

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: York House (Preferred)

Other names/site number: J.C Noyes House; Noyes-York House; Noyes House

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 1005 Jefferson Street

City or town: Napa State: CA County: Napa

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide      \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_ A      \_\_\_ B      \_\_\_ C      \_\_\_ D

<p>_____</p> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p><b>Date</b></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p>_____</p> <p><b>Date</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**DOMESTIC:**

Single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**COMMERCE/TRADE:**

Professional

**WORK IN PROGRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN

Queen Anne

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Stone; Walls: wood weatherboard and shingle; Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Chimney: Brick

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The York House is located at 1005 Jefferson Street in Napa, California at the northwest corner of the intersection of First Street and Jefferson Street. The property is located in the *Potential* West Napa Historic District and the First and Jefferson *Potential* Historic District. Prolific Local architect, Luther Turton, constructed the house in the Queen Anne Style in 1892 for Mr. Joseph Noyes, Director of Napa's First Bank and brother of Frank Noyes, the Founder of the Napa Lumber Company. In 1920, City Attorney (and later, Napa County Superior Court Judge), Mr. John T York, acquired the property and the York family lived there until 1985. The house sits on a corner lot of 120 feet in width by 108 feet in length with an overall area of 0.31 acres. The primary façade and entrance to the house is oriented east towards Jefferson Street, although both street fronting elevations exhibit a high level of detail. The house features a front and street side setback necessary to accommodate a modest unenclosed lawn area. The prominent palms (*Arecaceae*) still seen today were introduced circa 1895. The York house is situated in the western side of the property with a small garage/workshop built in approximately 1924 located adjacent to the house and on the north side of the property.

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The two-story York House exhibits an irregular plan characteristic of the Queen Anne Style. The design is reflective of the Queen Anne subtype, “Hipped Roof with Lower Cross Gables”, and features prominent front and side facing gables. The house achieves the typical Queen Anne asymmetry through the inclusion of an angled, second story corner bay at the southeast corner and an offset partial front porch. The heavily decorated house features varied exterior surfaces of shiplap, fish scale, and octagonal shingles and sits atop a stone foundation with a full basement. Notable architectural details include dentil trim on the cornice and decorative brackets at the wall corners as well as the applied decorative pediment over the front porch. Doric columns, reflective of the Colonial Revival influence of the period, serve as porch supports for the partial wraparound porch. The porch also includes turned balusters on the staircase. Most windows are double hung with upper sashes featuring rows of smaller geometric panes which were common to Queen Anne architecture and reflective of the styles’ medieval roots. The front door features large beveled, leaded glass lights and an ornate mosaic tile stoop. The irregular roof of the house is hipped with multiple lower cross gables that feature prominent triangular pediments and ornamented chimney. The color of the house is a subdued ivory with beige trim and dark teal blue accents.

Access to the York House is provided via a concrete walkway off of the Jefferson Street sidewalk and connected to a meandering sidewalk that wraps around the entirety of the site. A small concrete retaining wall wraps around the extents of the property and provides separation between the lawn and sidewalk. Landscaping features include lawn and small shrubs and trees consisting of boxwood (*Buxus*), camellias (*Camellia japonica*), and roses (*Rosa*), among others. A cypress tree (*Cupressus sempervirens*) is located at front of the house south of the primary entrance. A series of four large palms, planted 1895, are still on the site.

Adjacent to the house to the north is the small garage built at some point after 1924<sup>1</sup>. The non-contributing garage features horizontal clapboard siding, a hipped roof and minimal detailing including a row of dentils beneath the cornice, and two large pull out garage doors with stick detailing. The garage maintains access via a gravel driveway off of Jefferson Street and is connected to the primary house via the meandering sidewalk.

The York House and grounds exhibit a high level of integrity. Minor alterations have removed some of the original detailing including roof cresting, fleur-de-lis spires and lattice work on porch. Beyond the removal of the detailing listed above and alterations to configuration of the interior, the York House and landscaping exhibit high integrity of Location, setting, design,

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<sup>1</sup> Anthony Raymond Kilgallin, *Napa: An Architectural Walking Tour*, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2001), 50

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materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The York House continues to communicate its architectural significance and its integral role it played in the development of West Napa.

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## Narrative Description

North (interior side elevation): The north elevation features a prominent gable and portion of the wraparound porch on the eastern side with a stairway that descends to the landscaped yard. The full basement is clad in shiplap siding and punctuated with a small casement window west of the stairway. The first story is accessible via a single doorway that provides access into the projecting gable end from the porch. In 1979 the porch was retrofitted to promote American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and a portion of the northeast balustrade was removed in order to allow access via a wheelchair elevator located directly below that part of the porch<sup>2</sup>. A small ramp was also installed on the porch to facilitate wheelchair access to the entry doorway.

The interior wall of the porch is plain with the exception of a casement window to the left of the door. The gable end is clad in shiplap siding and features a decorative and elongated tripartite window, beside which is a small one story addition (added between 1910 and 1924).<sup>3</sup> The second story is clad in hexagonal shingles with the projecting gable featuring a skirt of fish scale shingles. Fenestration on the second story includes double sash windows and a small casement window on the north side. The steeply pitched gable end features triangular tripartite window in the tympanum<sup>4</sup> surrounded by applied fish scale shingles.

East (Primary façade): The primary façade is oriented south with frontage on Jefferson Street. The primary entrance is accessed by a wooden staircase lined with wooden balustrade featuring turned posts. The balustrade features rectangular paneled newel posts at the base with square caps. The eight step staircase is divided by a series of three equally spaced posts ascending the stairs supporting two handrails (Presumably part of the ADA addition added in the 1970s).<sup>5</sup> The stairs lead to a partial wrap around porch that extends around the southern portion of the house. The porch is clad in shiplap siding. Directly in front of the entryway is an ornate mosaic tile stoop featuring an abstract floral motif.

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<sup>2</sup> City of Napa Building Permit Record issued August 14, 1979 and on file at the City of Napa Building Department.

<sup>3</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1910; 1924

<sup>4</sup> Tympanum is defined as a vertical recessed triangular space forming the center of a pediment and typically decorated.

<sup>5</sup> City of Napa Building Permit Record issued August 14, 1979 and on file at the City of Napa Building Department.

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The porch, like that of the stairs, features a balustrade of turned posts. The porch is supported by a series of seven Doric columns reflective of the melding of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival that began to take place in the late 19th/early 20th centuries and came to be known as “Free Classic”, a common deviation of Queen Anne. The porch features a minimally pitched roof with asphalt shingles and features an applied decorative pediment denoting the location of the front door and with molded golden sunburst motif in the tympanum. A series of dentils line the cornice with a decorative frieze that features the dark teal accent color with equally spaced circles.

