for future generations.

Recognizing that the Gibson property does not provide all the facilities that might be desirable in a modern museum, it is the general consensus of the museum committee that a small beginning, to be followed by phased development when funds and volunteer labor become available, is preferable to continued procrastination that annually sees the loss of much that is significant to Yolo County's earliest history. Those who agree with the need to establish a Yolo County Museum now are hereby encouraged to lend their support by writing to the Board of Supervisors. Donations to the museum collection would also be gratefully appreciated.

Cover drawing of Gibson House taken from the 1879 DePue History of Yolo County, by James R. Gordon, Woodland.

W. B. Gibson Home

Influences of their Southern heritage can be seen in the home of William Byas and Mary (Cook) Gibson, the pillared brick mansion that is being considered as a potential site for a museum of Yolo County history. Son of a Virginia brickmaker who emigrated to Missouri in 1837, W. B. Gibson first came overland to Yolo County in 1850. He mined



W. B. Gibson

briefly, then homesteaded on Cache Creek until 1857 when he married and settled on 160 acres located one mile south of Woodland. A commercial directory of 1870 lists him as the owner of 340 acres and by 1891, a biographical sketch noted that he owned 2,400 acres, raising grain, hay, and stock.

On December 23, 1857, William Gibson married Mary Isabelle Cook, daughter of Joseph J. and Elizabeth (Chiles) Cook who emigrated from Missouri in 1853, settling with their children in the Willow Slough area. A native of Boyle County, Kentucky, she lived in the Gibson home from the day of her wedding until her death, November 26, 1915. Her husband died there on February 15, 1906.

Three sons, Robert J., Thomas B., and Joseph W. also became prominent agriculturists. Thomas Bullard Gibson in 1905 built the home at 311 Gibson road.

An architectural study of the W. B. Gibson home was conducted in 1961 by Roselinde H. Russell, a UC Davis student of art history professor Joseph A. Baird, Jr. In her report Mrs. Russell notes:

"The oldest portion of the present structure, according to records of the Yolo County Assessor's Office is supposed to have been built in 1849 (builder unknown) and consisted of a rectangular wooden building 16 x 20 feet. It is not known whether it had one or two stories.

"In 1857, this property with adjoining large agricultural acreages was bought by William Byas Gibson, who made several additions to this nucleus. North of it he added a brick structure 31 x 37 feet, consisting of two stories with porches and balconies on the north and west sides. (See drawing of 1879.) This was completed by 1872 at a cost of \$7,000. He also added a smaller two-story brick building to the south end of the old wooden structure, approximately 17' x 35', extending several feet on each side of the old building, plus enclosed porches on the east side of the original structure.

"The style of the main brick structure that was built in the 1870's (1872-1879) seems to be pseudo-Georgian . . . The appearance of the house in 1879 thus suggested a combination of modified Georgian and Classical Revival house combined with the two-story veranda of the California Monterey type . . . This two-story veranda was taken down at an undetermined date (presumably between 1890 and 1910) and replaced by a kind of monumental portico of four Ionic columns extending the full height of the two stories . . ."

Even though the exterior is covered with grey plaster that was scored to imitate large blocks of stone, a fashionable trend in the 1870's, the choice of brick for the home's construction is significant. An ancestor of Mrs. Gibson, Walter Chiles, is reputed to have built the first brick house in America, at Jamestown in the mid 1600's.

Photographs and additional facts about the Gibson family and their home are being sought by the YCHS Historic Sites committee, working in conjunction with the Woodland Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee. Application for the Gibson home's inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places is currently being processed.

Joann Larkey, Chrm.,
Historic Sites Committee

Newt Wallace . . . A Humorist with a Message

Newton Wallace, owner-publisher of the *Winters Express* since 1947, will address the program meeting of the YCHS on Monday, October 28, at 8:00 p.m. in the Woodland Opera House. His topic will be about how and why the U.S. Information Agency chose to make a documentary movie featuring his smalltown newspaper.

After introductory remarks (his presentations have been compared with those of Will Rogers), Mr. Wallace will show the film made in 1968, entitled "Winters Express." This documentary has been translated into 18 languages and is now being shown in more than 100 countries.

Refreshments will follow the program. Members are encouraged to bring guests.



Newton Wallace

Yolo County Historical Society News

CHS Agribusiness Tour

Members of the California Historical Society will tour Yolo County sites on Saturday, October 19. Stops will include Locke, various UC Davis research departments and the experimental farm, the Heidrick Museum of historical farm machinery, the Port of Sacramento, and the Gable Mansion. Members of the YCHS are invited to meet the tour group for a picnic lunch. More information is available from the CHS, 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco, 94109, phone (415) 567-1848.

