

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

For HCRS use only

received OCT 03 1979

date entered OCT 18 1979

1. Name

historic TRACY CITY HALL AND JAIL

and/or common Old Tracy Jail/VFW Building

2. Location

street & number 25 West Seventh Street

not for publication

city, town Tracy

vicinity of

congressional district

14

state California

code 06

county San Joaquin

code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name San Joaquin County

street & number San Joaquin County Courthouse, 222 East Weber

city, town Stockton

vicinity of

state California

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Deeds, Book A, Volume 71, Page 634
San Joaquin County Courthouse

street & number

222 East Weber

city, town

Stockton

state

California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Tracy Architecture
and Historic Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 1978

federal state county local

depository for survey records California Office of Historic Preservation, P. O. Box 2390

city, town Sacramento

state

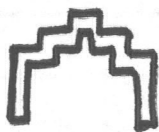
California 95811

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed of brick, the old Tracy City Hall and Jail is a one-story rectangular building 24 x 43 feet in dimension. A 25-foot false truncated gable with decorative pilasters and cornice embellishes the facade. Further exterior detailing appears in the round-arched front window and door, each with fanlight. The door itself is of coffered design. Above the windows on each side a geometric design is detailed within



the brickwork. These windows apparently once were each covered by iron shutters hinged into the brickwork. Remaining only on the building's west side, these shutters are of a type most commonly found on structures of an earlier period, usually ca. 1850's. At the rear of the jail, smaller windows with protective bars service the two cells. These are also shuttered. Originally the brickwork

was left unpainted. At some later date a white coating was added; today this has in part weathered away.

On the interior, a simple room arrangement exists. A small entry hall opens onto the body of the building. At the rear, two jail cells occupy the remainder of the space with a small dividing area between them. No outstanding interior decoration exists.

The rear section of the building has been altered somewhat by the conversion of the central window to a door, while one of the jail cells has been modified for use as a small kitchen. A lean-to metal shed in the rear, as well as a metal sign on the facade, have been recently attached by the VFW. These are the only intrusions to the original structure.

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/ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1899-1900 (constructed) **Builder/Architect** Charles Beasley and Son, Architects
J. F. Hoerl, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The old Tracy city hall and jail is significant for its local historical and architectural values. Built after a fire destroyed the earlier town hall, the 1899-1900 building was the center of local government during the town's early years. Founded in 1878, Tracy developed rapidly as a railroad center, and by the turn of the century was becoming the center of a rich agricultural area. The new city hall served as the seat of local government during these formative years. The building was designed by an important local architectural firm, which produced a number of major works in the area. It is an interesting interpretation of academic architectural styling "appropriate" for a turn-of-the-century civic structure; its elements convey effectively a sense of dignity in a small scale building. The utilization of an Italian Renaissance model, scaled appropriately for its location and use as the local community's major public building, reflects the importance of published architectural source material in the late 19th century. The old city hall and jail has been an important local visual landmark throughout its history, and is one of only 14 structures which received a rating of "Exceptional" in the recently completed Tracy historical resources inventory.

San Joaquin County commissioned the Tracy City Hall and Jail in November-December 1899 following the destruction of that city's former jail by fire in late August. Located at 25 West Seventh Street, the structure was designed by Charles and William Beasley. A prominent architectural firm practicing in Stockton, California, Beasley and Son were responsible for numerous business, governmental, and residential buildings in Stockton throughout ca. 1870-1906, and had been awarded the Tracy project after open bidding. J. F. Hoerl received the builder's contract. Begun in late 1899, the jail was officially completed in March 1900. Although no longer extant, a painted sign originally occupied the space between the gable pilasters announcing: "Town Hall and Jail. Erected A. D. 1900." Initially functioning both as a city hall and jail, the building later became solely a city hall. In 1940, the Tracy Veterans of Foreign Wars rented the building, utilizing it first as a meeting hall and then as a storage facility.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 0.04

Quadrangle name Tracy, California

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	6	3	8	7	5	0	4	1	7	7	4	6	6
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

Property is located on its original site, a rectangular city lot 27' x 65' at 25 West Seventh Street in the city of Tracy, San Joaquin County, California. Lot fronts on Seventh Street within block bounded by C Street, Seventh Street, Central, and Alley, as shown on attached Assessor's plat map.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Karen J. Weitze, Architectural Historian

organization State Office of Historic Preservation date

street & number P. O. Box 2390 telephone (916) 445-8006

city or town Sacramento state California 95811

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 Karen Weitze

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/12/1978

For HCRS use only

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

Cathy Skully
Keeper of the National Register

date 10-18-79

Attest: [Signature]
Chief of Registration

date 10-16-79

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY RECEIVED DATE ENTERED	OCT 03 1979 OCT. 18 1979
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Beasley, Charles, obituary, Stockton Record, September 19, 1913.

"Beasley and Beasley," Stockton Mail, December 14, 1904

Fergusson, James. A History of the Modern Styles of Architecture, Second Edition, London, 1874.

Guppy, Henry, M. A. and Vine, Guthrie, M.A., A Classified Catalog of the Works on Architecture and the Allied Arts in the Principle Libraries of Manchester and Salford, Manchester, London, 1909.

Pinkham, George, A History of San Joaquin County, California, Los Angeles, 1923.

Pinkham, George, A History of Stockton, San Francisco, 1880.

San Joaquin County, Board of Supervisors, Record Book N, 1899.
San Joaquin County Courthouse, Stockton, California.

San Joaquin County, Board of Supervisors, Record Book O, 1900.
San Joaquin County Courthouse, Stockton, California.

Stockton Agricultural Pavilion, photo with information, Pioneer Museum, Stockton, California.

Stockton City Directory, 1873-1874-1910.

Stockton Rural Cemetery, phone call of April 28, 1978. Regarding the family plot held by the Beasleys.

Thompson and West, A History of San Joaquin County, California - 1879, Reprint, Berkeley, 1968.

Tracy Jail, Stockton Mail, November 8, 1899.

Tracy Jail, Stockton Mail, November 9, 1899.

Tracy Jail, Stockton Mail, December 9, 1899.

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
DATE ENTERED

OCT 03 1979
OCT 18 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Tracy Jail, Stockton Mail, December 27, 1899.

Tracy Jail, Stockton Mail, December 28, 1899.