The first story of the York House features a prominent front facing gable and is clad in shiplap siding. The primary entrance features a double door with beveled and leaded glass doors with redwood door surrounds. North of the front door is a casement window with prominent surrounds and decorative hood molding. In contrast to the first story, the second story features octagonal shingles with the primary wall plane punctuated with a single 1/1 double hung window directly above the porch pediment.

The eastern gable features a prominent pediment with a half- round window that features a 1/1 double hung window in the center flanked by two symmetrical half round windows located in the tympanum. The lites are separated by wide muntins with decorative hood. In the Queen Anne tradition of avoiding any unadorned wall planes, the area of the tympanum features fish scale shingles which contrast with those of the wall plane below. The raking cornice and horizontal cornice feature white decorative trim. Below the primary gable pediment are dentils, decorative, beige colored brackets, and plain white frieze with beige stick detailing.

South (Street facing façade): The Southern, street facing elevation is perhaps the most eclectic elevation of the York House. The full basement extends several feet above grade and is clad in plaster or mortar scored to look like stone and painted in a waterproof coating. The exterior of the basement features a small centered casement window to allow daylight into the basement. Above the basement portion is the first floor, which continues the detailing of the primary façade and is clad in shiplap siding. The first story on the south elevation features a bay window with casement windows with one large light beneath narrower rectangular lights featuring stained glass detail. Beneath the windows are decorative panels. The bay window is adorned with decorative brackets. At the far east corner of the first floor is a 1/1 double hung window with one plain lite beneath a lite featuring a border of geometric squares around the outside. This design is found on many the windows throughout the York House.

The second story projects minimally over that of the first floor and features dentils beneath the projection. A cutaway bay serves as a division between the first and second floors and features fish scale shingles. The second story is clad in octagonal shingles and features varied projecting

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planes with a corner bay window with a pediment above projecting from the southeast corner which features 1/1 double hung window with geometric squares in the upper sash. The tympanum is covered with fish scale shingles. The projecting side gable features octagonal shingles, 1/1 double sash windows with a decorative, horizontally oriented window centered on the wall plane.

The prominent pedimented gable is reminiscent of that on the front façade; however the central, tripartite window features a triangular, rather than, rounded shape.

West (rear elevation): The rear elevation exhibits a high level of detail on par with other elevations. The first story features a small porch confined to the east side and that features Chinese Chippendale detailing. A stairwell leads up to a double entryway featuring double glass doors and a paired transom. The doors are flanked on either side by paired, elongated lights with transoms above. Adjacent to the rear entry, to the west, is a gabled projecting entry providing access to the basement. Like other elevations the rear elevation features shiplap siding on the first floor.

The second story is clad in hexagonal shingles with a band providing visual division of the floors and clad in fish scale shingles. The second story features a row of three double sash windows. The elevation features a prominent gable with fish scale shingles in the tympanum and a triangular window.

## INTERIOR

Plan: The York house features an irregular plan typical of Queen Anne Homes. The building features 16 rooms (primarily offices) distributed among two floors with a full basement and attic.

Detail: The interior detailing features a high level of craftsmanship and retains key features reflective of the building's period of significance. Unique details and materials include Anaglypta Dado along the interior staircase wall, redwood burl paneling, hardwood floor with decorative geometric border, pocket doors and art glass, built-in furniture, marble mosaic tile, tiled fire place, and exotic bamboo grill work.

The Dado located along the wall of the interior staircase features Anaglypta, an embossed wall covering imitative of plaster ornamentation. Anaglypta is a paper based covering pressed between rollers which impart a hollow relief pattern.<sup>6</sup> Thomas J Palmer patented Anaglypta in 1886, as a lighter alternative to Lincrusta-Walton, a material similar to linoleum except that a combination of wood pulp and paraffin wax was used instead of cork filler. Anaglypta was

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<sup>6</sup> Robert Young, A. *Historic Preservation Technology*. Hoboken, (New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, 2008), 278



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lighter than Lincrusta- Walton, but produced in a similar fashion, by pressing a paper-based material between two rollers to emboss a hollow relief pattern onto the material. Anaglypta was used as a decorative finish and finished with paint, glazing or gilding. The Anaglypta Dado features floral ornamentation and flourishes and is finished to look like embossed leather.

## OUTBUILDING

The Accessory structure/Garage is a square wood frame structure with a hipped roof and features barn-like garage doors at front. The garage is a later addition constructed at some point after 1924 and not considered a contributing feature as it is outside the period of significance (1892) and has not obtained significance in its own right.

## LANDSCAPE

The Landscape of the York House is simple and remains deferential to the property's original character. The landscape consists of large pockets of lawn with a meandering sidewalk wrapping around the periphery of the York House and providing connectivity to Jefferson and First Streets. A series of Palms were planted in 1895 along the planter strips and (4) in the yard. The original palms, as far as can be discerned, remain on the site and continue to imbue the landscape with significance. A variety of vegetation is located around the perimeter of the York House including Camellia, Cypress, and Roses.

## INTEGRITY/ALTERATIONS

The York House exhibits excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The house has undergone limited alterations and has not been subject to any changes that would have substantially altered its essential characteristics including design, materials, and location. Images from 1906 (attached) indicate that the cast iron roof cresting, fleur-de-lis spires, and porch latticework were removed at some point between 1906 and 1985, although it is not clear at what point exactly this occurred. The portion of the Chimney above the roofline also appears to have been replaced following the 1906 earthquake. Images taken by Turrill and Miller, which are presumed to represent photos before and after the earthquake, show a distinct change in the chimney at that point in time. The image indicates that the brick chimney was either capped or replaced with a similar configuration (see attached)

Outlined Below is a list of more recent alterations and work performed to the house since 1979:

1979: Handicap access installed on porch

1987: Repair of electrical system and plumbing system; interior remodel/ division of rooms into office space

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1991: Repairs made after a small interior fire/ stairs replaced

1998: Repair Stairs

Despite alterations that have taken place over the building's lifetime, the York House continues to exhibit a high level of integrity as it retains its irregular plan and asymmetrical form, applied ornament and distinctive fenestration. The residence also retains decorative ornamentation including dentil trim, brackets and decorative pediment. The integrity is further strengthened because the York House retains the historic palms original to the property. Likewise, the interior exhibits a high level of integrity as it retains the materials, built in furniture, hardware and many of the decorative features original to the house. The York House is still able to clearly communicate its association with the development of West Napa and with architect Luther Turton.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Social History

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1892  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1892  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Turton, Luther B.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The York House is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A as a representation of West Napa's early development and the evolution of First and Jefferson Streets into a wealthy and fashionable neighborhood. The York House is further eligible under Criterion C as the work of master local architect, Luther B Turton.

The York House aptly demonstrates the establishment of West Napa, particularly First and Jefferson Streets, as a fashionable area and conveys the prosperity of the City as a whole during

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that era (1860-1899). It is also an exceptional example of Luther Turton's work which was central in shaping Downtown Napa.