October Membership Drive

Members of the YCHS are being asked to recruit their friends and neighbors to become actively involved with the Society. Emphasis in program during the next two years will be fund raising efforts and restoration of the Woodland Opera House, purchased by the Society in 1971. The organization will also continue with its research and identification of historic sites within the county. Persons of all ages interested in these activities are urged to join the YCHS.

The YCHS newsletter is published monthly for its members. Subscriptions are part of the annual dues. Copy deadline is the tenth of the month preceding publication. Submit copy and article suggestions to YCHS, P. O. Box 1447, Woodland, 95695, Attn.: Newsletter Editor.

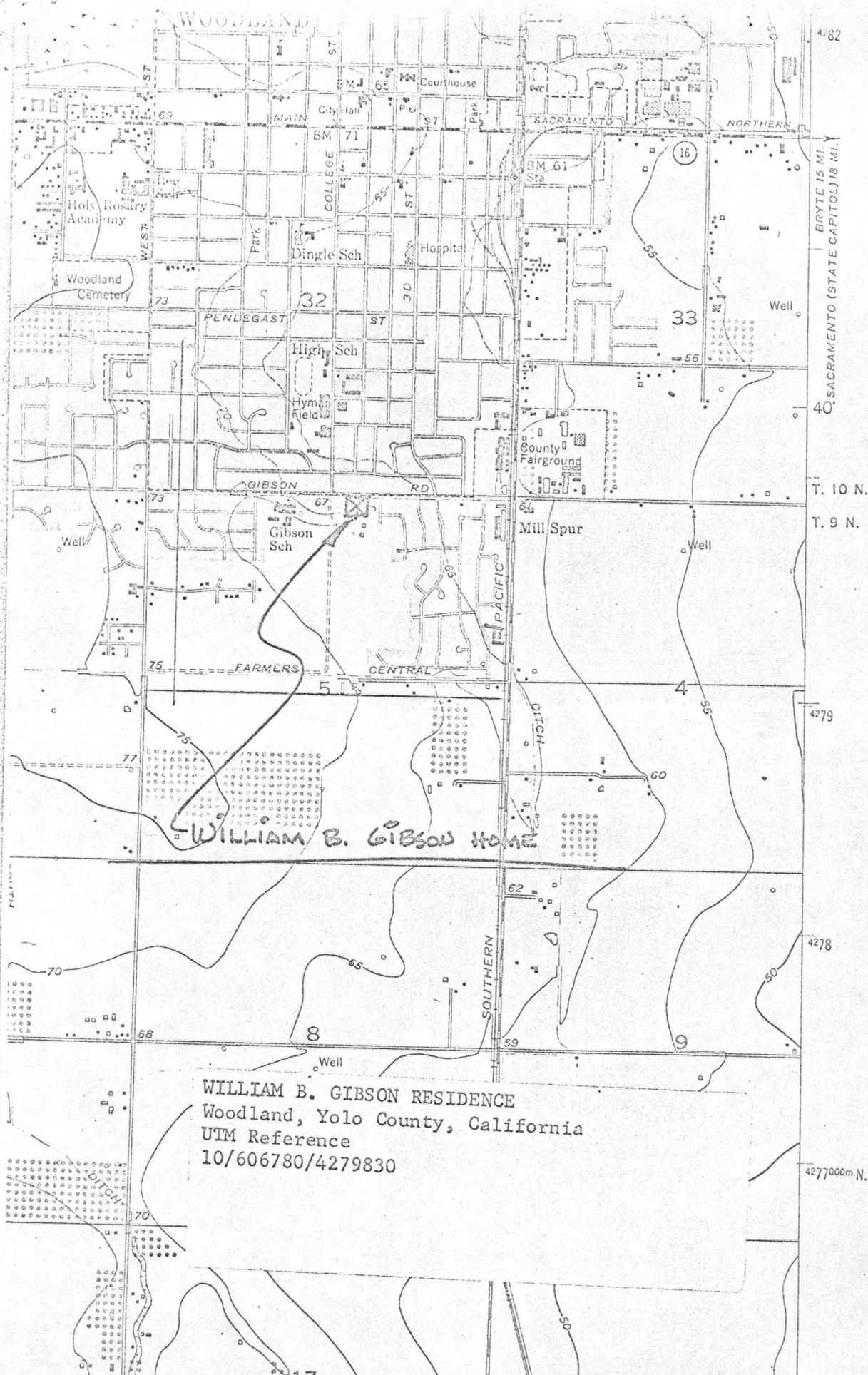
The YCHS meets regularly on the fourth Monday of each month for a program. The Board of Directors meets on the second Monday of each month. Special activities are scheduled during the year. Membership information may be obtained by writing to the Society.