Tracy Jail, Photograph, held by the Tracy Press, undated: pre-1910

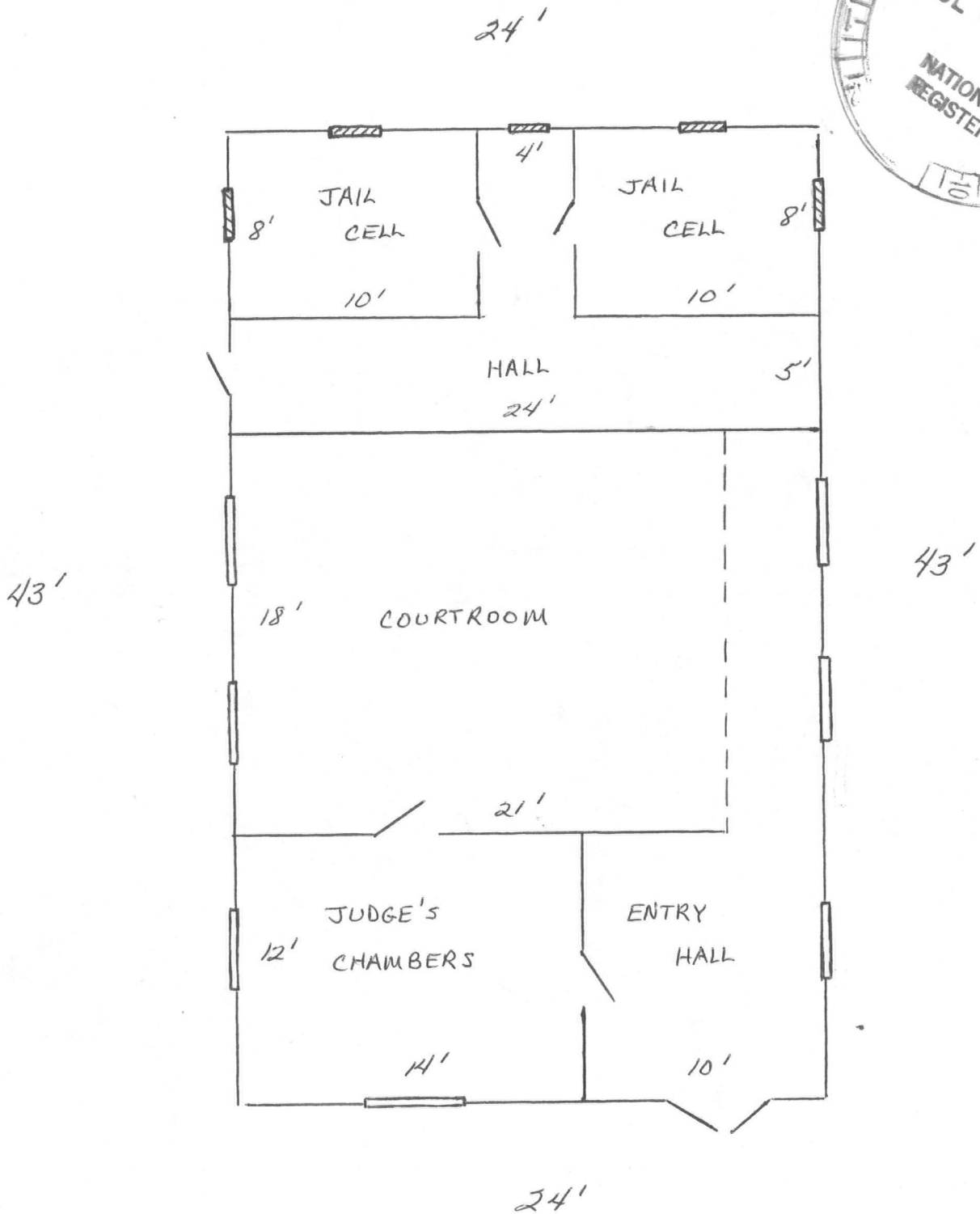
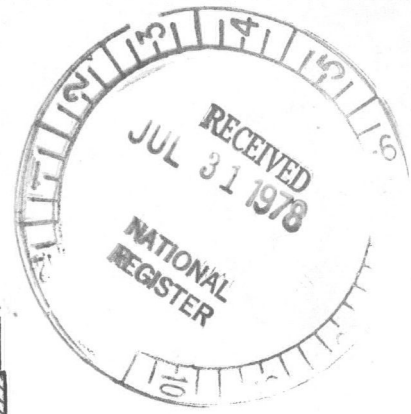


Fig. 3.

Tracy City Hall and Jail,
K. Weitze, Interpretive ground plan taken from
textual description, Stockton Mail, December 28, 1899.

Architectural Analysis of the Tracy City Hall and Jail
by
Dr. Karen J. Weitze, Architectural Historian

Beasley and Son's Tracy Jail is an excellent example of a particular method of architectural practice in eighteenth and nineteenth century America. Although the jail was not designed until 1899, it was executed by a firm that began practice in the 1870's. At that time, Stockton, as the focal point of San Joaquin County, was still very much a part of the frontier and as such was an urban settlement seeking sophistication. Like other architects well removed from centers of population, Charles Beasley apparently relied upon a set of architectural volumes for inspiration and details of design. In this way, a breadth of world monuments could be reinterpreted for the Stockton community. At times only certain architectural details would manifest themselves--for instance, the Greek cross plan and Oriental decoration utilized by Beasley in the Agricultural Pavilion of 1887-1888. In other cases, however, a more nearly imitative method would be employed. Poignantly illuminating the latter technique, the Tracy Jail is taken with little modification from the facade of San Francesco di Rimini by the Renaissance architect Alberti.

San Francesco de Rimini, a fifteenth century church located near Venice in northern Italy, was not commonly illustrated in the late nineteenth century, and it is thus at first surprising to find it appearing in 1899 Tracy. Apparently, Beasley and Son based their design on an etching of Alberti's San Francesco (Fig. 1-2) published in James Fergusson's A History of the Modern Styles of Architecture, London, 1874. Well circulated, and often republished, Fergusson's compendium of architectural history filled four large volumes and contained numerous etchings of elevations and plans, including that of San Francesco di Rimini. The crystalline, simplified appearance of many famous monuments in unshaded, line drawing form offered architects an unusual tool for design. As often times happened in architectural prints from this period, however, simplification of a three-dimensional form to a two dimensional line illustration introduced awkward passages. Numerous particular details of San Francesco di Rimini are carried over from Fergusson's print to the exterior treatment of the Jail. In attempting to be sensitive to the design, Beasley reproduced both correct and incorrect details present in the Fergusson print.

The most prominent parallel between Beasley and Beasley's design for the Tracy Jail published in the Stockton Mail of December 28, 1899 and the etching of Alberti's San Francesco di Rimini published in Fergusson's History of the Modern Styles of Architecture is the chosen angle of perspective. In each case the buildings are shown in a perspective view illuminating the facade and right side of the structures. It would have been a most unusual coincidence for Beasley and Son to have produced an original design with this identical feature. Furthermore, in Fergusson's design the round arch over the door in San Francesco has been rendered as contiguous to the entablature, when in fact the arch is a slight measure removed on the actual facade of the church. Beasley also rendered the arches over

over both door and window as contiguous, apparently modeling these after the center arch shown in Fergusson's print. Here an incorrect detail that resulted from Fergusson's transference of reality to etching has been copied and multiplied. Seemingly a small detail, the abutment of arch and entablature is extremely awkward and is a tell-tale clue to Beasley's methodology. Other details give more support to the thesis that Fergusson's volumes were the source of Beasley's design. Beasley has maintained the truncated gable, here "finishing it off" by modifying the angle and completing the cornice; he has also retained the two pilasters and detailing of the entablature. The rectangular space between the pilasters has again been "finished off" to remove the ruined appearance of the model. (Alberti's church was never finished.) Beasley has also attempted to maintain the motif of side arches through the decorative device of geometric brickwork over each of the main's windows.



This type of vernacular translation was common; it is also precisely the kind of detail that should be present. Finally the appearance of coffered door, raised foundation and fanlights also bespeak

Beasley's use of Fergusson. (The fanlights undoubtedly have been utilized as the appropriate delineation of the coffering under the arch of the main doorway in Fergusson's print.)

The one striking difference between Beasley's and Fergusson's rendering of San Francesco di Rimini is the facade. Beasley has changed the triple arch to a double one, thus destroying the originally symmetric design. This change however is fully explained through an examination of the projected floor plan published textually by the Stockton Mail of December 28, 1899. At the time the exterior design was illustrated in the Mail showing one window and one door asymmetrically placed, the interior was to have an entryway, a judge's chamber, a courtroom, a separating hall and two jail cells. From dimensions given in the Mail only one room arrangement is possible (Fig.3). This clearly demonstrates the need to render the facade as it is, with one door and one window aligned with the judge's chamber and the entryway. Sometime between late December and the building's completion in March, a decision was made to simplify the interior to include only an entryway, a courtroom and jail cells. Evidently the exterior design was not changed, however, creating the lack of correlation between the built exterior and interior.