The spatial arrangement of the property features an imposing high style residence on a large corner lot lined with Palms. The property is largely illustrative of the juxtaposition of what Napa was versus what Napa was to become. During the Victorian era Napa was in a transitional period, evolving from rural and sparsely populated to more urban and industrialized. The York House successfully captured that transition through spatial arrangement and location, architecture, and landscape design, and has retained a high level of integrity such that it continues to serve as a valuable example of Napa's Victorian era.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### CONTEXT STATEMENT/ DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

Mr. John Grigsby and Nathan Coombs founded the City of Napa in 1847. The City was comprised of approximately 80 acres which had been purchased from Nicholas Higuera's Rancho Entre Napa and subdivided. The original City extended to the Napa River and west to Brown Street and from Napa Creek south to the southern end of Main Street. The onset of the Gold Rush in 1848 brought new settlers and slowly Napa's landscape became dotted with wood frame commercial structures and agricultural activities.

The City expanded from Coombs original town site while the historic core continued to serve as the mercantile and financial center of Napa. Early subdivision of land and additions to Napa's City grid were largely speculative based on anticipation that Napa would become the primary shipping and trading hub for the Napa Valley. The landowners often purchased the large tracts of land, subdivided them, and then left them undeveloped or used them for agricultural uses.<sup>7</sup>

During the Victorian era (1860-1899) Napa established a more robust economic base with the introduction of new industries and commercial development. The introduction of the railroad in 1865 further spurred development. Agricultural activities expanded and new manufacturing activities including lumber, wool, and tanning industries were introduced. The expansion of commercial activities resulted in a concurrent expansion in residential development.

As Napa continued to grow along with property values, the original subdivisions were further partitioned by their owners. This was especially prevalent in the 1870s when residential

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<sup>7</sup> Page & Turnbull, INC. *City Wide Historic Context Statement, Napa, California*, (prepared for City of Napa Planning Department and Community redevelopment Department, September 1, 2009), 37

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development began in earnest. Napa Officially incorporated on March 23, 1872 as “The Town of Napa City” and reincorporated on Feb 24, 1874 as “The City of Napa”.

## WEST NAPA

West Napa was slower to develop than other areas in Napa although residential development followed the trends of the larger city and was generally concentrated in the Victorian era. The establishment of infrastructure and formalization of transportation routes, especially along Jefferson Street, provided an impetus to develop West Napa. Jefferson served as a major boulevard connecting Napa with the upper Valley in the north while First Street served as a major east-west arterial and provided access to agricultural lands in Browns Valley west of the City core. The stretch along First Street, leading west from downtown, was the first portion of West Napa to be developed. West Napa’s proximity to downtown and convenience to major transportation routes made it a desirable place for wealthy merchants to live with homes clustered around First, Second and Jefferson Streets. The Industrial development, transportation connectivity, and residential growth served as the primary forces in shaping West Napa.<sup>8</sup>

Yet, even at the end of the nineteenth century development in West Napa remained sparse with few houses per block and the balance of the neighborhood remained unincorporated. Due to this delay in developing, West Napa featured an excess of undeveloped land which in turn allowed for large homes on expansive lots. Homes developed during this period shared basic elements in that they were often two or more stories in height; wood framed, with wood cladding, and featured ornate ornamentation and finishes popular in the Victorian Era.<sup>9</sup>

The York house at 1005 Jefferson was one of the first several homes constructed in the area. The House was constructed within the boundaries of the Boggs addition which included Clay, Jefferson, Second, and Patchett Streets.

In 1892 Joseph Noyes, an assistant cashier and later, Director of the James P Goodman & CO Bank, commissioned architect Luther Turton to build him and his wife a house on a prominent corner at 1005 Jefferson. It was fortunate that while land subdivision was largely speculative in the preceding decades, the homes were generally built independently and not as part of speculative tracts of nearly identical houses.<sup>10</sup> This allowed for a full spectrum of architectural styles and resulted in a neighborhood that is illustrative of the trends, socio-economic conditions and stylistic leanings of that period.

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<sup>8</sup> Page & Turnbull, INC, *West Napa Historic Context Statement & Survey Report, Napa, California*, (prepared for City of Napa, Community Development Department & California Office of Historic Preservation, September 13, 2010), 25

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, 26

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, 25

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## ARCHITECTURE/ DESIGN

Turton's design for the York House was virtually a textbook Queen Anne, albeit, slightly more subdued than other manifestations of the style. The York House is in many ways illustrative of Turton's stylistic inclinations in that it features a complex roofline, square bay windows, variegated shingle siding and prolific ornamentation, all quite typical also of the Queen Anne Style popular in the Victorian era.

The American Queen Anne served as the dominant style for American houses for the years 1880 to about 1910. The roots of the American Queen Anne Style can be found in English Masonry and half-timbered houses of Europe's medieval period. The American manifestation of Queen Anne, however, evolved into something quite removed from the original inspiration. The American Queen Anne style was an adaptation of the original British Queen Anne Style (which took inspiration from the Arts and Crafts Movement) to balloon framing techniques, attached porch and wooden detailing.<sup>11</sup> The flexibility of the balloon frame was central in allowing for the eclectic shapes and asymmetrical forms endemic to the American Queen Anne style.

The first American Queen Anne was the Watts Sherman House (c.1874) designed by Henry Hobson Richardson. The Watts Sherman house and subsequent interpretations of the style continued to reflect the medieval roots of the style, particularly in asymmetrical arrangements, steeply pitched roofs, horizontal bands of windows, half timbering and use of various types of shingles to adorn walls.<sup>12</sup>

The American Queen Anne Style also heavily influenced interior residential plans. Earlier houses from the 17th century in America and Britain typically connected the main reception rooms through doors to a central stair and entry hall. The division between reception rooms was a hallmark of earlier residential architecture. However, with the Watts Sherman House and future Queen Anne houses, Richardson began to fuse the spaces such that the entry/stair hall became a reception room in and of itself. This fusion of interior spaces continued to evolve and eventually culminated in the open plans characteristic of prairie houses in the latter half of the twentieth century.<sup>13</sup>

The popularity of the American Queen Anne Style overlapped with Colonial Revival such that there was an obvious cross pollination between architectural elements and motifs employed. For example, Queen Anne acquired classical detailing such as Doric Columns, a common attribute of

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<sup>11</sup> Mark Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context*, (Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1999), 178.

<sup>12</sup> Gelernter Page 178

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

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Colonial Revival. Japanese traditions also served as inspiration for architecture of that period.<sup>14</sup> The 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the same event that spurred interest in America's colonial heritage, incited interest in eastern architectural traditions. Japanese traditions of wood framing and emphasis on art and craft aligned with the sentiments of the day. The Isaac Bell House (1881-83) designed by McKim, Mead, and White provided inspiration, as did the Japanese pavilion constructed for the Centennial Exposition. The Pavilion employed horizontal lines, broadly overhanging hipped roof, latticework, and open plans with sliding screens as opposed to enclosed rooms.<sup>15</sup> The latticework in particular became a common element of Queen Anne architecture in the latter years of the Victorian period.