Opera House Progress Report

Dr. Cleve Baker, chairman of the Operations Committee, announces that it is planning a major fund-raising event at the Opera House for the first two weekends in November. The YCHS will present "An Evening with Mark Twain," as portrayed by Sacramento thespian Jim Pulsifer. There will be 8 p.m. evening performances on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 1-2, with a 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon performance on Nov. 3. General admission is \$3.00, \$2.50 for Society Members. Tickets may be ordered by mail from Y.C.H.S., P. O. Box 1447, Woodland. YCHS members are encouraged to promote this theatrical event, first of many in acquiring funds for the restoration of the Opera House.

The Society plans for the Opera House include its use as a civic center serving local musical and dramatic groups, a theatre arts museum, and a place for touring professionals to perform. Recent first-time visitors to the Opera House have been Assemblyman Edwin Z'berg and Congressman Robert Leggett, who have both pledged their support of the restoration and funding endeavors.

Dr. Baker is requesting the donation of a kidney-shaped grand piano, suitable for concert presentations. He may be contacted for further information, 662-9410, Woodland. The committee is also looking for a volunteer with secretarial skills that could assist with the many letters and reports that work on the Opera House is generating. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the fund drive and restoration work, and an article in the November YCHS newsletter will make a definitive request for assistance.



WILLIAM B. GIBSON RESIDENCE
 Woodland, Yolo County, California
 UTM Reference
 10/606780/4279830

DRAFTING & ENGINEERING SUPPLIES
 DESIGN CONVENTING EQUIPMENT CO.
 2120 HAVAS AVE
 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
 PHONE (916) 451-7253

NR 577

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 10/22/76
Reviewer INITIALS: 36

NR

DOE NOV 7 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: ⁽¹⁾ Gibson, William B., House
OTHER NAMES: Yolo County Museum - SECONDARY

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: 512 Gibson Rd.
CITY, TOWN: Woodland CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th
STATE: California VICINITY OF: 06 COUNTY: Yolo code: 113

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR Substantially intact-1 EXTERIOR Substantially intact-2 ENVIRONS Substantially intact-3
unknown-4 unknown-5 unknown-6
not applicable-7 not applicable-8 Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED Unexcavated UNALTERED ALTERED Reconstructed Excavated ORIGINAL SITE MOVED Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- House
now- planned as a museum

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- RELIGION
- entertainment
- ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- CONSERVATION
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- SCIENCE
- health
- AGRICULTURE - 3
- ECONOMICS
- LITERATURE
- recreation
- ARCHITECTURE - 4
- EDUCATION
- MILITARY
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- settlement
- ART
- ENGINEERING
- MUSIC
- socio/cultural
- COMMERCE - 6
- EXPLORATION
- PHILOSOPHY
- TRANSPORTATION
- urban & commun
- COMMUNICATIONS
- INDUSTRY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- planning
- INVENTION

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

eclectic

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: ~~Greek Revival / Romanesque~~
 architect/m.builder: *unknown*
 landscape/garden designer:
 interior decorator:
 engineer:
 artist/artisan:
 builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES: personal William Byas Gibson - owner & resident, 1857 - ? ; active in the agricultural & commercial development of the county.
 (Label role & appropriate date)
events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): ³ 1857-1879
 DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:
 HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY
 OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre)
 2.5

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~1885 inventory~~
 description: Brick, 2 stories, L-shaped, gabled roof; 1st and 2nd-story center entrances, each with transom; full-width front tetrastyle Ionic portico with shingling in pediment, original small wooden structure enlarged by 2-story brick addition from 1857 to 1879. rectangular, gabled roof, ornate chimneys, 2-story ornate side 1-story porch with balustraded roof deck; original small wooden structure tetrastyle porch recessed under gable end overhang; 1st-story deck extends enlarged to present appearance by 1879. Eclectic & interesting combination of classical and Victorian elements.
 around east side; elongated rectangular windows with hoodmolds; 1st & 2nd story entrances with transoms.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The home of William Byas Gibson, a ~~notably~~ prominent cattleman and farmer. This house is an unusual example of classical architectural in a city ~~with many~~ Victorian buildings.