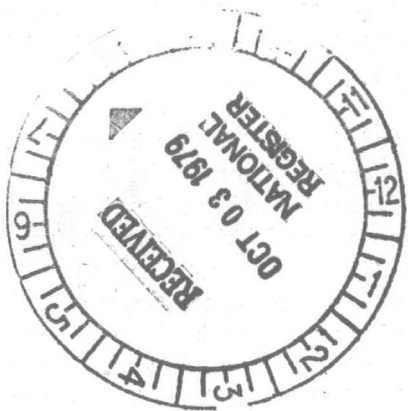
The Tracy Jail by Beasley and Beasley represents a rare instance in which an actual building clearly demonstrates how the architect transcribed a design from a volume of architectural history to reality. It also raises more significant questions for interpretation. Why would Charles Beasley have chosen this particular building to imitate? Here, until more is known about Charles Beasley and Son's work, one can only speculate. Nonetheless, a pattern is tentatively emerging. Beasley and Beasley worked in an area of California whose population was largely composed of immigrants. (Charles himself was from Missouri.) It appears as if Beasley used the Fergusson volumes, his imagination and his growing expertise to design buildings that would please his clientele and that would fit with the surrounding built fabric as well.

Charles Beasley's Agricultural Pavilion of 1887-1888 in Stockton incorporated Oriental details into the exterior design; interestingly

enough, the pavilion was located adjacent to Stockton's Chinatown district, while Fergusson's volumes also included one entirely devoted to Oriental architecture. This particular accord between an academic methodology and environmental design surfaced again in the later work of Beasley and Beasley. Thoroughly established in Stockton by 1904, the firm left for San Francisco in 1906 to practice there. Following the 1906 earthquake and fire in the Bay City, Beasley and Son were responsible for the rebuilding of San Francisco's Chinatown.

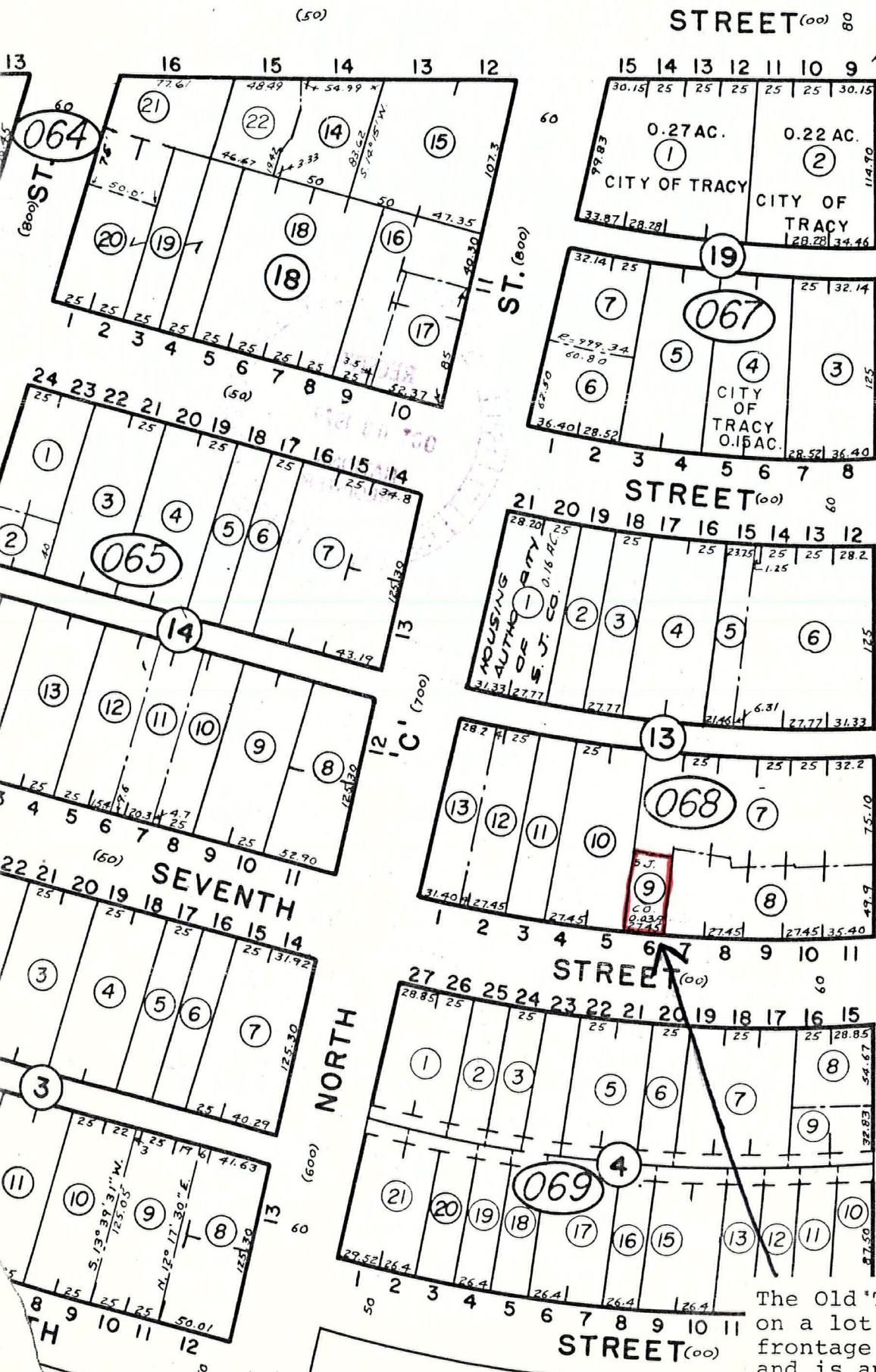
In another vein, Beasley and Son appear to have been responsive to the Italian population in San Joaquin County. This segment, too, was a significant one. Thompson and West noted in their History of San Joaquin County of 1879 that the "Compagna Italiana de Bersaliera" was a prominent society in Stockton, grouping it with the "Irish American Benevolent Association" and the "Stockton Turn-Verein." In 1916, Calestini's Guida generale italiana della contea di San Joaquin, an Italian commercial and residential directory, was published in Stockton. Of some size, this directory must indicate a settled population of Italian immigrants that had grown over the preceding decades. Beasley and Son designed the Tivoli Theater and Cafe in 1899, the Tracy Jail after Alberti's San Francesco in 1899, and a business building in 1900 that appeared to be responsive to the Italian population. Possibly Charles Beasley's choice of Alberti's design for the Tracy Jail was directly motivated by a consideration of the growing prominence of the Italian Canale family living in Tracy and Banta at the turn of the century.

This technique of community planning is certainly a fascinating one, one that illustrates both conservative and progressive trends in the work of Charles and William Beasley; the study of more designs by this firm will undoubtedly prove enlightening. We know very little about the "average" architect in nineteenth and twentieth century California. Here an architectural firm appears to have relied on copyism/revivalism in its most conservative strain and yet simultaneously to have responded sensitively to the cultural differences present in the county. As a statement of both architectural and cultural history, then the Tracy Jail of 1899 by Charles Beasley and Son is a vivid representation of California's uniquely cosmopolitan growth and maturation.



OCT 18 1979

THIS MAP FOR
ASSESSMENT USE ONLY



80
AVE.

BLK. 20
TRACY

SCALE: 1" = 100'

BLK. 12
OF
CITY

CENTRAL

BLK. 5

TRACY

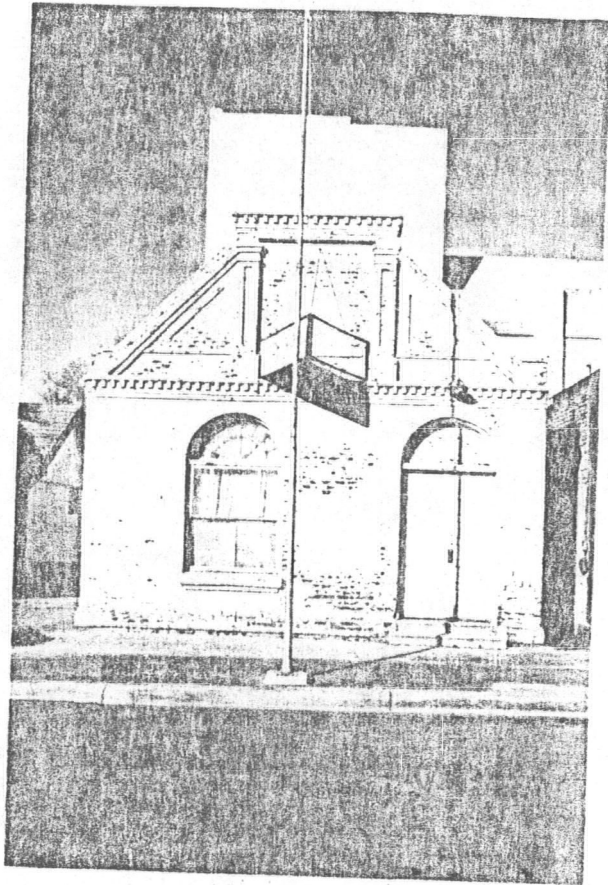
The Old Tracy Jail is located on a lot with a 27.45 feet frontage on Seventh Street, and is approximately 65 feet deep. The building itself basically covers the entire lot.