Turton's design for the York House was and continues to be an apt reflection of its time and place. The York House employs the traditional Queen Anne elements including asymmetry, profuse adornment, and the employment of varied planes and shapes. As a later manifestation of Queen Anne, the York House also features elements pulled from other styles including Colonial Revival. The interior is reflective of Japanese inspirations including the prolific use of wood paneling in the interior, fusion of spaces, use of sliding pocket doors, and employment of wood detailing manipulated to look like bamboo. Although, no longer present, the York House originally featured roof cresting, fleur de lis roof spires, and prominent latticework on the porch.<sup>16</sup>

The landscape of the York House, like that of its architecture, reflects the social practices and stylistic trends of the day. In an effort to rename First Street, "Palm Drive" neighbors Turton, Noyes, and Smith planted palms along their property frontage. In the Victorian Era palms represented wealth and exotic places and were often planted to serve as a prominent status symbol. Several palms were planted on the property and four of the originals planted remain there today. While First Street was never renamed to Palm Drive, the Palms continue to grace the property and adjacent streets and give a nod to Napa's Victorian roots.

## ARCHITECT

Luther Turton (1862-1895) was a prolific architect and his contributions to the landscape of Napa Valley and the West Napa neighborhood are many. In Dave Weinstein's book, *Signature Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area*, he aptly points out that "If we named our towns after the architects whose buildings define them, the City of Napa would be called Turtonville."<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Gelernter 182

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> Turril and Miller Photo, 1906, on file at Napa County Library

<sup>17</sup> Dave Weinstein, *Signature Architects of the San Francisco Bay Area*, (Layton, Utah: Gibbs Smith, 2006), 35



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Turton was born in 1862 in Nebraska and moved to Napa when he was fourteen. After a brief tenure working for the San Francisco Architectural firm, McDougall & Son, Turton returned to Napa and established his own firm at 144 South Main Street in 1887.

As prolific of an architect that Luther Turton was, he did not seem at all attached to any one style or building type. Turton designed commercial, institutional and residential buildings in styles spanning from Queen Anne, to Classical Revival, to Craftsman and later Prairie styles. Although he did not attempt to master any one style, Turton consistently placed an emphasis on quality and craftsmanship. An observer was recorded as saying, “ Mr. T believes Napa County is entitled to the best of everything” and “that skilled mechanics or professional men owe a duty to the place that started them in life... to remain where good can be done for others even though it does bring so large a financial reward...”<sup>18</sup>

A number of prominent landowners commissioned Luther Turton to construct their homes in what was quickly becoming the fashionable part of town. Turton designed and constructed the Noyes Mansion in 1902 (1750 First Street), across from the York House, and the Squire House in 1905 (1801 Oak Street), amongst many others. The only non-residential building he constructed in West Napa was the Napa Glove Company at 1910 Monroe Street.

Luther Turton practiced architecture in the Napa Valley until his death in 1925. He left an indelible mark on the valley and his many extant works, including the York House, continue to represent his legacy and serve as distinct records of their time.

## OWNERSHIP

Prominent Napa Citizen and Director of Napa’s Goodman Bank, John Noyes commissioned the construction of the house in 1892 and retained ownership of the house until 1920 when it was purchased by Napa City Attorney, John T York. City Attorney, and later, Napa County Superior Court Judge, John T York, was the longest single owner of the property and retained it until 1985 when it was purchased by Vincent Spohn and Partners. The York House continues to serve as professional offices today and remains under the ownership of Mr. Vincent Spohn.

## CONCLUSION

The York House is significant for its association with early development patterns reflective of emerging commercial and agricultural importance of Napa Valley during the Victorian era (1860-1899). It also serves as a high style example of American Queen Anne and an exceptional

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<sup>18</sup> W.F Wallace, A History of Napa County (Oakland, CA: Enquirer Print, 1901)

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example of prolific local architect, Luther Turton's, work. The York House features a high level of integrity in all seven aspects and has undergone only minor changes such that it is able to effectively communicate its significance and serve as a valuable example of Victorian era architecture in Napa.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

### Published Works

Davis, A Ellis. *Commercial Encyclopedia of the Pacific Southwest (California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona)*. Oakland, CA 1911.

Gelernter, Mark. *A History of American Architecture: Buildings In Their Cultural and Technological Context*. Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1999.

Gregory, Tom. *History of Solano & Napa Counties, California, with biographical sketches of the leading men and women of the counties who have been identified with its growth and development from the early days to the present time*. Los Angeles, CA: Historic Record Co., 1912.

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Page & Turnbull, INC. *City Wide Historic Context Statement, Napa, California*, prepared for City of Napa Planning Department and Community redevelopment Department, September 1, 2009.

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Public Records

City of Napa Building Records, Available at City of Napa Building Department

Napa County Historical Society Archives

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1891, 1901, 1910, 1924.

Unpublished Works

Bloomfield, Anne. *A Residential Context for the Cultural Resources of the City of Napa.*  
Prepared for Planning Department, City of Napa, January 1996.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 0.31 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 10 | Easting: 561040 | Northing: 4239280 |
| 2. Zone:10  | Easting: 561880 | Northing: 4239240 |
| 3. Zone:10  | Easting: 561220 | Northing: 4237720 |
| 4. Zone:10  | Easting :561820 | Northing: 4237740 |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

APN. 002-153-006

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Boundary includes the area of land historically associated with the York House.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lilly Bianco, Preservation Specialist  
organization: Metropolitan Planning Group ( M-Group)  
street & number: 1303 Jefferson Street Suite 100-B  
city or town: Napa state: CA zip code: 94559  
e-mail Lilly@mplanninggroup.com  
telephone: (707) 259-1790  
date: June 5,2015

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: York House

City or Vicinity: Napa

County: Napa

State: California

Photographer: Lilly Bianco

Date Photographed: April 10, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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Photo 1 of 10 (CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0001)  
East (Primary Facade). Camera Facing West.

Photo 2 of 10 (CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0002)  
View of landscaping at east façade. Camera Facing West.

Photo 3 of 10 (CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0003)  
North elevation. Camera Facing Southwest.

Photo 4 of 10 (CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0004)  
West (rear) elevation. Camera Facing East.

Photo 5 of 10 (CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0005)  
First Street (side) elevation. Camera Facing Southwest South.

Photo 6 of 10(CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0006)  
Stairhall entry. Camera Facing Southwest.

Photo 7 of 10 (CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0007)  
Stairhall entry. Camera Facing Northwest.

Photo 8 of 10 (CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0008)  
Office 4. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 9 of 10(CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0009)  
Upstairs hallway. Camera facing south.