OCT 18 1979



Regarding: Charles Beasley and Son,
Tracy Jail, 25 West Seventh St.,
Tracy, 1900.

*San Joaquin Co. Jail & Tracy City Hall
25 West Seventh St.*



JAN • 78

h/m

Property

Tracy City Hall and Jail

79 000542

State

CA.

Working Number

7.31.78.3711

TECHNICAL

Photos 11

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
8.2.78

City hall justified almost entirely as a copy of Alberti's unfinished San Francesco di Rimini showing Beasley's copy book architecture and ethnic sensitivity (Italians living in area). Much of this remains conjectural. We need broader statement of significance based on historical significance or more general architectural significance.

HISTORIAN

Return
W.R. Luce
11.17.78

Classically inspired turn-of-century

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

curie structure - perhaps based on Alberti's Rimini church. (see note)

accept
Brabham
11.6.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Return
Leborich
11/17/78

see above + Brabham's separate note

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back 11.22.78

Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

NAME OF PROPERTY Tracy City Hall and Jail

STATE California
San Joaquin County

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: _____
RECEIVED
DEC 7 1978
OHP

8 Statement of Significance: While we recognize the potential significance of the Tracy City Hall and Jail in explaining the work of architects Charles Beasley and son, most of the connection between the city hall and Alberti's San Francesco di Rimini must remain conjectural. The building, it seems to us, is also potentially eligible for National Register listing for its historical association with the growth and development

9 ~~Bibliography~~ of Tracy, and as a locally significant architectural structure even without

10 ~~Geographical Data~~ Photographic Coverage: the Alberti derivation. Please enlarge the statement of
~~UTM Reference(s)~~ significance to reflect this additional
~~Verbal Boundary Description~~ architectural and historical
significance.

12 Certification: _____
Photographic Coverage: _____
Map Coverage: _____
Other: _____

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Bill Brabham or Ray Luce
on the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.
Bill Lebovich *in* Date: Nov 22 17, 1978
Chief, Branch of Registration

Property Tracy City Hall and Jail

2nd Control

State CA (San Joaquin) Working Number 7.31.78.3711

79000542

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 11
Maps 2

HISTORIAN

Accept ~~the~~ locally significant for ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN its use as the seat of local government activities during the town's formative years. Has local architectural significance as a Renaissance Revival building designed by a locally important architectural firm. J. Travels. 10/15/79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

Dr. Weitzel has written a good, brief, and clear statement of significance. Note adjacent structure.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT 10-16-79

Joe Tom

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

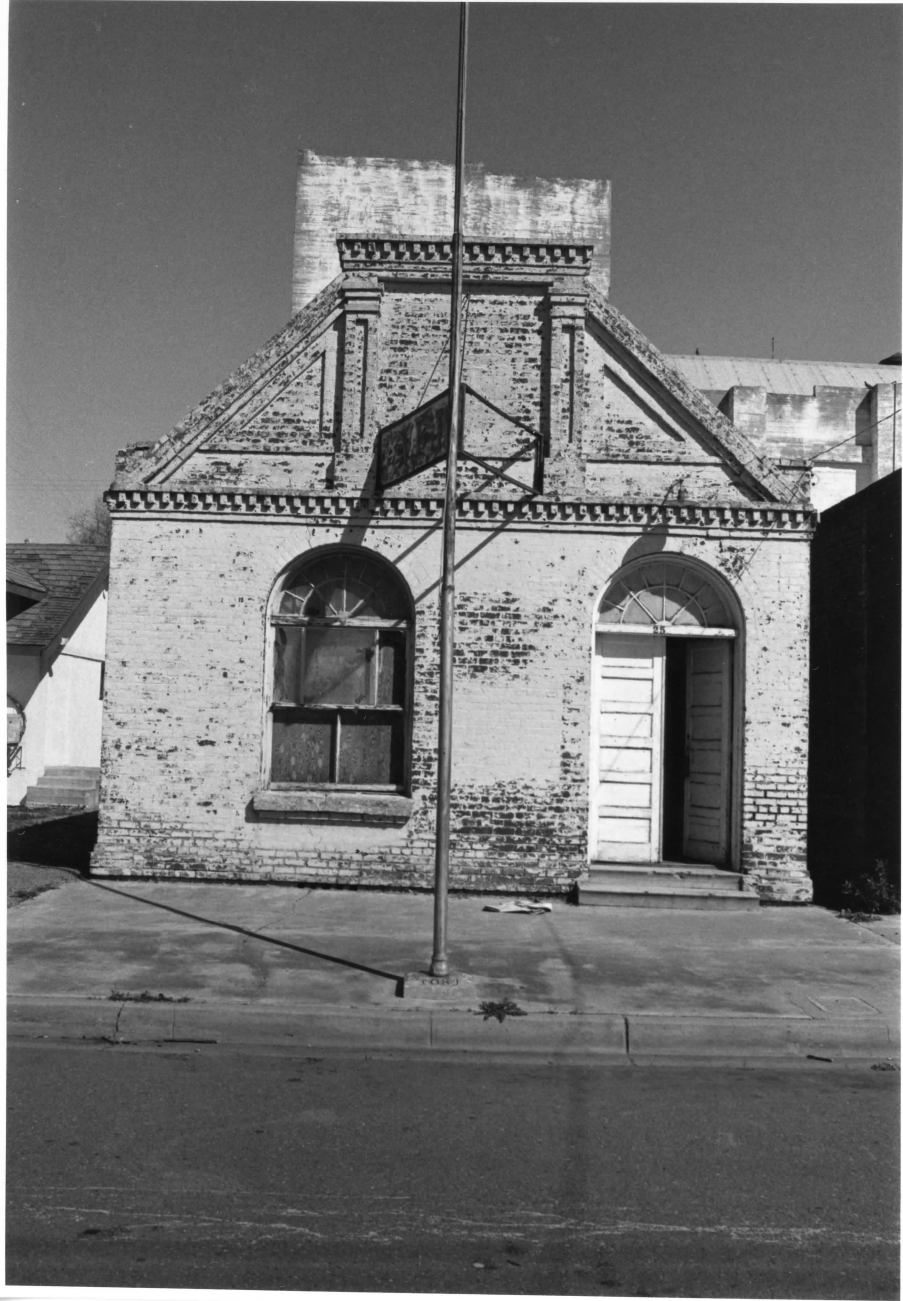
Entered OCT 18 1979

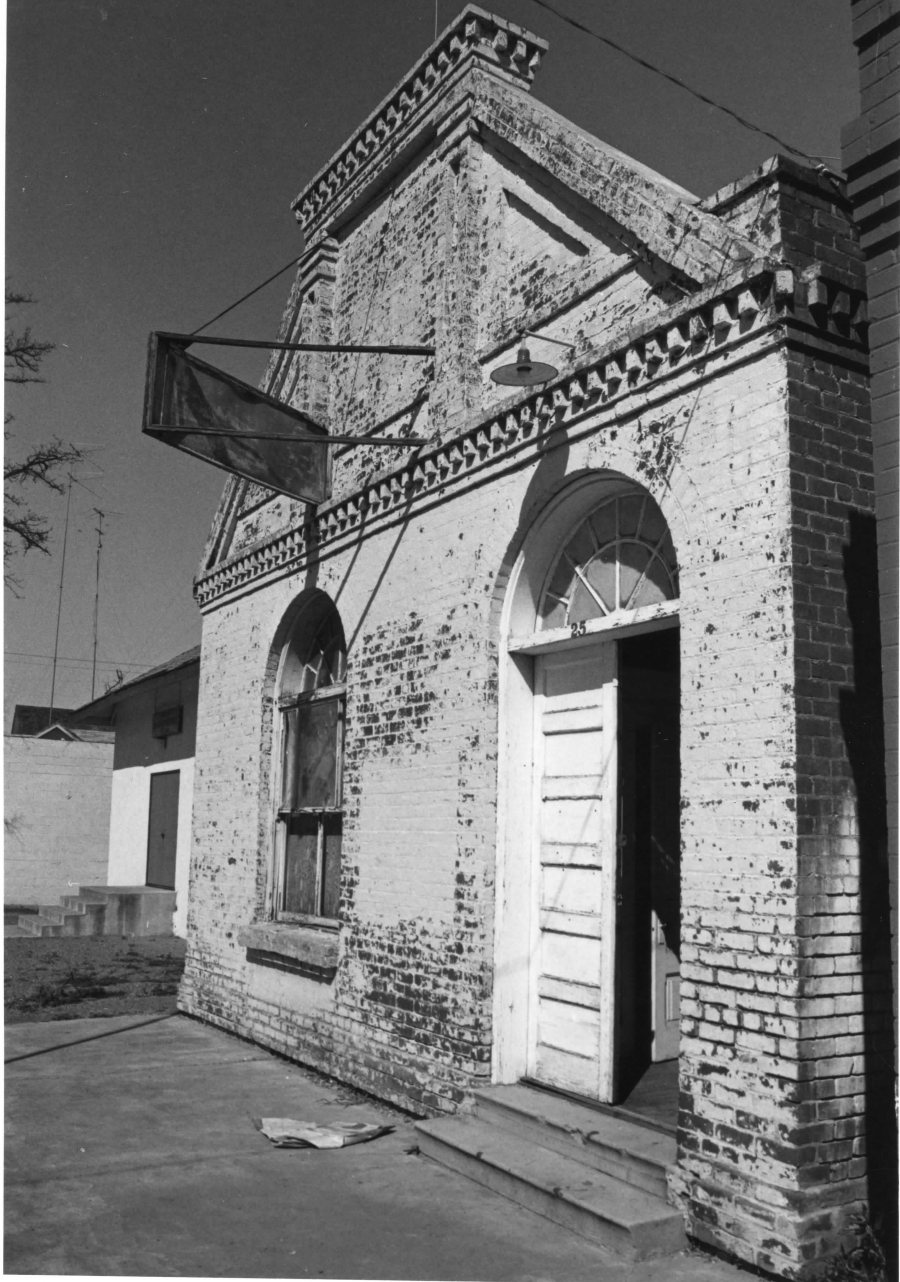
Federal Register Entry 11.6.79

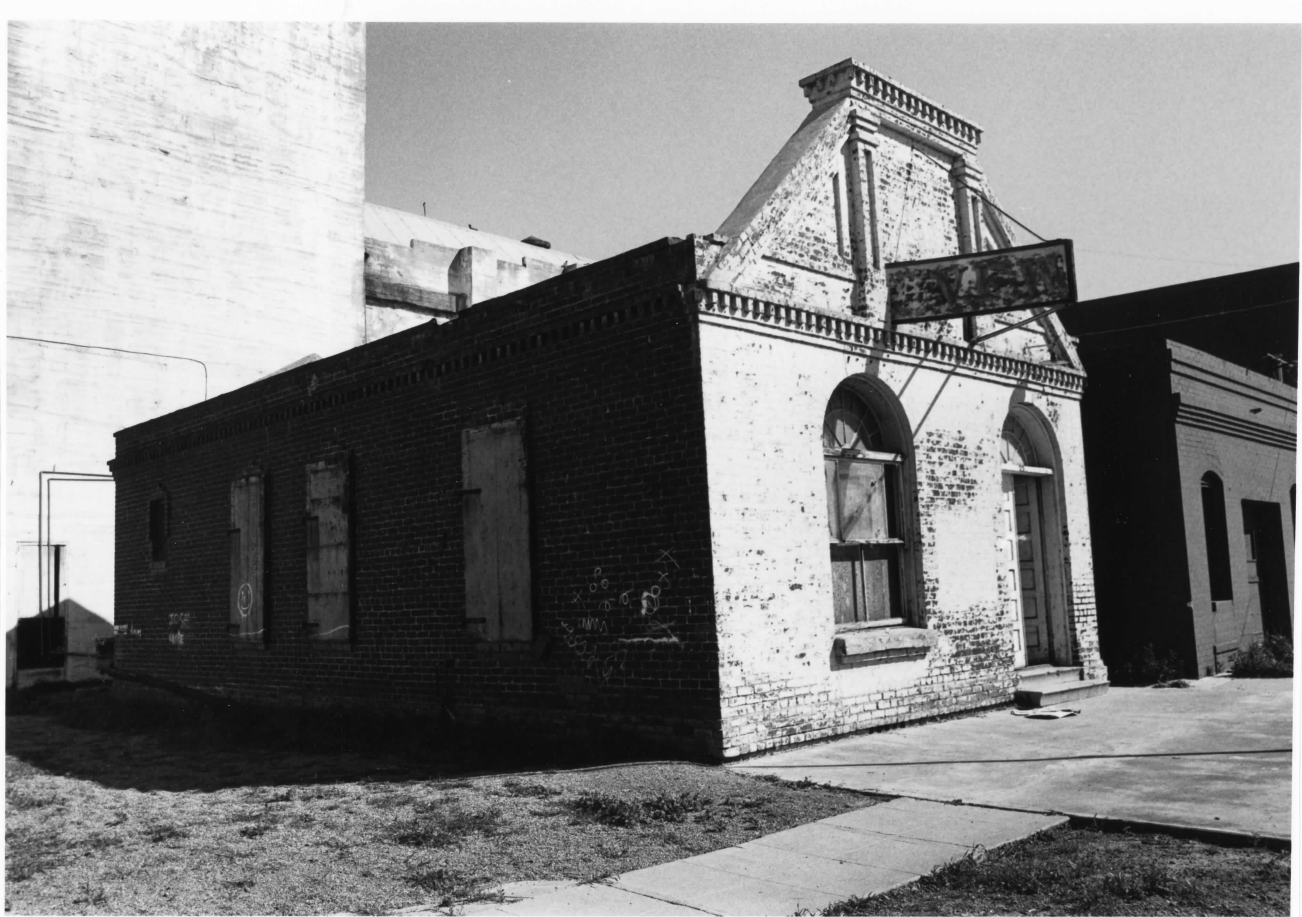
Re-submit _____

This is too much! - while I can
easily accept the Tracy Hall & jail
for local architectural significance and its
historical associations, I find it a
little difficult to take the free discussion
comparing this design to Alberti's unfinished
Rimini church. - The local architect
was probably influenced, but the B.S.
about Italian immigrants, etc. - is pretty
far fetched.