Photo 10 of 10(CA\_Napa County\_ York House\_0010)  
Accessory structure (Garage) north of residence. Camera Facing Northwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Figure 1 Location Map. Courtesy of M-Group



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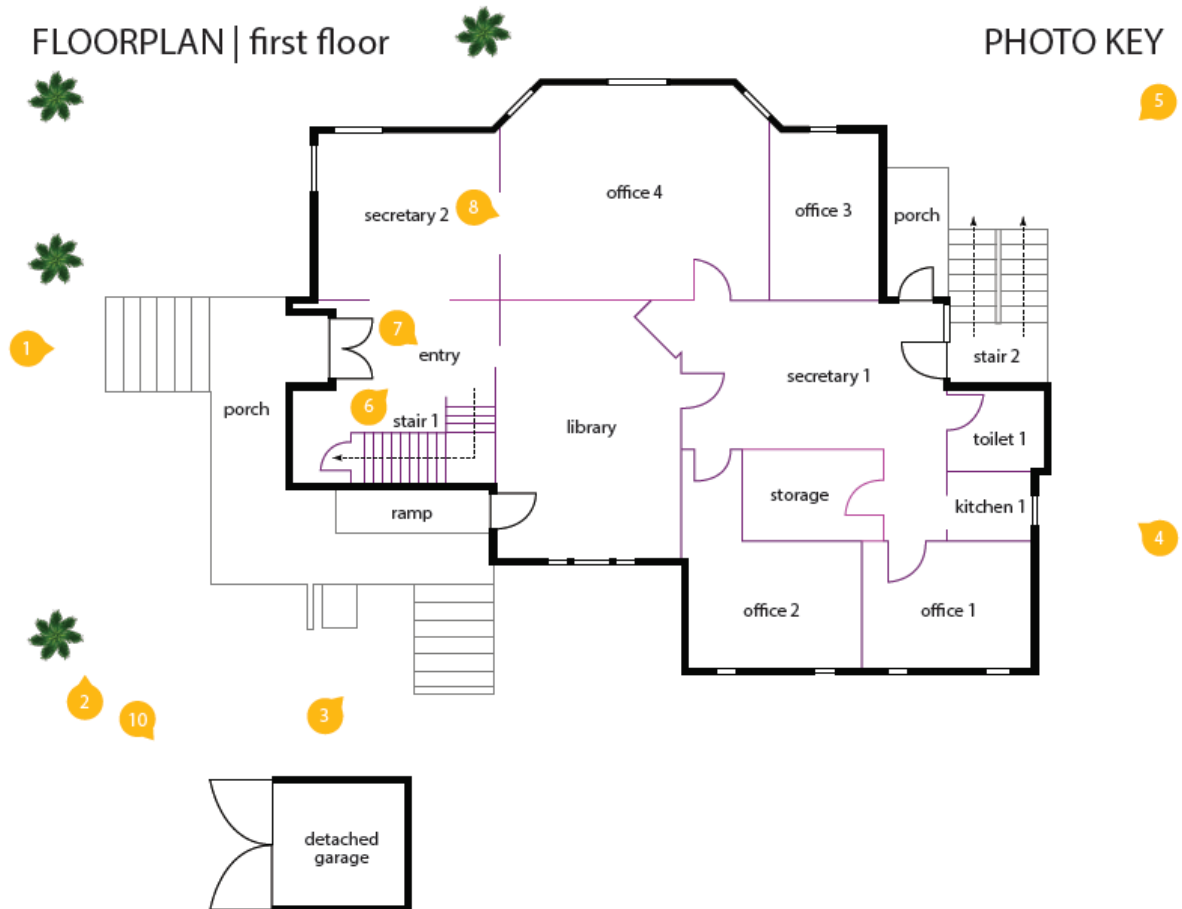


Figure 2 First Floor Plan. Courtesy of M-Group

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### FLOORPLAN | second floor

### PHOTO KEY

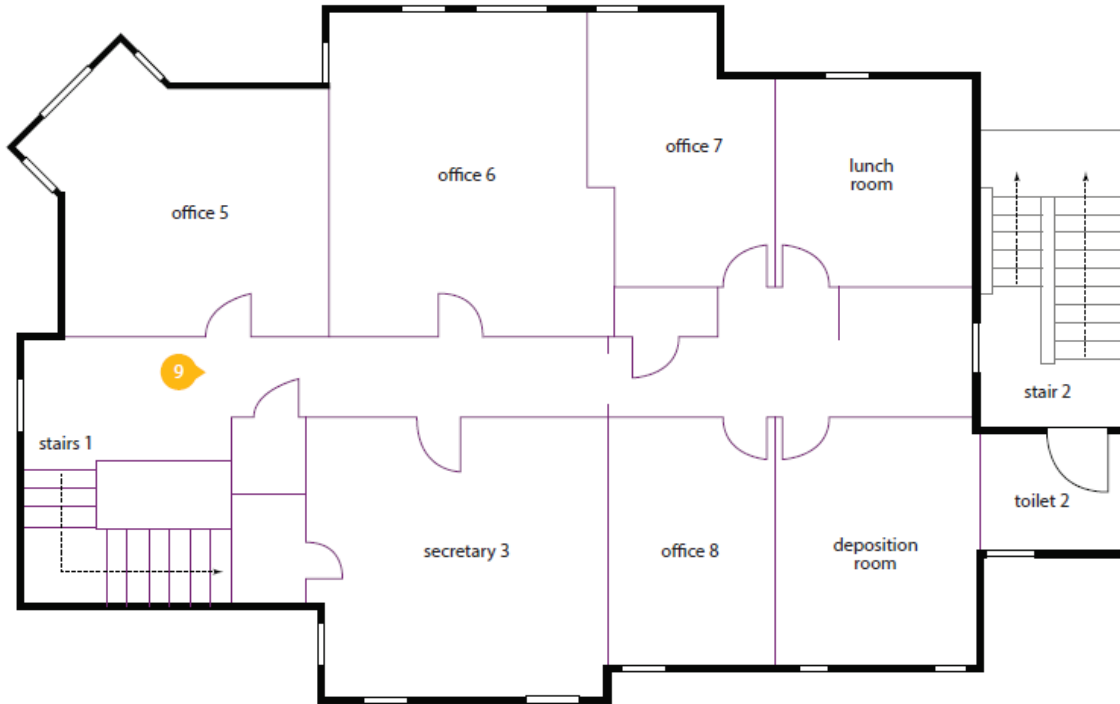


Figure 3 Second Floor Plan. Courtesy of M-Group

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FLOORPLAN | attic

PHOTO KEY

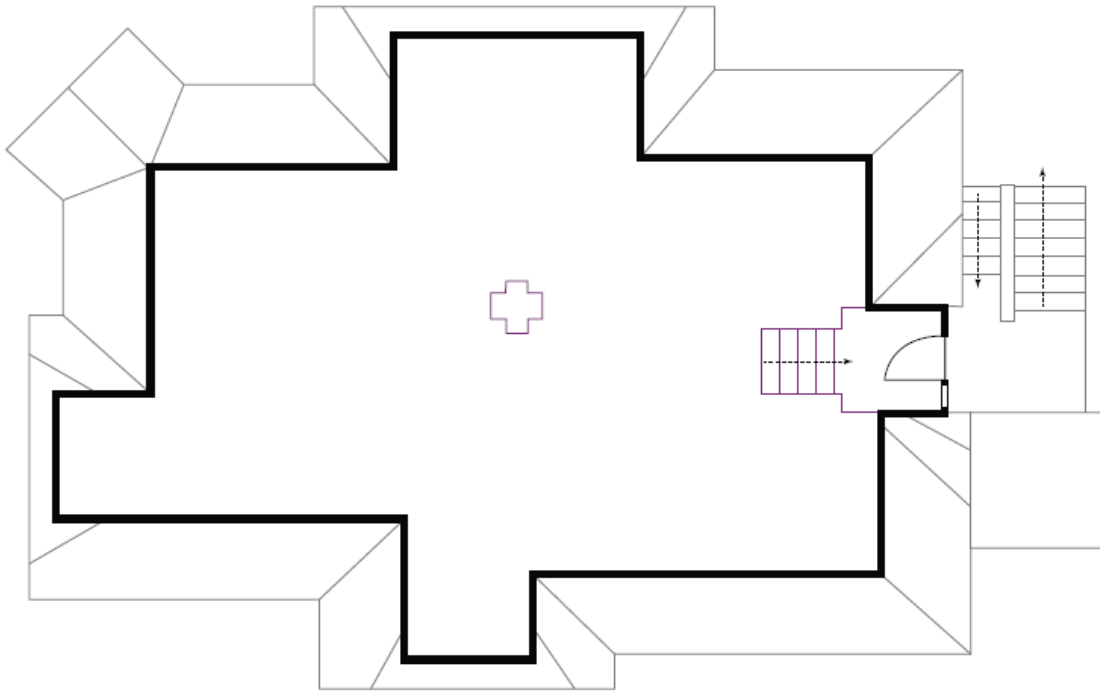


Figure 4 Attic Floorplan. Courtesy of M-Group

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FLOORPLAN | basement

PHOTO KEY

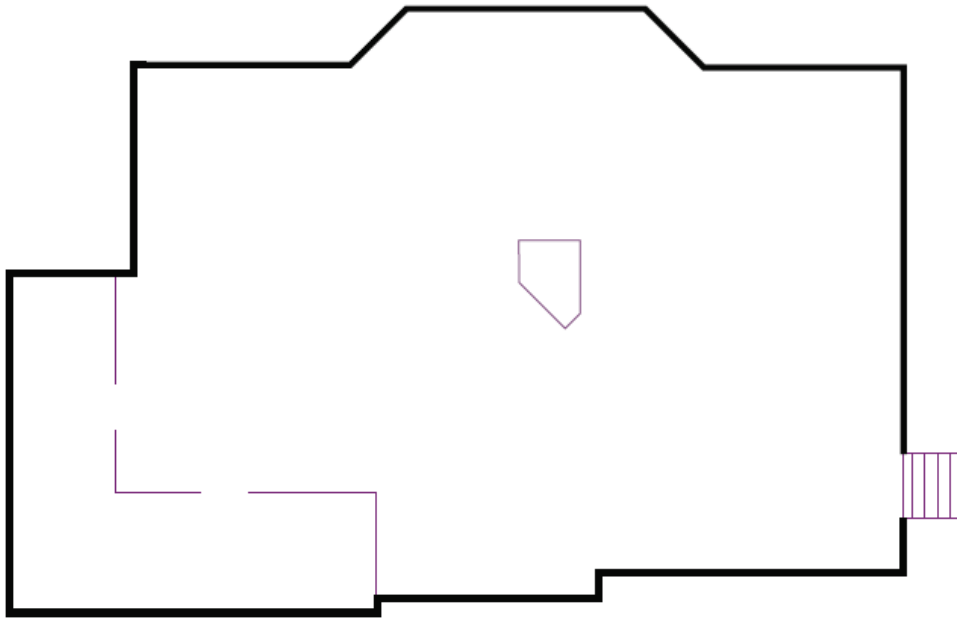


Figure 5 Basement Floorplan. Courtesy of M-Group

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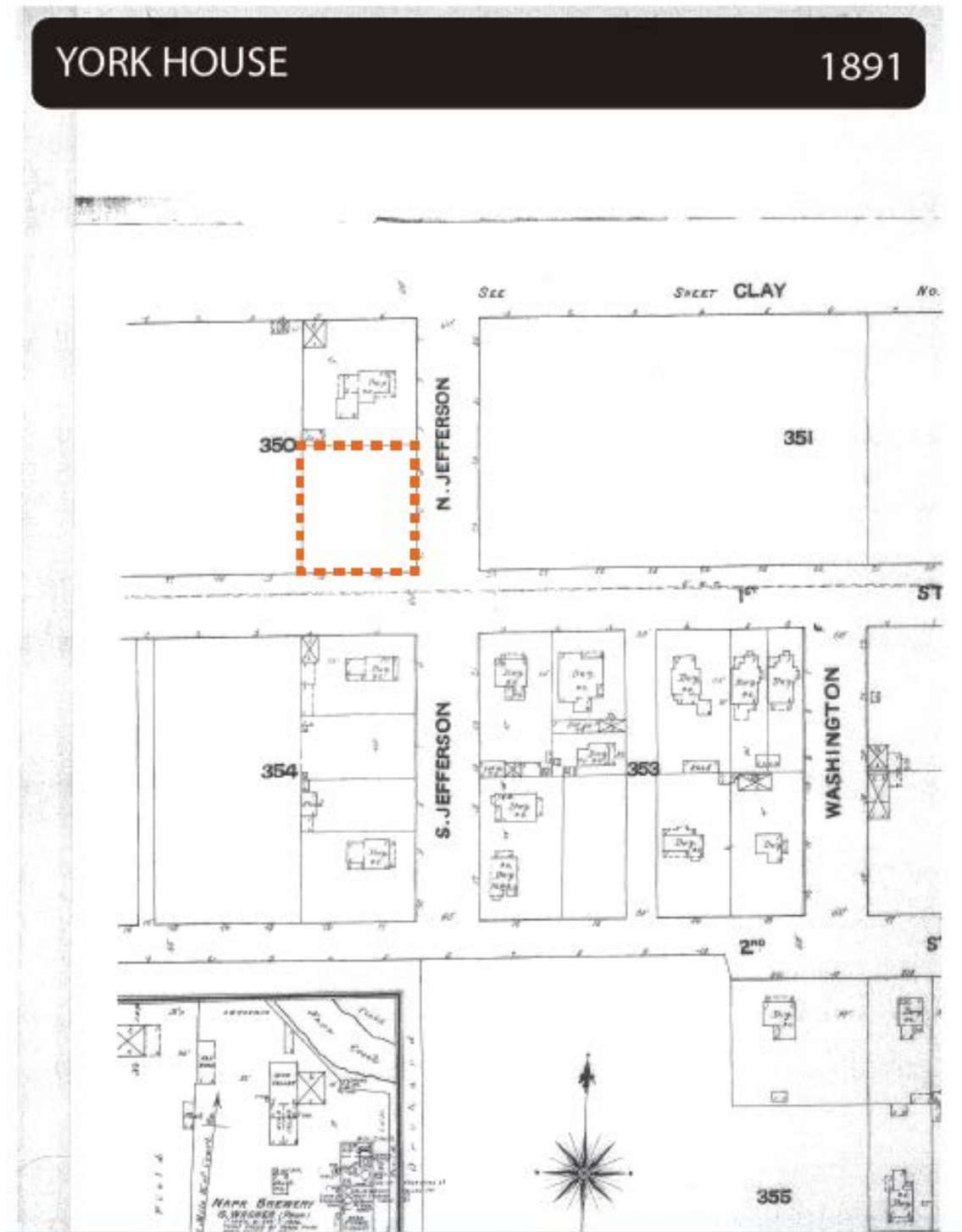


Figure 6 1891 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

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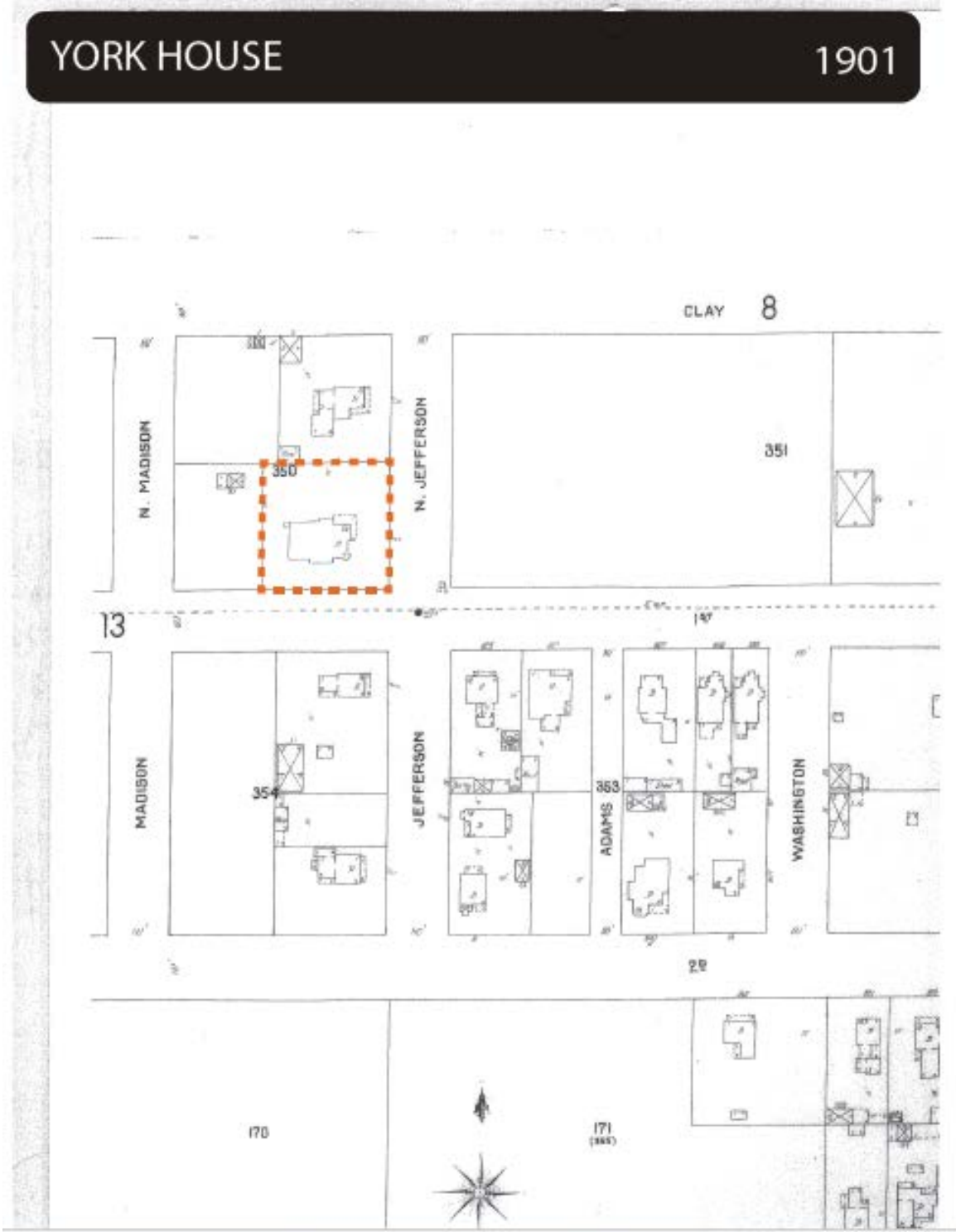


Figure 7 1901 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

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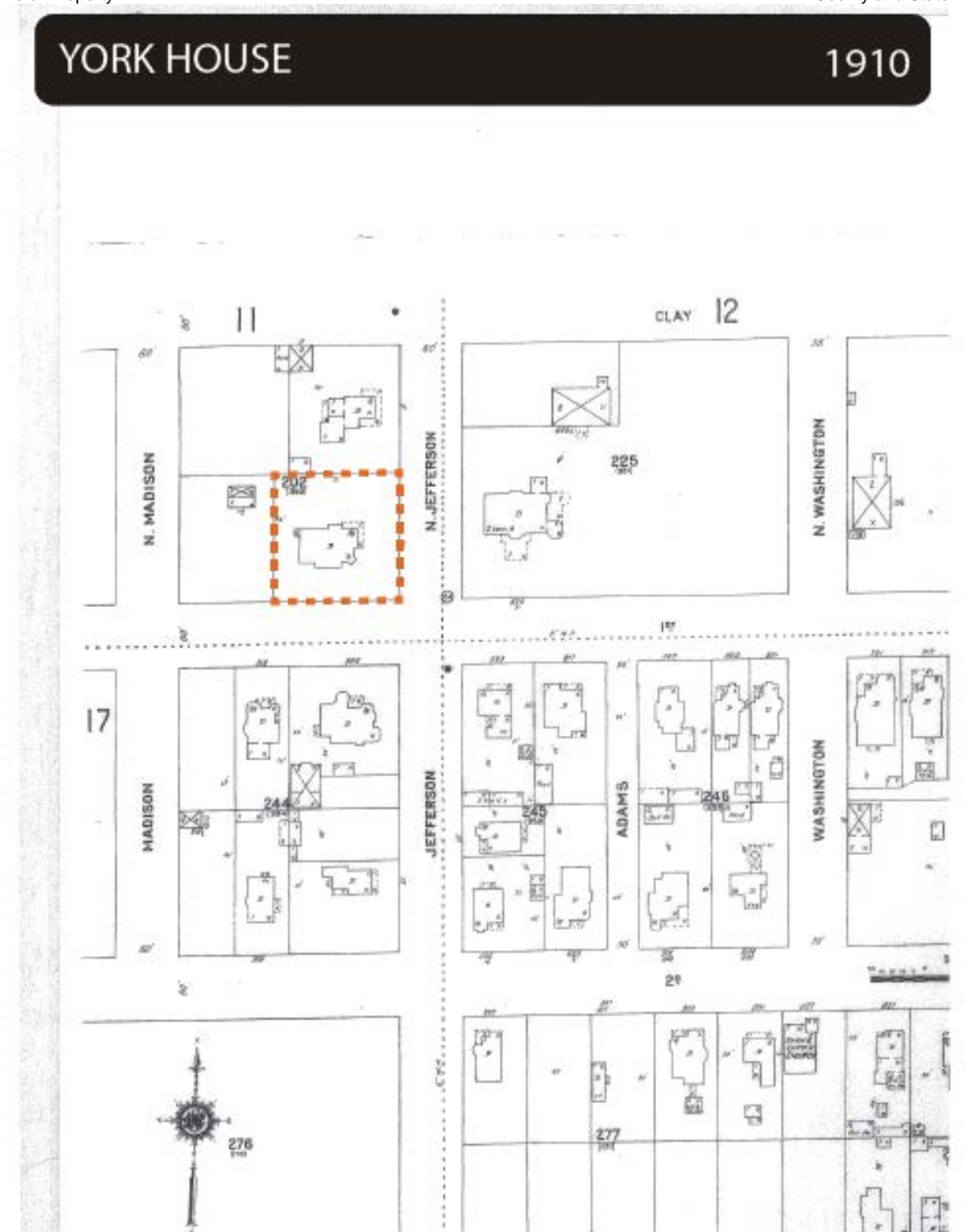


Figure 8 1910 Fire Insurance Map

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**YORK HOUSE** **1924**

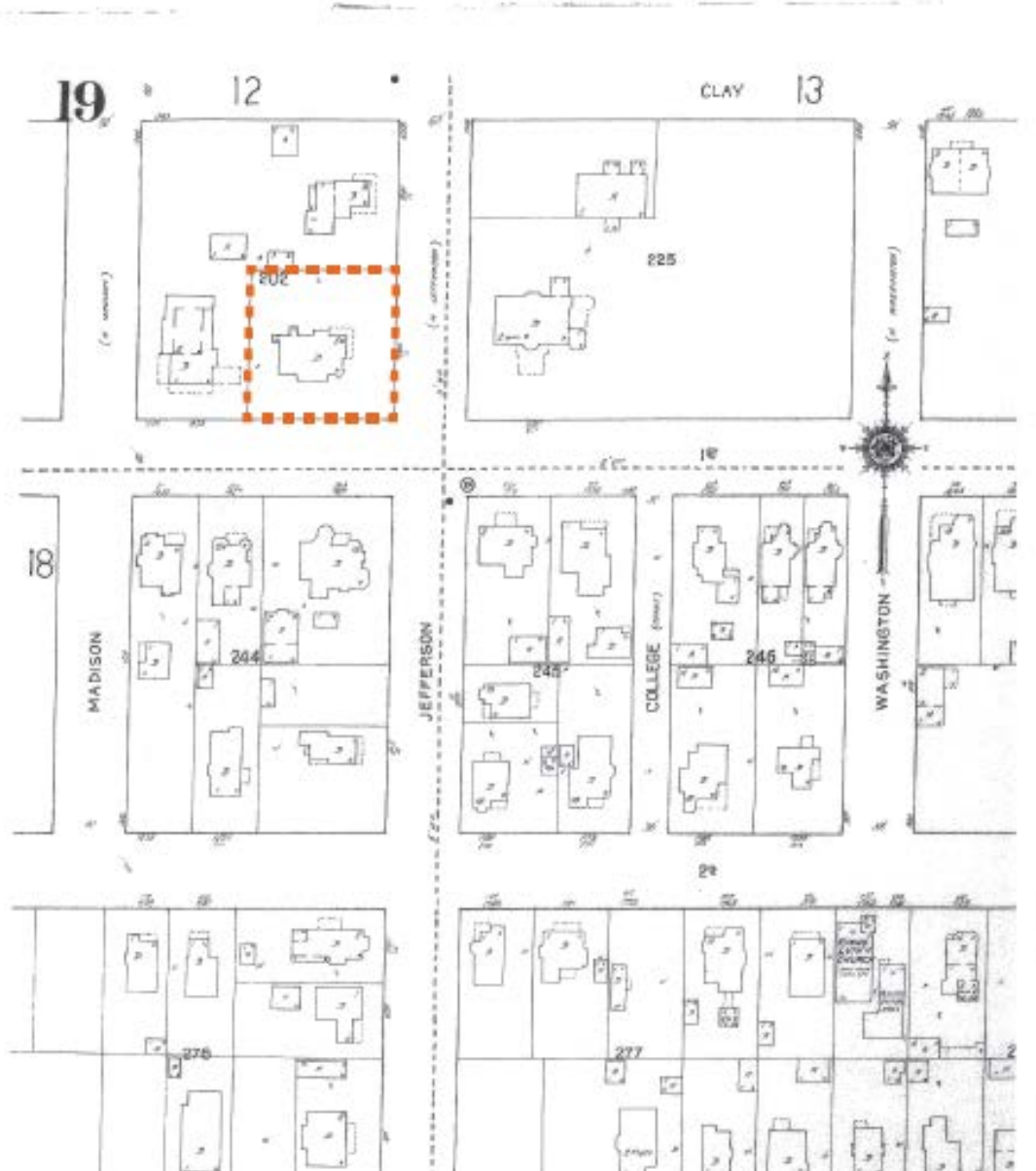


Figure 9 1924 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



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No. 3826 J. C. NOYES' RESIDENCE, NAPA

Figure 10 J.C Noyes (York House) Photo taken by Turrill and Miller,  
1906. Courtesy of Napa County Library.

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No. 381a  
Figure 11 J.C Noyes (York House) Photo taken By Turrill and Miller, 1906.  
Courtesy of Napa County Library.

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**Figure 4 Recent York House Photo. Courtesy of Napa County Landmarks.**