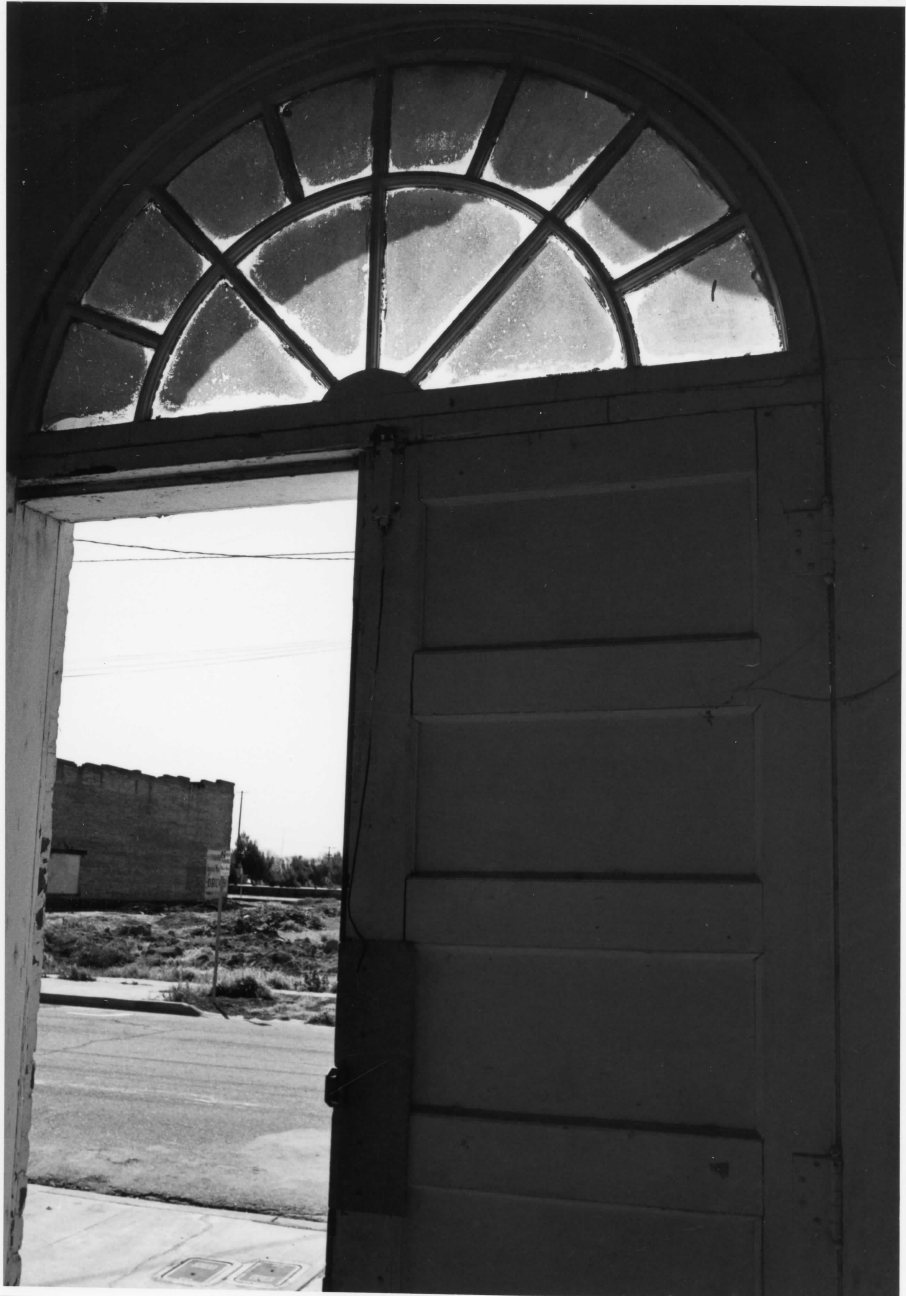


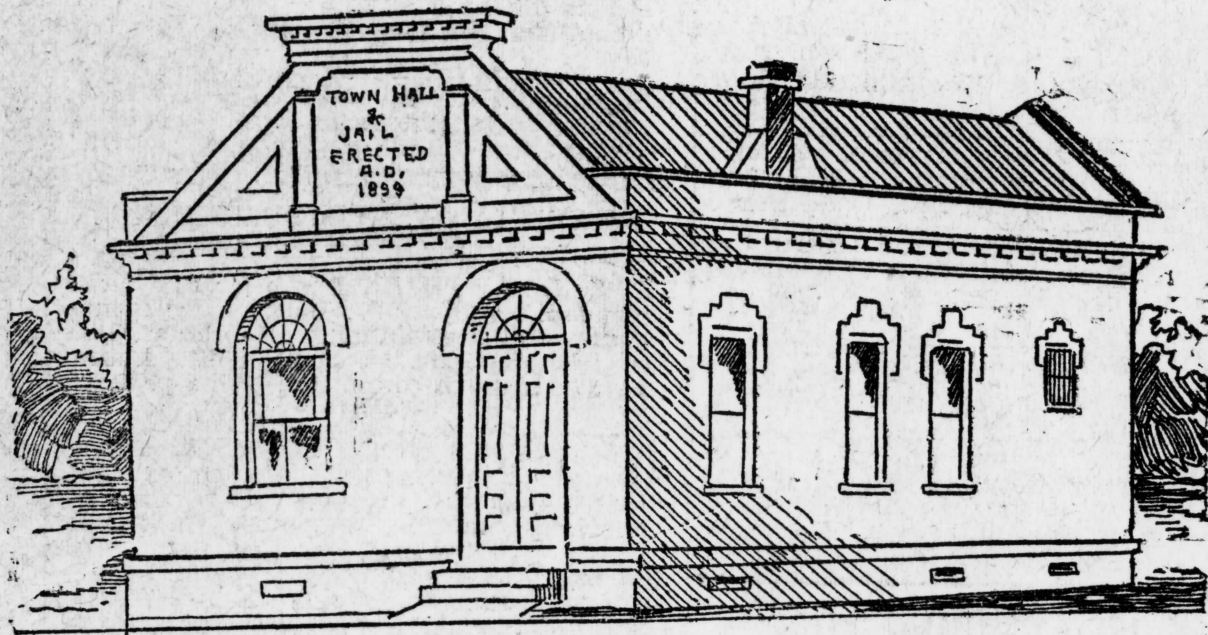






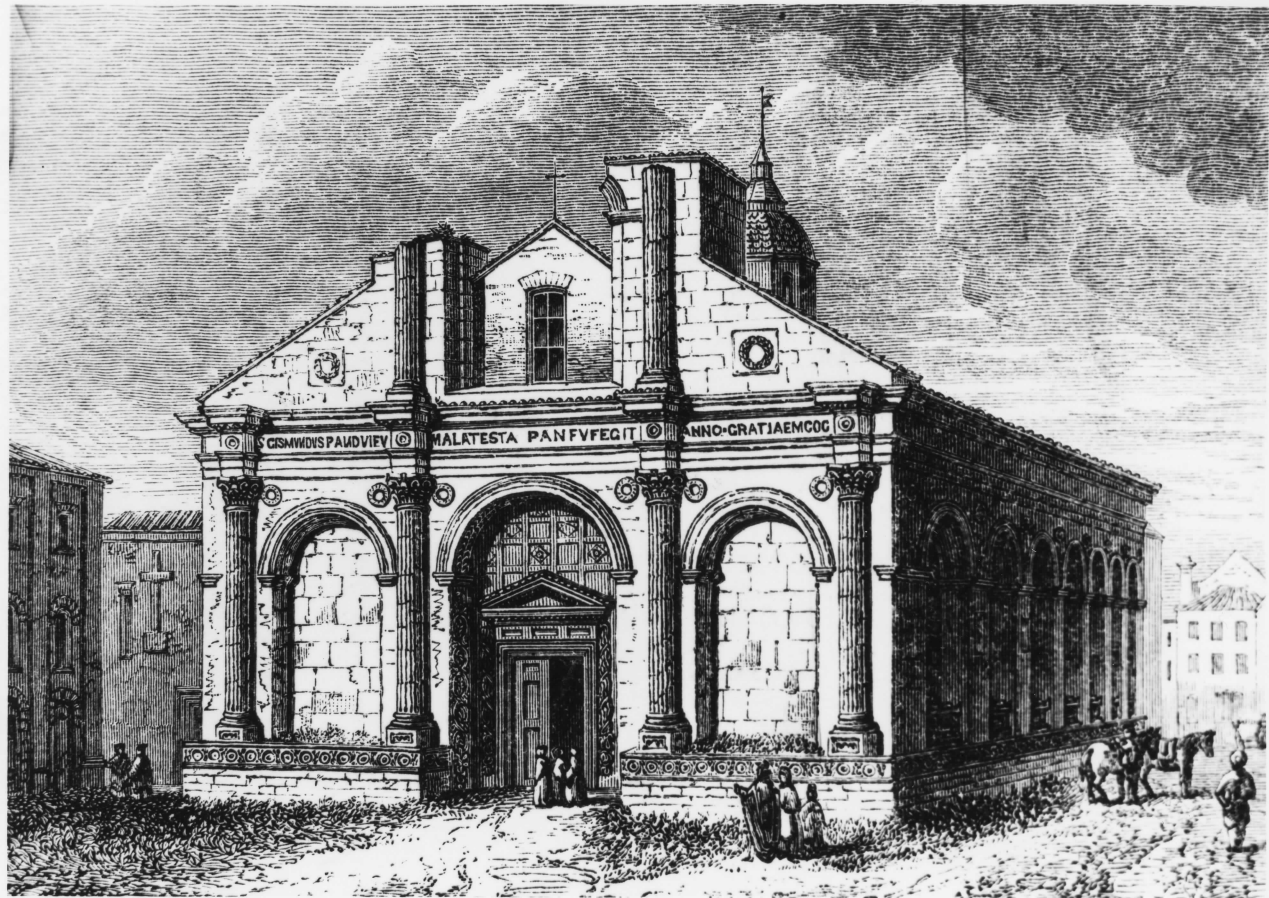


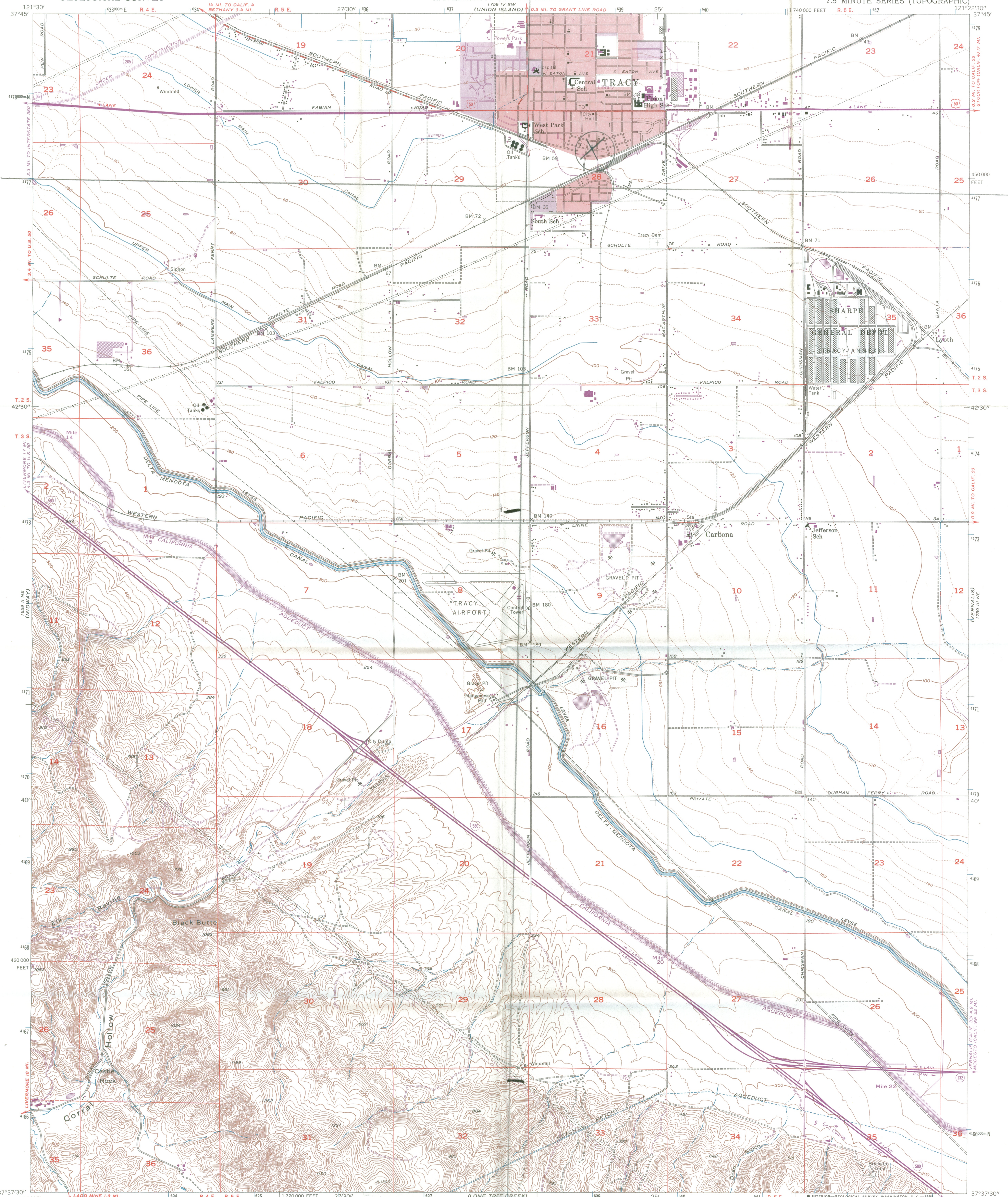




TRACY'S TOWN HALL AND JAIL.

[Reproduced by the Mail Artist from the plans of Architects Beasley & Son.]





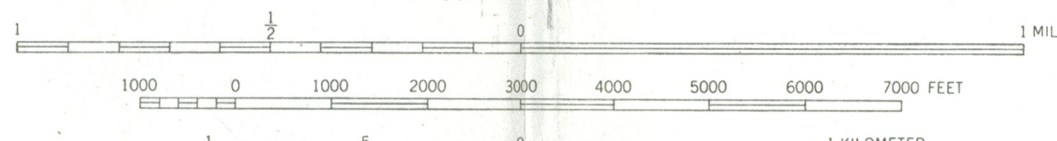
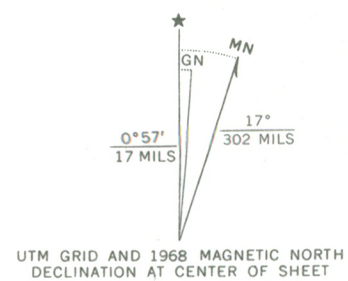
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by Kalsch plotter methods and by plane-table surveys 1912. Aerial photographs taken 1949 Field check 1954

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 3 Red tint indicates areas 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

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

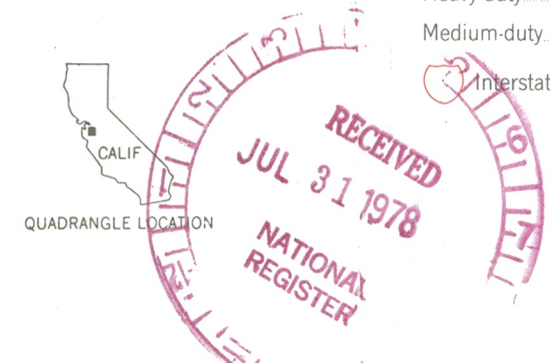


CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT 5 FOOT CONTOURS
CONTOURS INCOMPLETE ALONG BANKMENTS AND DITCHES
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20422
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



TRACY, CALIF.
N3737.5-W12122.5/7.5

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1968
AMS 1759 III NW-SERIES V895

C. E. DIXON
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



REG. ITEM # 5/2/78 CAO RPT
OLD TRACY JAIL - NOMINATION TO
THE NATL. REG. OF HIST. PLACES

DAVID R. ANDERSON
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

#144/78

COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

COURTHOUSE, ROOM 707
222 EAST WEBER AVENUE
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95202
'AREA 209' 944-2611

April 21, 1978

Board of Supervisors
Courthouse
Stockton, California

Gentlemen:



OLD TRACY JAIL - NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The California Office of Historic Preservation is the agency in California responsible for administering the National Register of Historic Places. This Register is the nation's official listing of cultural properties worthy of preservation. In this connection, the State Office of Historic Preservation is interested in nominating the old Tracy Jail building, located in Tracy at 25 West Seventh Street, to the National Register, and is seeking the County's permission to do so.

By way of background, the County originally acquired the property in 1891 from a private individual for \$5 in gold coins. Beginning in 1899, the building was used as a jail and since then has been used as a city hall. In 1940, it was leased to the Tracy Post #1537 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), for 99 years. The VFW initially utilized the building as a meeting hall. However, at the present time, the building is being utilized by the VFW to store various items of furniture and equipment.

Once the site is listed in the National Register, it becomes eligible for numerous state and federal financial benefits for preservation and rehabilitation purposes. The site would also be protected from demolition or serious alterations without benefit of careful review by citizens and appropriate agencies. Normally, such property would also become eligible for certain tax benefits. However, since the property is County owned and off the tax rolls, it is unlikely that any tax benefits could be realized in this instance. Finally, the State Building Code permits alternatives by local building officials in order to

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preserve such property. The single disadvantage to listing property in the National Register is in effect the financial and legal protections that discourage unnecessary destruction or alteration of the historical resource.

Registration alone does not affect the development, use, maintenance, or sale of the site, unless destruction or extensive adverse alteration is involved.

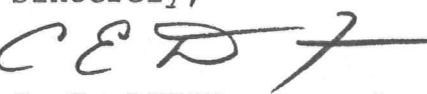
The old Tracy Jail is included among Tracy's oldest buildings earmarked for restoration and maintenance as community historical landmarks. The Tracy City Council has appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to survey Tracy buildings for restoration, and this Committee has expressed considerable interest in nominating the old Tracy Jail to the National Register.

The nomination process itself involves several steps. As an initial step, the County, as owner of the property, would be required to execute an acknowledgment permitting the California Office of Historic Preservation to nominate the property to the National Register (see attached form). All other paperwork would be completed by the State Office. After review, the State Office would present the nomination to the State Historical Resources Commission for consideration at a public hearing. Successful nominations are then forwarded to Washington D.C. where, after a third evaluation, they are listed in the National Register.

Since the old Tracy Jail is considered worthy of preservation and is culturally significant to the community,

IT IS RECOMMENDED:

1. That the attached Resolution authorizing the California Office of Historic Preservation to nominate the old Tracy Jail property to the National Register be adopted, and
2. That the Board authorize the Chairman to execute the acknowledgment permitting the California Office of Historic Preservation to nominate the old Tracy Jail property to the National Register.

Sincerely,


C. E. DIXON
County Administrator

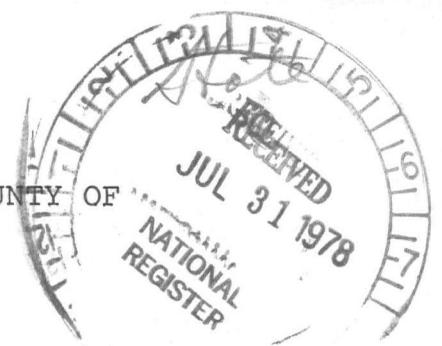
CED:RLW:sl
Attachments
cc: County Counsel
City of Tracy

Calif. Office of Hist. Preservation
Board Clerk for Agenda 5/2/78

#144/78

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF
SAN JOAQUIN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

R-78-853



RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF NOMINATION OF
COUNTY PROPERTY TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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WHEREAS, the National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official listing of cultural properties worthy of preservation; and,

WHEREAS, the California Office of Historic Preservation is the agency in California responsible for administering the National Register of Historic Places; and,

WHEREAS, the California Office of Historic Preservation is desirous of nominating the old Tracy Jail building, owned by the County, and located at 25 West Seventh Street in Tracy, California, to the National Register of Historic Places; and,

WHEREAS, the old Tracy Jail is considered worthy of preservation and is culturally significant to the community and the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the California Office of Historic Preservation be authorized to nominate the old Tracy Jail building to the National Register of Historic Places.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of MAY 2 1978, 1978, by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors, to wit:

AYES: **WISDOM, FONDSE, YOSHIKAWA, BARBER, SHUMWAY**

NOES: **NONE**

ABSENT: **NONE**

NORMAN D. SHUMWAY

ATTEST: JORETTA J. HAYDE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Joaquin, State of California

NORMAN D. SHUMWAY, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
County of San Joaquin
State of California

By CINDY REMPEL
Deputy Clerk



ENDORSED

FILED MAY 2 1978 19
JORETTA J. HAYDE,
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By CINDY REMPEL
Deputy



RECEIVED
MAY 8 1978
OHP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PERMITTING THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
TO NOMINATE PROPERTY TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Norman D. Shumway, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

This is to acknowledge that I County of San Joaquin, the legal owner of Old Tracy Jail, have been informed of the implications of placement on the National Register and that I have agreed to allow the Office of Historic Preservation to nominate said property to the National Register of Historic Places. This acknowledgement does not constitute a binding agreement and I may withdraw my permission to the Office of Historic Preservation to nominate the above-named property.

Signature

Norman D. Shumway

Date

May 2, 1978

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
POST OFFICE BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811



(916) 445-8006

March 19, 1979

Resub. 10-3-79

Mr. Charles Herrington
Acting Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
440 - G Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20243



Dear Mr. Herrington:

We resubmit the National Register nomination for the Tracy City Hall and Jail. We have revised the nomination in accordance with your comments. We hope this will allow you to complete your final review of this property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Knox Mellon".

Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer

KM:aag

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CALIFORNIA

STATE

Date Entered 18 OCT 18 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Con Creek School	Boonville vicinity Mendocino County
Tracy City Hall and Jail	Tracy San Joaquin County

Also Notified

Honorable S. I. Hayakawa

Honorable Alan Cranston
Honorable Don H. Clausen
Honorable Norman D. Shumway

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Knox Mellon
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

NR Byers/bjr 10/23/79

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Tracy City Hall and Jail
 ② OTHER NAMES: Old Tracy Jail/VFW Building
 ③ date of entry: _____ ④ county code: 077

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 25 West Seventh St.
 city / town: Tracy vicinity of: _____ state: CA county: San Joaquin
 ⑥ NPS REGION: Western

⑦ OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name): _____
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR: _____

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL ⑩ FUNDED? YES NO ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT 14 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form? _____

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: _____ NO
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: _____ NO
 ⑮ ACREAGE: _____
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION deteriorated altered original site
 excellent ruins unaltered moved
 good unexposed reconstructed unknown
 fair unexcavated excavated
 ⑰ features: INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5 UNKNOWN-6
 NOT APPLICABLE-7 NOT APPLICABLE-8 NOT APPLICABLE-9
 EXTERIOR ENVIRONS

⑱ ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE YES NO ⑳ SAVED? YES
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS/GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25
 ㉒ CLAIMS: explain 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

㉓ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: _____ CURRENTLY: _____
 ㉔ dates of initial construction: _____ major alterations: _____ historic events: _____
 ㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: _____

㉖ architectural style(s): _____ ㉗ architect: _____ ㉘ master builder: _____ ㉙ engineer: _____

㉚ landscape architect / garden designer: _____ ㉛ interior decorator: _____ ㉜ artist: _____ ㉝ artisan: _____ ㉞ builder/contractor: _____

㉟ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: _____
 EVENTS: _____
 INSTITUTIONAL: _____

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP