

**Appendix E: Historic Resources Evaluation
Report and Cultural Resources
Evaluation**

**[Cultural Resources Evaluation is Confidential;
Held on File at the County]**

**Old Shasta County Courthouse
Redding, CA
Historic Resource Evaluation (FINAL)**



Prepared for:

Don Renz, P.E., Principal Engineer
Shasta County Public Works
1855 Placer Street
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 245-6064

Prepared by:



MIG

2055 Junction Avenue, Suite 205
San José, CA 95134
(650) 400-5767

December 2025

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Location	4
1.2	Methodology.....	5
1.2.1	Field Survey and Research	5
1.2.2	Preparers Qualifications	6
1.3	Summary of Historic Status	6
1.3.1	National Register of Historic Places	6
1.3.2	California Register of Historical Resources	6
1.3.3	California Historical Resource Status Code.....	7
1.3.4	California Historical Landmarks.....	7
2	Historic Context.....	8
2.1	Historical Overview of Shasta County and City of Redding.....	8
2.1.1	Early History and the Establishment of Shasta County.....	8
2.1.2	History of the City of Redding.....	10
2.2	Architectural Style	21
2.2.1	Streamline Moderne: 1935-1945	21
2.2.2	PWA/WPA Moderne (1929-1948).....	22
2.2.3	International Style (1928-1966)	24
2.3	Architects	25
2.3.1	E. Geoffrey Bangs (b. unknown – d.1977).....	25
2.3.2	Masten & Hurd	26
2.3.3	Smart & Clabaugh.....	26
3	Site Development History	27
3.1	Chronology.....	27
3.2	Site History: History of the Shasta County Courthouse.....	30
3.2.1	Establishment of Law Enforcement in Shasta County	30
3.2.2	First and Second Courthouses of Shasta County	31
3.2.3	County Seat Moves to Redding: Third Courthouse.....	34
3.2.4	New County Jail, 1939	41
3.2.5	Redding's Fourth Courthouse.....	47

3.2.6	Fourth Courthouse Expands, Annex.....	57
4	Site Description	68
4.1	Setting.....	68
4.2	Main Courthouse (1956).....	69
4.2.1	Exterior.....	69
4.2.2	Interior.....	76
4.2.3	Connecting Corridor	82
4.3	Courthouse Annex (1967)	84
4.3.1	Exterior.....	84
4.3.2	Interior.....	91
4.3.3	Sallyport.....	94
4.4	1939 Shasta County Jail.....	96
4.4.1	Exterior.....	96
4.4.2	Interior.....	103
5	Evaluation	107
5.1	National Register of Historic Places/California Register of Historical Resources Criteria	107
5.1.1	Criterion A/1: Events/Broad Patterns of History	107
5.1.2	Criterion B/2: Association with Significant Persons.....	109
5.1.3	Criterion C/3: Design	109
5.1.4	Criterion D/4: Archaeology and/or Information Potential	111
5.2	Integrity Analysis	111
5.2.1	1939 Shasta County Jail	112
5.2.2	1956 Main Courthouse	113
5.3	Character-Defining Features	115
5.3.1	1939 Shasta County Jail	115
5.3.2	1956 Main Courthouse	115
5.4	Conclusion	116
6	References	117

1 Introduction

The old Shasta County Courthouse comprises three buildings – the main courthouse building, the courthouse annex building, and the old county jail – all interconnected into a single contiguous footprint. For the purposes of this document, the old Shasta County Courthouse refers to all three massings as a collective, unless otherwise specified.

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors voted on March 18, 2025, to demolish the old Shasta County Courthouse upon the completion of a new courthouse in January 2024 and the subsequent vacancy of the older building. Determined to contain significant amounts of asbestos and lead paint, as well as major energy inefficiencies, the Board was presented with several alternatives for the vacant building's future, and ultimately decided the best option was to demolish the entire building.

A cursory search into the old courthouse building revealed that it was built more than 50 years ago and may be associated with one or more historic contexts or architectural styles that are historically significant. The building's potential to be considered a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and the proposal for its demolition may result in a substantial adverse change to the significance of historical buildings. This defeats the use of a Categorical Exemption and triggers the need for more detailed environmental review under CEQA.

As such, this historical resource evaluation (HRE) is completed to determine whether the old Shasta County Courthouse maintains an association with one or more historic themes and meets the eligibility requirements for listing under the California Register of Historical Resources. This HRE is prepared to inform the level of environmental review required under CEQA for the proposed project.

1.1 Location

The old Shasta County Courthouse is located at 1500 Court Street in Redding, California (APN 101780069000). The parcel is bounded by Court Street to the east, Butte Street to the north, West Street to the west, and Yuba Street, partially, to the south.¹ The site is owned by Shasta County.

¹ While the cardinal directions of the site are slightly askew, Court Street bounding the site slightly to the northeast, Butte Street to the northwest, West Street to the southwest, and Yuba Street to the southeast, for ease of orientation, the Court Street front will be referred to as east, West Street as west, Butte Street as north, and Yuba Street as south in this document.

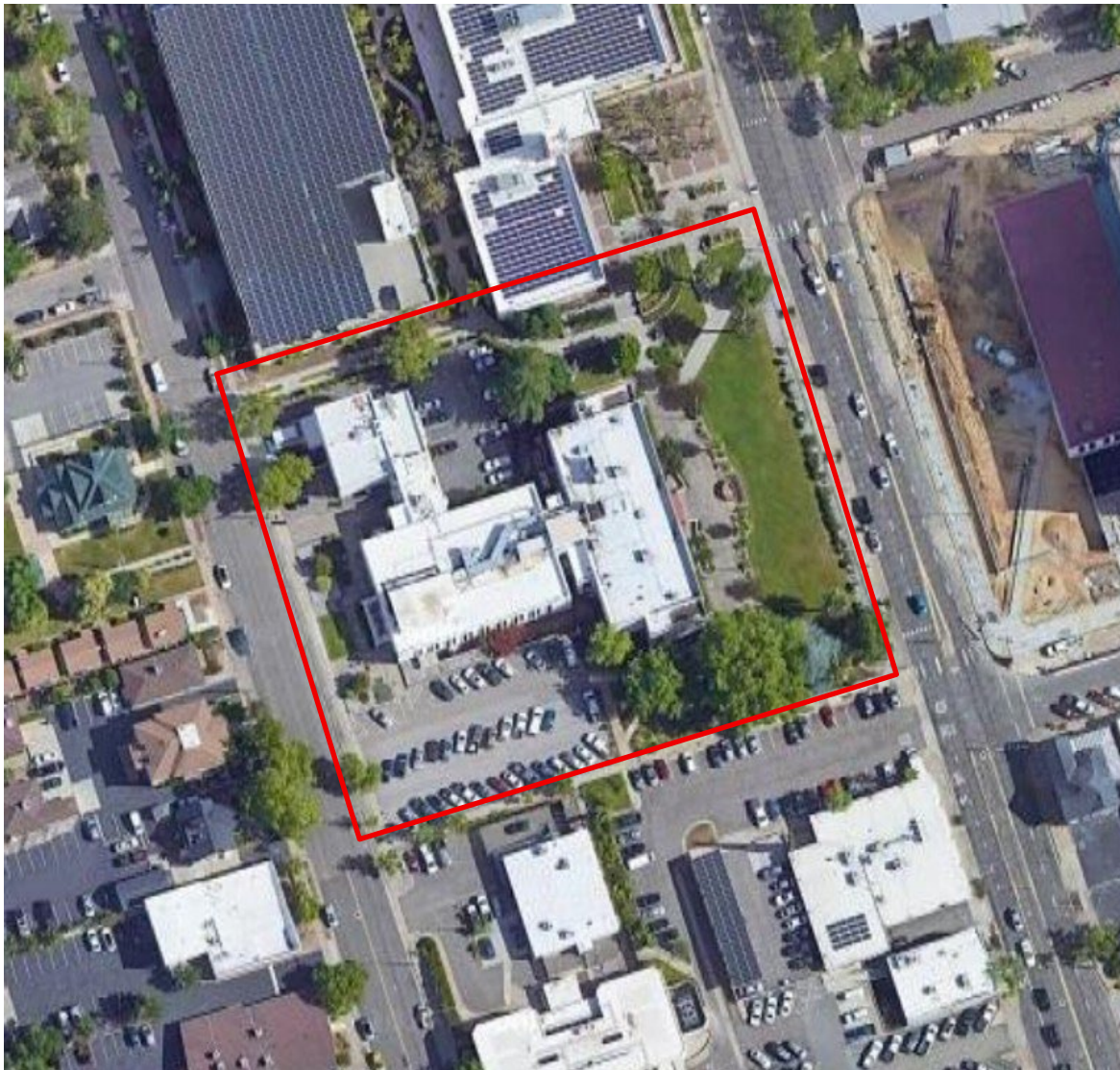


FIGURE 1 AERIAL VIEW OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, OUTLINED IN RED. NORTH IS UP. (APN 101780069000). (GOOGLE EARTH 2025)

1.2 Methodology

This report relies on primary and secondary research to establish a physical chronology of the County Courthouse and the historic contexts associated with the development of the property.

1.2.1 Field Survey and Research

A field survey of the project area was conducted by MIG senior preservation specialist Eleanor Cox, M.S., and architectural historian Sang Bae, M.S., on July 1, 2025. Access to the interior spaces and restricted areas around the jail was coordinated by the Shasta County Public Works Department. The survey was conducted to verify existing conditions and recorded via digital photography and field notes. The field survey did not include interior features beyond the public

lobbies, or landscape elements beyond sculptures or site elements directly related to the construction of the subject building.

Research and analysis were conducted to identify and evaluate the building's applicable historic contexts and individual architectural significance. Sources consulted included:

- Drawings and plans of the subject property, on file with the County Public Works Department
- Local History Collection, Redding Public Library, Redding CA
- Eaton House Museum and Archives, Redding, CA
- Shasta Historical Society Digital Collections on shastahistorical.pastperfectonline.com
- University of California, Davis, Special Collections Library, Digital Collections on digital.ucdavis.edu
- University of California, Santa Barbara, Library, Geospatial Collection
- Historic newspapers digitized on Newspapers.com
- Historic publications digitized on Archive.org and HathiTrust.org

1.2.2 Preparers Qualifications

The analysis and determinations outlined in this report were prepared by MIG's architectural historian Sang Bae and peer reviewed by senior preservation specialist Eleanor Cox, both of whom meet the Secretary of the Interiors Professional Qualifications Standards in the areas of History and Architectural History.

1.3 **Summary of Historic Status**

1.3.1 National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places (National Register) is the nation's most comprehensive inventory of historic resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service and includes buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archaeological, or cultural significance at national, state, or local level.

The old Shasta County Courthouse is not currently listed on the National Register. The property has not previously been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register.

1.3.2 California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) is an inventory of significant architectural, archaeological, and historic resources in the State of California. Resources can be listed in the California Register through a number of methods. State Historical Landmarks and National Register-listed properties are automatically listed in the California Register. Properties can also be nominated to the California Register by local governments, private organizations, or

citizens. The evaluative criteria used by the California Register for determining eligibility are closely based on those developed by the National Park Service for the National Register of Historic Places.

The old Shasta County Courthouse is not currently listed on the California Register. To the preparers knowledge, the property has not previously been evaluated for eligibility for listing in the California Register.

1.3.3 California Historical Resource Status Code

Properties listed or under review by the State of California Office of Historic Preservation are assigned a California Historical Resource Status Code (Status Code) of “1” to “7” to establish their historical significance in relation to the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources. These assigned Status Codes are inventoried in the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) database.

The old Shasta County Courthouse has not been assigned a California Historical Resource Status Code.

1.3.4 California Historical Landmarks

California Historical Landmarks (CHL) are buildings, structures, sites, or places that have been determined to have statewide historical significance as (1) the first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within a large geographic region; (2) associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of the state; (3) or a prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement, or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best-surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer, or a master builder. The California Historical Landmarks are administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation.

The old Shasta County Courthouse has not been previously evaluated as a CHL and is not currently designated as such.

2 Historic Context

The following historic contexts describe the development themes that are relevant to understanding the historic significance of the old Shasta County Courthouse.

2.1 Historical Overview of Shasta County and City of Redding

2.1.1 Early History and the Establishment of Shasta County

Before the arrival of European explorers, the area of Shasta County was the home of at least five Indigenous tribes. The Pit River, the Atsugewi,² the KwaMashu, the Wintu, and the Yana Tribes inhabited the area comprising the lands of the northern Sacramento Valley and the southern reaches of the Cascade Range.³ Large tribal communities prospered in the diverse geography of the region, in the mountains and forests, and along the lakes and rivers, taking advantage of the fertile soils along the Sacramento River and establishing robust trading systems.⁴

The first European contact and exploration in the area of present-day Shasta County likely took place in 1821. It is surmised that a party led by Luis Arguello explored northern California for Mexico in the year that Mexico gained independence from Spain.⁵ However, though Western contact with the region continued through the following decades following Arguello's expedition, these took the form of expeditions and trapping and were non-permanent. The first permanent non-Indigenous settlement in the area only took place in the 1840s.^{6 7}

One of the earliest permanent white settlers in the present-day Shasta County was Major Pierson Barton Reading, a pioneer and trapper, who was awarded a land grant from California Governor Manuel Micheltorena, on behalf of the Mexican government in December of 1844. This was the second and final land grant awarded in the County, encompassing six square leagues, or 26,632.09 acres, extending along the west bank of the Sacramento River from the

² The Atsugewi peoples were identified by the common name "Hat Creek Indians" by the Shasta Historical Society. While identified as a distinct entity along with the Pit River Tribe by the Historical Society, the present-day Pit River Tribe is described as a Tribe comprising eleven autonomous bands that includes the Atsugewi. The root of this discrepancy is uncertain; it is possible that the Pit River Tribe and the Atsugewi were considered two distinct entities prior to the arrival of European explorers in the eighteenth century, consolidated under the name of the former only in more recent years.

"Official Home of the Pit River Tribe," Pit River Tribe, accessed July 2025, <https://pitrivertribe.gov/>.

³ "Shasta County History – Pre 1900," Shasta Historical Society, accessed July 2025, <https://shastahistorical.org/about/sc-history-pre-1900/>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ The Spanish placenames in northern California, including "Trinity," suggest Spanish or Mexican exploration of the area.

⁶ This non-permanent presence in the region does not imply that the Europeans did not have a detrimental impact on the lifeways of the Indigenous peoples. Hostility, violence, and disease devastated large populations of the local tribes.

⁷ Marion V. Allen, "Early Explorers" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, (Marion V. Allen, 1981), 11.

mouth of Cottonwood Creek to Salt Creek.⁸ Reading named his land Rancho Buena Ventura and established on it what is accredited to be the first permanent white settlement in the area.⁹

White settlement and activities in the region stalled following the land grant in 1844 until the discovery of gold in 1848. Upon the first discovery of gold at Coloma, Reading was among the first to visit the scene with John Sutter. He returned home to his rancho and in March 1848 discovered gold at a bar, an elevated region of sediment in a waterway deposited by flow, in Clear Creek, which he named Reading's Bar. In July of the same year, Reading discovered another gold-yielding bar in Trinity County, which he also named Reading's Bar. News of Reading's and other early prospectors' discovery attracted immigrants to California by the hundreds of thousands. Boomtowns quickly developed along the major creeks feeding into the Sacramento River, including Whiskeytown, Horsetown, and Shasta City. Supporting numerous boomtowns, Shasta County was officially established as one of the original twenty-seven counties of California by the governor on February 18, 1850, with Reading's Ranch designated as the county seat. In the following year, the county seat was moved from Reading's Ranch to Shasta City in a Court of Sessions of Shasta County on February 10.¹⁰

Settlers continued to flow into Shasta County in the second half of the nineteenth century. The growing population and expansion of the gold mining industry resulted in a diversified economy. The lumber industry and agriculture first developed to support the boomtowns, followed by mining for other minerals and metals, such as copper. With growing industries came the railroad to support the transportation of people and commodities, establishing Shasta County as a trade hub for Northern California.¹¹

Also around this time, to protect and support the growing number of American miners, as well as to safeguard the nation's assets and resources in the region, the U.S. Army established the first and largest fort in Northern California: Fort Reading. Located approximately three miles from the confluence of Cow Creek and Sacramento River near present-day Anderson, the fort was named in honor of Pierson B. Reading. Fort Reading was established on May 26, 1852, by Second Lieutenant E.N. Davis, Co. E, 2nd Infantry, on the orders of Lieutenant Colonel George M. Wright. Major and remained active until 1867.¹²

⁸ This land grant encompassed the present-day towns of Anderson, Cottonwood, and Redding. "About Redding," City of Redding California, accessed July 2025, https://www.cityofredding.gov/government/about_us.php.

⁹ Allen, "The Land Grants" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 13; Gertrude A. Steger, "A Chronology of the Life of Pierson Barton Reading," *California Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol.22, No.4 (Dec. 1943), 366.

¹⁰ Steger, "A Chronology of the Life of Pierson Barton Reading," 367-368; "Shasta County History – Pre 1900."

¹¹ "Shasta County History – Pre 1900."

¹² "Fort Reading Historical Landmark," California State Parks, accessed August 2025, <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/Detail/379>; Jon Jefferson, "Fort Reading, Shasta County," recorded content posted on May 11, 2021, Shasta Historical Society, Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRe0LiR27Y4>.

2.1.2 History of the City of Redding

2.1.2.1 Establishment and Incorporation of the City of Redding

Like many western towns in the second half of the nineteenth century, City of Redding, located in the southwestern region of Shasta County, began as a “railroad town” laid out as a supply drop and terminal.

Originally known as Poverty Flats, the present-day Redding comprising the area six miles east of Shasta City at the “turn of the river” was selected for the Central Pacific Railroad (predecessor of the Southern Pacific Railroad) in 1872 by Benjamin Barnard Redding, the first land agent for Central Pacific. While Shasta City appears to have been initially considered for the railroad connection, natural factors such as hydrology and topography likely deemed it impossible, and the area of Redding was determined to be the most feasible site.

While the origin of the name Poverty Flats is unclear, it likely relates to the level terrain and the “unfulfilled gold-fining hopes” of the previous non-native occupants. In the early years of the gold rush, miners quickly learned that small creeks, not major rivers, yielded the sought-after gold and headed up for mountain creeks.¹³ Previous research suggests that among these early prospectors in the Redding region were Chinese miners who practiced shallow, surface mining.¹⁴ It is unclear whether these Chinese miners also moved on to the mountain creeks or if they were relegated to mining in the poorly yielding areas due to racial discrimination.¹⁵ The general absence of information on the settlement in Poverty Flats prior to the arrival of Central Pacific Railroad suggests that this area was not formally developed as a town until 1872.

Upon selection of the site, a depot and station were immediately constructed. While some sources state that these facilities at Poverty Flats were intended to be the northern terminus of the Central Pacific Railroad, other sources suggest that the site was meant only to serve as a temporary railhead to support construction through the Sacramento River Canyon, a slow and costly endeavor. An eleven-year pause on the larger Sacramento River Canyon project following the arrival of the tracks to Redding, however, provided for the formal planning and development of the new railroad town around the new depot and station.¹⁶

¹³ Shasta Historical Society and Al Rocca, *Images of America, Redding*, (Arcadia Publishing, 2004), 10

¹⁴ Kleinfelder, “Final Geotechnical Investigation Report, Proposed Shasta County Administrative Center, Redding, California,” November 13, 2002, 6-7.

¹⁵ The Chinese population in Shasta County were concentrated in the gold camps before they were hired to work on the railroad. In Redding, they lived on Shasta Street until serious racial hostilities intensified and the entire population was forced out the county in 1886. Even before 1886, severe hostility against the Chinese by Anglo-American miners led to the enactment of martial law by the sheriff to maintain law and order. (*Images of America*, 14; “Shasta Sheriff’s Office History,” County of Shasta California, accessed August 2025, <https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history>.)

¹⁶ “Shasta County History – Pre 1900”; Jon Jefferson, “Redding History, Shasta County, California,” recorded content posted April 19, 2023, Shasta Historical Society, Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLzJuNT34FE&t=87s>.

Along with the establishment of a depot and station, . , Central Pacific officials also directed their railroad engineers to lay out a “suitable” town plan that would provide support for railroad personnel and “provide opportunities” for local residents.¹⁷ Some residents of Shasta City, feeling the pressures of the dwindling gold mining industry during this period, saw the new railroad town as the best possibility for future development and relocated to the new town. Here they established homes and set up businesses to take advantage of the new entrepreneurial opportunities facilitated by the arrival of the railroad.¹⁸ By 1887, the town boasted a population of 600 settlers and was officially incorporated as the City of Redding, in honor of the land agent who had selected the site for the railroad.¹⁹ In 1888, the county seat of Shasta moved to Redding, and by 1889 had constructed a county courthouse. Redding now boasted of hotels, mercantile stores, physicians, legal aid, a barber shop, bootmakers, and a post office.²⁰ (See Figure 2 and Figure 3).

¹⁷ *Images of America, Redding*, 10.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ “Shasta County History – Pre 1900.”

²⁰ *Images of America, Redding*, 10.

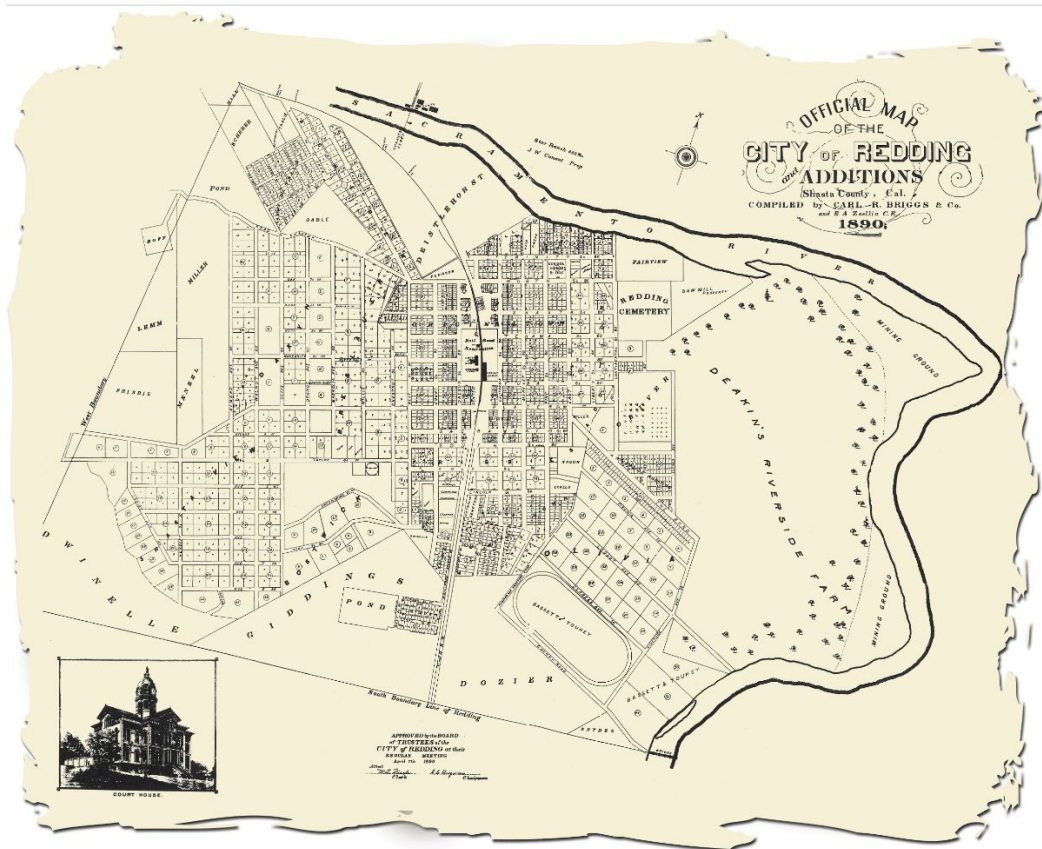


FIGURE 2 “OFFICIAL MAP OF THE CITY OF REDDING AND ADDITIONS, SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,” COMPILED BY CARL B. BRIGGS & CO. AND E.A. ZOELLIN C.E., 1890. NOTE THE IMAGE OF THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE BOTTOM LEFT CORNER. (REALLY REDDING, ACCESSED AUGUST 2025, [HTTPS://REALLYREDDING.COM/2016/11/19/1890-MAP-OF-REDDING-MEETS-GOOGLE-EARTH/](https://reallyredding.com/2016/11/19/1890-map-of-redding-meets-google-earth/); ALSO AVAILABLE IN ALLEN, *REDDING AND THE THREE SHASTAS*, 38.)

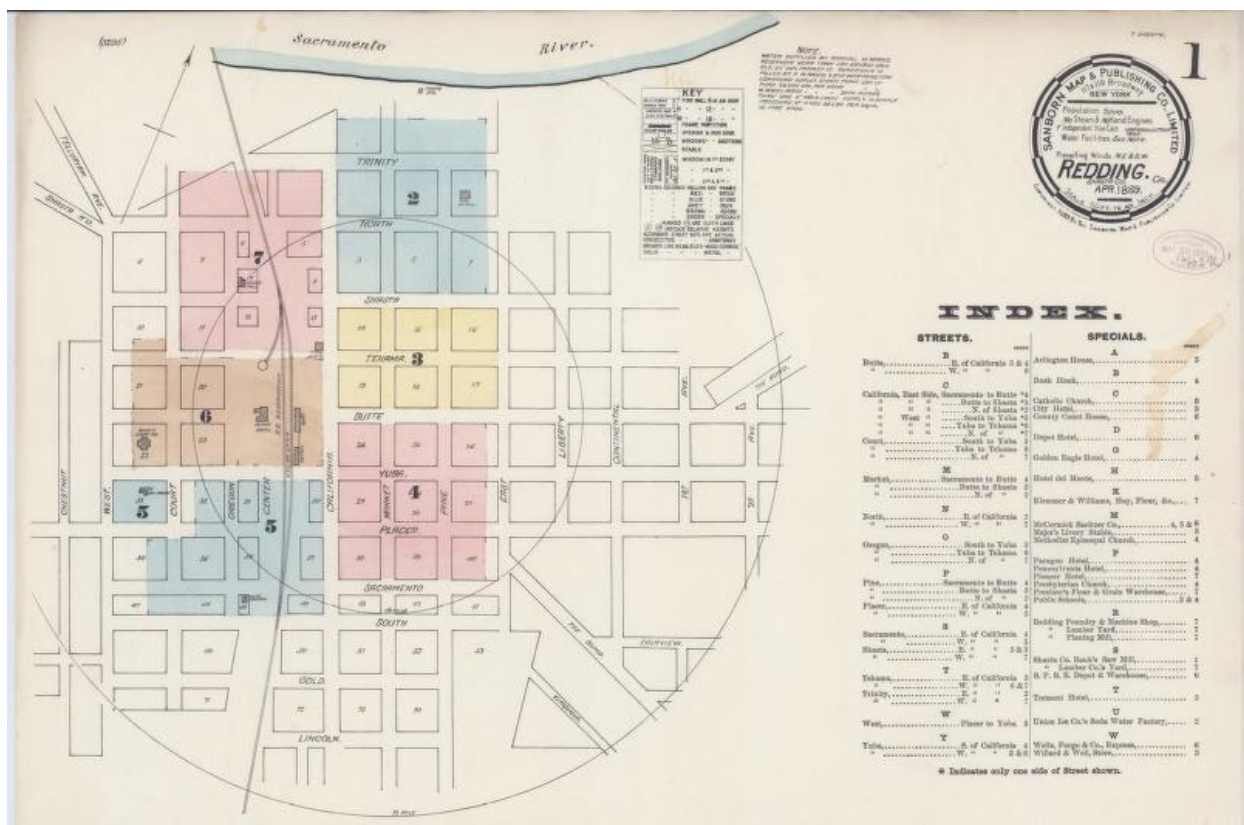


FIGURE 3 1889 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP OF REDDING, CALIFORNIA, SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE INCORPORATED CITY. ("SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP FROM REDDING, SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA," SHEET 1, SANBORN MAP CO., 1889. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION, WASHINGTON, D.C.)

In the following decades, the development and prosperity of Redding mirrored that of the area's mineral extraction industry, supported principally by copper and iron extraction. Geological engineers had found during hydrologic gold mining in the 1870s and 1880s that the foothills and mountains surrounding Redding on three sides contained large copper deposits. By the turn of the century, a well-known "copper belt" ran from the present-day town of Keswick, northwest of Redding across the towns of Coram and Kennett directly north of the town, to the present-day unincorporated communities of Bully Hill and Ingot in the northeast. New mining opportunities attracted foreign investors to the region, establishing headquarters for field investigations in Redding, and new towns sprouted around each of the large smelters. Some of these towns, like Kennett, grew to worker populations rivaling Redding and boasted of some of the best food served in the county. Despite the emerging popularity and attractions of neighboring towns, however, Redding continued to dominate the region and remained the "big town" to which

regional residents traveled for special occasions or major supplies.²¹ By 1910, Redding supported a population of 3,572, having grown nearly sixfold since its incorporation.²² (See Figure 4, Figure 5, and Figure 6).

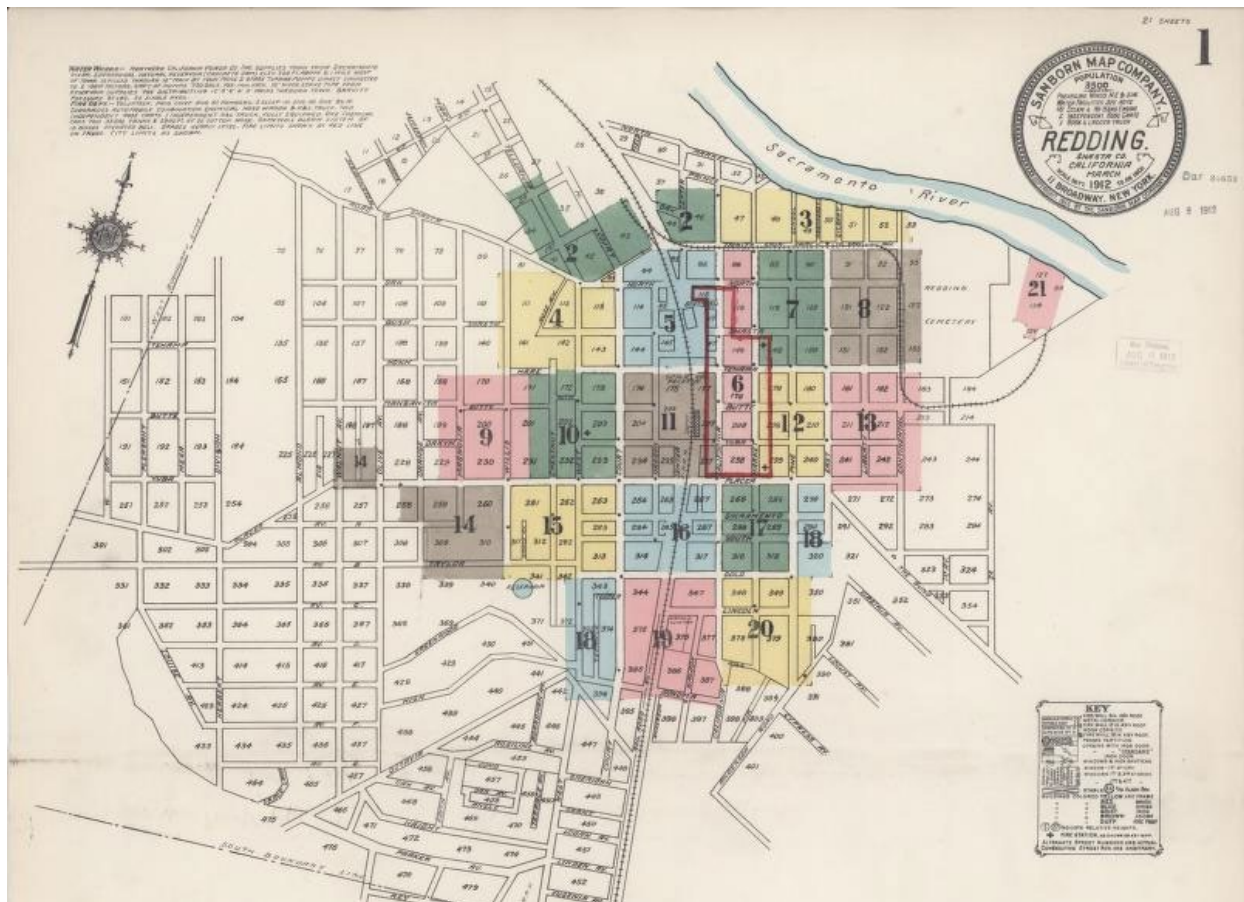


FIGURE 4 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP OF REDDING, CALIFORNIA, SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE INCORPORATED CITY. (“SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP FROM REDDING, SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,” SHEET 1, SANBORN MAP CO., 1912. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION, WASHINGTON, D.C.)

²¹ *Images of America, Redding*, 35.

²² “About Redding.”



FIGURE 5 EARLY 1900S PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LORENZ HOTEL AND THE REDDING WATER COMPANY ON CALIFORNIA STREET. (IMAGES OF AMERICA, REDDING, 30.)

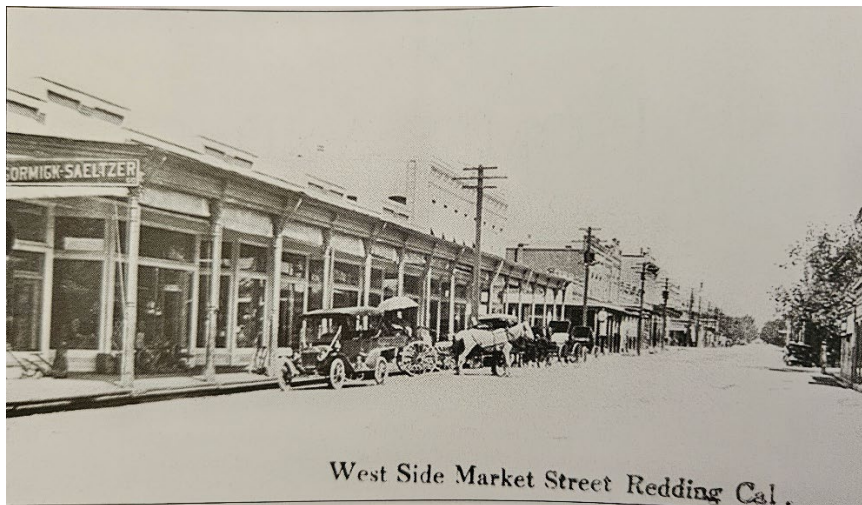


FIGURE 6 c.1915 VIEW OF THE WEST SIDE OF MARKET STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT. (IMAGES OF AMERICA, REDDING, 34.)

Unlike the majority of the United States that enjoyed a new economic prosperity in the 1920s, both Redding and Shasta County experienced the beginning of an economic downturn. Driven by the major post-World War I depression across the European countries and the plummet in orders for copper forced closures of the copper smelters in the region. Hundreds, then thousands of mining and smelter workers lost their jobs and moved out of the area. Business

profits in Redding subsequently dropped, and few new homes and businesses were constructed during this time, if at all.²³

Despite the economic depression, Redding maintained its status as the regional shopping and cultural center of the north valley. This was further supported by the establishment of a north-south highway that connected all of California's major cities and Oregon, providing automobiles a "smooth and safe surface" on which to travel.²⁴ This new highway, Highway 99, was paved with "blacktop" (asphalt), and ran right along the rail lines through Redding. As the railroad had created and allowed for Redding to prosper in the late nineteenth century, the new highway allowed for the city to remain viable through the economic depression. Easier travel afforded by paved roads and the proliferation of automobiles starting in the 1930s allowed for Redding to grow outward, no longer limited to the pedestrian reaches of the city.²⁵

2.1.2.2 The Great Depression and the New Deal

Though the construction of Highway 99 through Redding enabled the city to remain economically viable through the 1920s and 1930s, the effects of the depression were still felt by its residents. Following the stock market crash of October 1929, through the early 1930s, Redding business owners noted a significant decrease in tourist business and profits. Though automobile traffic continued to roll through the city heading north and south, most vehicles were commercial trucks, only stopping for gasoline fill-up and some food. Recreational driving declined dramatically, equally impacting tourism revenue.²⁶ Like the rest of the country, Redding looked to the federal government for relief.

In response to the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing nation-wide economic depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt promised the American people a "new deal" to address the problems of the depression. Roosevelt's New Deal comprised banking reform laws, emergency relief programs, and agricultural programs. Later, a second New Deal evolved to include union protection programs, the Social Security Act, and programs to aid tenant farmers and migrant workers.²⁷

As a part of the amalgam of dozens of programs and agencies created under the New Deal, several new public works programs were established to alleviate mass unemployment caused by the Great Depression. Of these, the Public Works Administration (PWA) was created by the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 to "encourage national industrial recovery, to foster fair

²³ *Images of America, Redding*, 36.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 109.

²⁷ "President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal," U.S. History Primary Source Timeline, Library of Congress, accessed August 2025, <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/great-depression-and-world-war-ii-1929-1945/franklin-delano-roosevelt-and-the-new-deal/>.

competition, and to provide for the construction of certain useful public works” including highways, buildings, natural resource conservation, energy, flood control, housing, and more.²⁸

This agency started with \$3.3 billion, “the largest amount ever allotted to a public works scheme” at the time and was supplemented by subsequent appropriations acts over the years.²⁹ Through a course of ten years, the PWA radically transformed the nation’s major infrastructure, contributing over \$3.8 billion towards the construction of 34,000 projects by 1939.³⁰

Unlike many of the other public works and relief programs, the PWA did not directly hire the unemployed; instead, it administered loans and grants to state and local governments, which then hired private contractors to do the work. This arrangement was intended to be a catalyst for increase in demand for labor and construction supplies, and therefore economic recovery. Approved projects were under the lead of the state or local government and costs were shared roughly half-and-half, varying by time, place, and project type.³¹

Along with the PWA, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was the largest and most diverse of the New Deal public works programs. Created on May 6, 1935, to alleviate the mass unemployment of the Great Depression, the agency employed people directly to build infrastructure such as bridges, airports, schools, parks, and water lines. By the time of its termination in 1943, the WPA had put 8.5 million Americans back to work.³²

Under the New Deal program, the City of Redding received over \$500,000 by the federal emergency administration of public works. A PWA building program for Shasta County was launched and included the 1939 county jail, the Veterans Memorial Hall, two new firehouses, and a complete new municipal water system, among others, in Redding.³³ The federal relief agency awarded outright grants of 45% of the total cost of each of the construction project, 15% of which was available for local officials at the start of construction. These projects provided employment to over one hundred men, per workday, of various crafts and specialties; further, for every workman on these jobs in Redding, two and one-half others were employed by private industry in forests, mines, factories, and elsewhere to produce and supply the building materials.³⁴

²⁸ “Public Works Administration (PWA) (1933),” Living New Deal, accessed August 2025, <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/public-works-art-project-pwap-1933/>.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² “Works Progress Administration (WPA) (1935),” Living New Deal, accessed August 2025, <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/works-progress-administration-wpa-1935/>.

³³ “Half Million For Buildings, PWA Grants Assist in Construction,” *The Searchlight*, November 13, 1938.

³⁴ Ibid.

2.1.2.3 Shasta Dam Project

In conjunction with the PWA-funded building projects in the city, Redding's economy and population began to significantly rebound from the depression in the late-1930s with the construction of the Shasta Dam. The area's politicians and Redding civic leaders had championed for the construction of a major concrete dam in Shasta County, tirelessly arguing with state and federal water officials for the vision of transferring northern California's abundant rain and snow runoff to the drier agricultural fields in the southern regions of the state.³⁵ Insistently lobbied by State Senator John McColl and County Judge Francis B. Carr, the commissioner of the United States Bureau of Reclamation finally announced in 1937 that monies had been approved to begin work on the said concrete dam. The logical site for such infrastructure was determined to be in Shasta County, at a location below the confluence of the Sacramento and Pitt Rivers. Construction on the dam began on August 21, 1938.³⁶

With the Depression still taking its toll on the national economy, nation-wide announcement of the Shasta Dam project drew hundreds, then thousands, of unemployed men and their families to Redding. The unprecedented influx of out-of-work migrants placed immense pressure on the city and its infrastructure; housing was desperately needed close to the work site. New "dam boomtowns" were established and thrived before long: Central Valley, Project City, and Summit City. Determining that Redding was too distant from the project site to serve the function, the Bureau of Reclamation set up their administrative headquarters in a new "town" on level ground one and one-half miles from the dam site. The "townsite," the administrative center containing offices, warehouses, and lodging for Bureau of Reclamation inspectors, became known as Toyon. The contracting company that won the bid to build Shasta Dam also set up their own lodgings, known as "Contractor's Camp" or Shasta Dam Village. Despite these boomtowns and other camps closer to the dam site, Redding enjoyed an economic boost offered by off-duty workers who traveled to the cultural center for dining and entertainment. Saloons, dance halls, restaurants, theaters, and gambling establishments in Redding grew in parallel with the dam project, mostly establishing along California and Market Streets.³⁷ (See Figure 7 and Figure 8).

³⁵ "Echoes of the Past: The Rich History of Whiskeytown," Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, accessed August 2025, <https://nps.gov/whis/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

³⁶ Ibid.; "Shasta Dam Construction," Bureau of Reclamation, Northern California Area Office, accessed August 2025, <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/dam-work.html>.

³⁷ *Images of America, Redding*, 109.



FIGURE 7 1927 PHOTOGRAPH OF TONY JAEGLER'S RESTAURANT AND SALOON ON MARKET STREET. (IMAGES OF AMERICA, REDDING, 83.)



FIGURE 8 1930S PHOTOGRAPH OF THE 1400 BLOCK OF MARKET STREET (HIGHWAY 99). NOTE THE ASPHALT-PAVED ROAD LINED WITH VARIOUS STOREFRONTS. (IMAGES OF AMERICA, REDDING, 87.)

Like the rest of the nation, news of the attack on Pearl Harbor shocked the residents of Redding and the larger Shasta County. Young men rushed to enlist in the army, navy, marines, or Army Air Corp, while young women volunteered for the Women's Army Corps (WACs), Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), or served in the American Red Cross. Within weeks of the attack, Civil Defense volunteers patrolled the streets of Redding. The already-strict security at the dam site heightened, Armed guards carrying rifles with live

ammunition posted at all key road intersections leading into the work site. All workers and administrative staff were required to present identification cards, and the site was restricted from the public. The exodus of young, patriotic dam workers who quit their construction jobs to enlist caused a labor shortage and high school students were hired part-time to work selected “non-hazardous” jobs to fill the gap. The progress of construction slowed through wartime.³⁸

2.1.2.4 Post-War Boom in Redding

Following the close to World War II, Redding successfully transitioned out of the pre-war depression into a post-war consumer economy. The demand for lumber had risen during the war, and the demand continued to increase after the war. Domestic lumber needs were rising exponentially, as hundreds of thousands of returning veterans wanted homes, furniture, and other wood products. Redding, already situated within established networks of transportation, both automobile and railroad, assumed a regional role in transporting lumber to markets farther south. Also during the immediate post-war years, the nationwide road building boom reached Shasta County where city streets were widened and repaved; Highway 99 was also widened; Highway 299 to the coast was paved, widened, and straightened; and new roads were paved to Shingletown and Burney, and other foothill communities. These improvements offered reliable, efficient, and comfortable access to all parts of the county. The Shasta Dam and Shasta Lake were also completed at the conclusion of World War II, and the Bureau of Reclamation continued to expand the water control and conveyance infrastructure in the region, building the Keswick Dam, other small dams, dikes, and canals, all providing employment for Redding men returning from service.³⁹ With the growing role and visibility of Redding during this post-war boom, central services were concentrated in the city, including a seat of the California Superior Court, and existing facilities, like the county courthouse, were improved or expanded.⁴⁰

Redding experienced another major construction boom in the 1960s that carried its economy through much of the decade. Constructed as part of the extensive Trinity River Project to further the efforts to convey water from the northern counties to the farmlands of the Central Valley, the Clair A. Hill Whiskeytown Dam was constructed and dedicated in 1963.⁴¹

The Whiskeytown Dam created a lake with a thirty-six-mile shoreline that significantly diversified forms of recreational activities available in the county, expanding the range of opportunities offered by Lake Shasta. The new lake drew visitors with an array of water activities such as boating, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, and fishing, among others, and hiking and picnicking on the lakeshore. The lake also became the host of the annual Whiskeytown Regatta, which continues to attract hundreds of participants with sailing crafts during Memorial Day weekend.⁴²

³⁸ *Images of America, Redding*, 110.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 110.

⁴⁰ “Court Starts in Old Quarters, Concludes in New,” *Record-Searchlight*, February 15, 1956.

⁴¹ “Echoes of the Past: The Rich History of Whiskeytown.”

⁴² “About Redding”; “Outdoor Activities,” Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, accessed August 2025, <https://nps.gov/whis/planyourvisit/outdooractivities.htm>.

As the recreational sites gained popularity, the people of Shasta County and the general public displayed immense support for placing Whiskeytown under federal jurisdiction and management, to be developed as a National Recreation Area. Subsequently, Congress passed, and President Lyndon B. Johnson signed, the legislation establishing the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area on September 28, 1963. In the following years, land was acquired for Whiskeytown and visitor infrastructure was further developed to accommodate the increasing recreationists.⁴³

With the rise in the region's popularity for outdoor recreation, in close proximity to the Shasta and Whiskeytown Lakes and with peripheral access to Mount Shasta, Lassen Peak, and the Trinity Alps, Redding developed into a tourist center.⁴⁴ Well-connected to both the railroad system and the network of highways, as well as the growing popularity in air travel and the deaccession of the Redding Municipal Airport from a military facility into a civilian one in the post-war era,⁴⁵ Redding welcomed the growing tourism economy through the second half of the twentieth century. As of 2024, Redding boasts a population of 93,502.⁴⁶

2.2 Architectural Style

The following section describes the architectural styles found at the project site and their character-defining features.

2.2.1 Streamline Moderne: 1935-1945

Elements of the Streamline Moderne style are visible in the 1939 County Jail.

The Streamline Moderne style aspired to appear “new” and to serve a visual expression of modernity, technology, progress, and the future. Like its modernistic counterpart, Art Deco, Streamline Moderne, also at times referred to as Art Moderne, utilized enough familiar visual references to resonate with the average American. Unlike its counterpart, however, it projected an image that was “smoother, softer, and more accessible than the stringent machine aesthetic.”⁴⁷

Streamline Moderne is considered to represent a later chapter of the Art Deco movement, modified and adapted to the sobering economic constraints of the Depression era. By the early 1930s, as the nation fell under the grips of austerity that characterized life during the Great Depression, the Art Deco style with its strong visual connotation of wealth and opulence, and its

⁴³ “Echoes of the Past: The Rich History of Whiskeytown.”

⁴⁴ “About Redding.”

⁴⁵ Coffman Associates, “Chapter One: Inventory” in *Draft Airport Master Plan for Redding Regional Airport, City of Redding, California*, Prepared for The City of Redding, April 2024, 1-9.

⁴⁶ “QuickFacts: Redding city, California,” U.S. Census Bureau, accessed August 2025, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/reddingcitycalifornia/DIS010223>.

⁴⁷ “L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980,” SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement, 2021, 65.

highly stylized aesthetic, had largely fallen out of favor. It was perceived as inappropriate for a society deep in economic duress.⁴⁸

Despite the imposed sense of austerity during the 1930s, a strong sense of desire among architects and designers to explore new modes of expression and celebration of the future persisted. Motivated by unprecedented rates of technological advancements at the “apex of America’s Machine Age,” designers began to transpose the modern machine into an “identifiable visual vocabulary.”⁴⁹ This vocabulary promoted a sleek, efficient, and aerodynamic aesthetic that alluded to speed and motion, and visually referenced the innovations in American industry. This aerodynamic aesthetic became known as “streamlining.”⁵⁰

Streamlining replaced the bold colors, sharp geometries, exotic motifs, and abundant ornamentation associated with Art Deco with smooth surfaces, curved corners, and horizontal emphasis that evoked the feeling that airstreams could move smoothly over them.⁵¹ Buildings in this new style were intended to be simple, pragmatic, and functional, and were conceptually rooted in three basic forms: the curve, the teardrop, and the uninterrupted horizontal line.⁵²

Identifying features of the style include:

- Smooth wall surface
- Flat roof, usually with ledge (coping) at the roofline
- Asymmetrical façade
- Speedlines at wall surfaces, such as horizontal grooves or moldings, lines, balustrades, and continuous sill courses
- Metal, often steel casement, windows
- Unadorned wall surfaces, minimal ornament
- Windows “punched” into walls, with no surrounds
- Rounded corners and curved surfaces, emulating a “windswept” appearance

2.2.2 PWA/WPA Moderne (1929-1948)

As described in the following section (Section 4.4), while the 1939 County Jail displays elements of the Streamline Moderne, its restrained application of key defining features of the style more closely aligns the building with the PWA/WPA Moderne style.

⁴⁸ “L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980.”

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 66.

⁵¹ Ibid.; Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses, The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America’s Domestic Architecture*, (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2013), 582.

⁵² “L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980,” 68.

While Streamline Moderne was not the best suited for civic and institutional buildings in its purest form, its distinguishing characteristics somewhat incongruent with the large, monumental edifices in which civic institutions needed to be housed, and its overt visual reference to the future not well aligned with government agencies' goals to reaffirm their authority and promote an image of stability, elements of the moderne were incorporated into the more visually conservative PWA/WPA Moderne style of the New Deal era in the United States. Also referred to as "Stripped Classicism" or "Classical Moderne," stylistically, the PWA/WPA Moderne architecture struck a middle ground between the formality of the Beaux Arts tradition and the contemporary aesthetic of the Art Deco and Moderne styles, resulting in an architectural idiom that was part familiar and part new. The aesthetic was grand and monumental, but also restrained, somber, and austere, and befitting of the national state of economic duress. These more restrained and austere versions of the Moderne style allowed architects to work within tighter constraints forced upon them by the economic downturn of the Great Depression.⁵³

The application of the PWA/WPA Moderne and types of stylistic elements appear to vary by region and scale. In Los Angeles, California, stately, monumental massing that imply pared down idioms of the Beaux Arts Classicism and Art Deco movement were common, with an emphasis on verticality commonly found in Art Deco styles; in eastern Colorado PWA/WPA buildings leaned more heavily on the streamlined side of the spectrum, with an emphasis on the horizontal.⁵⁴ This variation was likely rooted in the nature and setting of the construction projects, the larger, more monumental styles constructed in the major metropolitan areas such as Los Angeles.⁵⁵

In Redding, California, the identified buildings and structures from the New Deal era appear to represent a style more austere and stripped of the Beaux Arts Classical elements – more in alignment with those found in eastern Colorado. The Redding Post Office, Redding Firehouse (non-extant), and the Veterans Memorial Building display stripped down versions of Art Deco and Streamline Moderne. The Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge appears strictly utilitarian.⁵⁶ The three buildings appear austere and restrained in stylization, with only nods to the basic characteristics of the style. The PWA/WPA Moderne in Redding, then, appears to be characterized by the restrained and somber nature the building, pared down with only subtle references to the basic identifying features of either the Art Deco or Streamline Moderne styles.

As the U.S. entered the post-war economic boom, architects and designers were no longer forced within the strict financial constraints of the 1930s depression and the PWA/WPA Moderne style fell out of favor.

⁵³ "L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980," 79-80.

⁵⁴ Ibid., 89; "WPA-Moderne," History Colorado, accessed August 2025, <https://www.historycolorado.org/wpa-moderne>.

⁵⁵ The metropolitan cities of Colorado also likely included such monumental PWA/WPA Moderne buildings that leaned more heavily on the Beaux Arts and Art Deco side of the architectural idiom.

⁵⁶ "Redding Sites," Living New Deal, accessed August 2025, <https://livingnewdeal.org/us/ca/redding-ca/>.

Identifying features include:

- Flat roofs
- Smooth exterior surfaces
- Vertical or horizontal fenestration openings
- Linear building elements
- Grooved bands or rounded corners

2.2.3 International Style (1928-1966)

Both the 1956 Main Courthouse and the 1967 Courthouse Annex were built in the International Style.

The international style first developed prior to World War II to embody the stark, austere, and machine-like aesthetic associated with European Modernism. Though paralleling early Modernism in its aspiration to create a new, honest mode of architecture, free of historic imitation and superfluous ornament, the International Style buildings are defined by more clearly identifiable aesthetic. Buildings designed in this new style were “decidedly – and elegantly – plain.”⁵⁷ Perfectly rectilinear and free from any and all ornamentation, the style employed steel and reinforced concrete – new, modern materials, that bore no reference to past architectural trends. Buildings of this style utilized and celebrated new materials and technologies to their fullest.⁵⁸

The International Style encompasses two broad periods of history. Prior to World War II, the style was generally seen as a fringe movement and was sparsely seen in the United States, mostly limited to custom-designed single-family houses. In the post-war period, however, the style became more widely accepted by the American public and emerged as a preferred idiom for commercial, institutional, and civic buildings.⁵⁹ The second period of the International Style represents the maturation of style and underpins the Mid-Century Modern and Corporate International Styles of postwar Modernism.

The identifying features of postwar-era International Style include:

- Strong geometric forms
- Glazed and solid components (smooth and uniform wall surfaces)
- Windows with minimal exterior reveals
- Skeletal construction of steel or reinforced concrete

⁵⁷ “L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980,” 27.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 26.

- Flat roofs
- Cantilevered overhangs
- Strong right angles and simple cubic forms
- Linear accents
- Aluminum floor-to-ceiling glazing systems at the ground floor
- Atrium or courtyard entries
- Flow of indoor-outdoor spaces
- High quality materials in the ground floor
- Integrated planters
- Angled or deeply recessed vestibules
- Projecting vertical elements
- Horizontal bands of flush, metal-framed windows, or curtain walls
- Slightly projecting vertical mullions
- Lack of applied ornament⁶⁰

2.3 Architects

The following are brief biographies and overviews of architects and architectural firms accredited to designing the extant buildings on the project site.

2.3.1 E. Geoffrey Bangs (b. unknown – d.1977)

E. Geoffrey Bangs, the architect of the 1956 courthouse (main courthouse building), was a Bay Area architect and a graduate of University of California, Berkeley. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1914 in architecture and obtained his master's degree in the following year. During his career, spanning the early- to mid-twentieth century, Bangs designed many public buildings and large-scale public housing projects in Northern California. Consistent with his years of practice, Bangs' work reflected Neo-Classical and Early- to Mid-Century Modern styles, including the International Style. His projects included UC Berkeley's Lewis Hall, the Contra Costa Hall of Records (listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an exemplary example of Neo-

⁶⁰ "L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980," 154, 165.

Classical Revival architecture), and the courthouses for Shasta and Butte Counties, among others.⁶¹

2.3.2 Masten & Hurd

Lester W. Hurd (b.1894 – d.1967) and Charles F. Masten (b.1886 – d.1973), Sr., co-founded the San Francisco architectural firm, Masten & Hurd in 1919. The firm designed numerous public buildings including many on the U.C. Berkeley campus, the Foothill Junior College in Los Altos Hills, CA, Pacific Heights Elementary School of the San Francisco Unified School District, and Cabrillo College in Watsonville, CA, among others.⁶²

Masten and Hurd were also responsible for a number of New Deal-era buildings in Northern California, including the Agassiz Elementary School and Samuel Gompers Trade School in San Francisco, CA, two firehouses and the Veterans Memorial Building in Redding, CA.⁶³ The firm was designated the official PWA correspondent for the two firehouse construction projects in Redding.⁶⁴

Research has identified Masten & Hurd as the architects of the 1939 Shasta County Jail. They were also likely the official PWA correspondent for the project, as they were tasked to prepare and submit the preliminary plans to Washington together with an application for a PWA grant.

A general overview of the firm's projects suggests that they largely practiced in the European Revival and Early Modern styles.

2.3.3 Smart & Clabaugh

Smart & Clabaugh, AIA, of Redding, the architectural firm that designed the 1967 courthouse annex, was founded by Richard Kendall Smart (b. and d. unknown) and William Rush Clabaugh (b.1923 – d.2008), both graduates of the school of architecture at University of Oregon.⁶⁵ Little is known about the people behind Smart & Clabaugh. However, the firm itself was awarded a number of contracts for various unified school districts' buildings and other civic buildings in the 1950s and 1960s. Most of these projects were located in Northern California, including Redding. Both men were also active in the local American Institute of Architects (AIA) chapter.

⁶¹ "E Geoffrey Bangs Collection, 1950-1969 approximate," Online Archives of California, accessed August 2025, <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:%2F13030%2Ftf3b69n71t>; Contra Costa County History Center, "Contra Costa County Hall of Records National Register of Historic Places Registration Form," Department of the Interior, National Park Service, January 28, 1991.

⁶² "Lester W. Hurd (Architect)," Pacific Coast Architecture Database, accessed August 2025, <https://pcad.lib.washington.edu/person/347/>; "Masten and Hurd, Architects (Partnership)," Pacific Coast Architecture Database, accessed August 2025.

⁶³ "Masten and Hurd Sites," Living New Deal, accessed August 2025, <https://livingnewdeal.org/designers/masten-and-hurd/>.

⁶⁴ "Masten & Hurd are Designated Official PWA Correspondent," *The Searchlight*, July 26, 1938.

⁶⁵ *American Architects Directory*, (R.R. Bowker, LLC., 1962), 119, 649.

3 Site Development History

The following site development history provides an annotated chronology that summarizes the major events that directly shaped the old Shasta County Courthouse complex as it exists today, and a narrative site history of the subject property that expands on these events.

3.1 Chronology

- 1844:** Major Pierson B. Reading, receives a land grant from California Governor Manuel Micheltorena. The land grant encompassed six square leagues of land extending along the west bank of the Sacramento River from the mouth of Cottonwood Creek to Salt Creek. Reading names his land Rancho Buena Ventura and becomes the first non-Indigenous settler in the Shasta area.
- 1848:** Gold is discovered in the Shasta area.
- 1850:** Shasta is officially established as one of the original twenty-seven counties of California by the governor on February 18. Reading's Ranch is designated the county seat.
- 1850:** California becomes the thirty-first state of the United States on September 9.
- 1850:** The first Shasta County sheriff, or "law man," is elected in September.
- 1851:** The first Court of Sessions assembled for the first time at Reading's Ranch on February 10. During this session, the court adjourned to Shasta City for the remainder of the term, effectively moving the county seat to the latter from Reading's Ranch.
- 1854:** The first official Shasta County courthouse and jail building is constructed in Shasta City.
- 1861:** The second official Shasta County courthouse and jail building is established in a repurposed commercial building in Shasta City.
- 1872:** Benjamin B. Redding, the first land agent for Central Pacific Railroad, selects the site at the "turn of the river," at the time known as "Poverty Flats," for a railroad depot and town. The town of Redding is established.
- 1870s-1880s:** The gold mining industry in Shasta begins to dwindle. Shasta City residents begin to relocate to Redding.
- 1880s-1910s:** Copper and other metal mining industries flourish in the Shasta region.
- 1887:** Redding establishes itself as the "big town" in the Shasta region and is officially incorporated into the City of Redding.
- 1888:** On February 15, following years of dispute between the two cities, the state supreme court rules in favor of Redding and the county seat is moved from Shasta City to Redding on May 18.
- 1888:** County officials acquire a block of land from J.B. Haggin, local rancher and entrepreneur, for the construction of a new county courthouse and jail. Located to the west of the

railroad tracks, the selected area was covered with manzanita and chaparral bushes with a scattering of pine and oak trees, and the streets not yet laid out.

1889: Designed by architect A.A. Cook and contracted to James T. Long, the new courthouse is built. The courthouse is an impressive three-story brick building, cruciform in footprint, with a central domed bell tower. The building measured seventy-six by ninety-two feet. It was set just off center to the west of the block, facing east towards Court Street.

1889: Designed by W.H. Ledbetter, a two-story building was built behind (west) the courthouse to house the county jail and sheriff's office. The building was topped with a flat roof with a crenelated trim.

1889: The completed Shasta County's third official courthouse and jail were occupied on May 9.

c.1908: Chris Tharsing of the County Horticultural Commission is tasked to landscape the courthouse grounds. He likely planted palms, orange trees, and shrubbery.

1909: The Hall of Records, designed by M.W. Herron, was constructed immediately to the south of the courthouse. The new building was a two-story brick building, completely fireproof.

1920s: Redding and the Shasta County experience an economic downturn as a result of the major post-World War I depression across European countries and the plummet in orders for copper.

1920s-1930s: Highway 99, a north-south highway connecting all of California's major cities and Oregon, was established. This highway ran along the rail lines through Redding.

1930s: Crime rate in Redding and Shasta County increase.

Pre-1937: A low rock wall is constructed to delineate the lawn along Court Street.

1937: Shasta Dam Project is approved.

1938: Construction of the Shasta Dam begins on August 21.

1938-1939: A new county jail was designed by San Francisco architectural firm Masten & Hurd and constructed under the contract of C.H. Dodd. The building project was approved for a WPA grant that provided 45% of the total construction costs. The building was completed on October 3, 1939. The new jail and sheriff's office was a modern three-story concrete building located in the northwestern corner of the courthouse square.

1939-1940: The courthouse square grounds are professionally landscaped, including the area around the new jail. Two paths, one from the northeastern and another from the southeastern corner of the block, diagonally traverse the lawn and converge at the entrance of the courthouse. Trees and shrubs appear to be planted in a linear fashion.

1940s: The 1889 courthouse is severely overcrowded through World War II and the remainder of the decade.

- Post-1945:** Following World War II, the lumber industry in the Shasta region booms, successfully transitioning Redding and Shasta County out of the pre-war economic depression into a post-war consumer economy.
- 1946:** Preliminary plans for a new county courthouse addition are presented by architect E. Geoffrey Bangs and are approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- 1954:** Construction of the new county courthouse addition begins on September 1 with a groundbreaking ceremony.
- 1954:** The new courthouse addition site is excavated, and concerns are raised about the safety of the existing courthouse.
- 1956:** The new courthouse addition is completed on February 14. The completed structure is a three-story, steel-and-concrete building built in the International Style, fronting Court Street with a 100-foot setback from the street. Set directly in front (east) of the 1889 courthouse, it is connected to the latter by a covered corridor.
- 1956:** The completed facility became the third permanent seat of county government, as the Shasta County Superior Court.
- 1956-1957:** The courthouse square grounds are landscaped. Two of the tallest palms on site were removed despite local protest. Five dwarf palms, six other palms, three or four nut trees, and a sycamore tree were retained from previous landscaping efforts. Indirect lighting was installed to be concealed in the shrubbery and floodlights were installed to illuminate the building at night.
- 1962:** Redding architecture firm Smart & Clabaugh is hired to design a courthouse annex to replace the 1889 courthouse.
- 1963:** On February 21, the statue of Lady Justice atop the 1889 courthouse cupola is removed for installation at a brick monument overlooking the green courthouse facing Court Street.
- 1963:** Following the removal of the statue, the 1889 courthouse is demolished. The old county jail (1889) was also likely removed at this time.
- 1965:** Construction of the courthouse annex begins with a groundbreaking ceremony on November 15.
- 1967:** The courthouse annex is completed on March 29. The completed building is a three-story cast-concrete structure, connected to the 1956 courthouse (now the “main” courthouse) and the 1939 jail by covered corridors.
- 1984:** The 1939 county jail is determined to be grossly overcrowded. The building is vacated in August, and prisoners are transferred to the newly completed jail located one block south, on Placer and West Streets.
- 1993:** The Shasta County Courthouse is renovated by Nichols, Melburg & Rosetto, AIA, of Redding, to add courtrooms and holding cells, as well as two additional elevators, and

other interior updates. No major exterior alterations are made in the process. A secure parking area is established behind the main courthouse building.

1998: The 1909 Hall of Records building is demolished on February 16 despite local protests, on the basis of structural stability and public safety.

2024: The Shasta County Superior Court moves out of the historic courthouse square on Block 22 to its new facilities across Court Street.

2025 The statue of Lady Justice was removed from the brick monument in front of Shasta County Courthouse and placed in the new courthouse complex across the street.

3.2 Site History: History of the Shasta County Courthouse

3.2.1 Establishment of Law Enforcement in Shasta County

The need for a form of official, organized system of law enforcement in the Shasta region was recognized as soon as mining camps, or “tent cities” filled the hillsides. The quintessential “Wild West,” explorers, prospectors, miners, and settlers often found themselves in disputes with one another in the lawless settlements and towns across Shasta County, and took it upon themselves to “settle” disputes or administer punishments for crimes. Whether fighting for a prime mining location, drinking too much, or stealing, punishments were decided by the “citizens” and varied significantly in form.⁶⁶

While major criminal matters were handled through Fort Reading under the authority of Major Pierson B. Reading, “Vigilante Committees” organized across towns as the population grew and reports of murder, assault, robbery, and theft increased with it. These organizations mimicked court trials in which a judge was appointed and punishments were immediately administered, even resulting in hanging. As such unfair punishments, disproportionate to the crime, were increasingly recognized by citizens, the camps organized and successfully petitioned for Shasta to become an official county and authorize an election.⁶⁷

Following its official establishment as Shasta County in February 1850, the first “law man” was elected in September of the same year. However, a single person proved unable to handle all matters in the county. Townships began organizing in response, each running its own court with a judge or justice of peace, along with a constable. In effect, the towns across the vast county self-imposed a policing system to handle local matters. Those cases deemed beyond local police capacity were housed by the Shasta County Sheriff’s Office.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ “Shasta Sheriff’s Office History.”

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

3.2.2 First and Second Courthouses of Shasta County

Upon formal establishment of Shasta County in February 1850 by California's first legislature, the first county seat was fixed at Reading's Ranch, also known as Rancho Buena Ventura, in the adobe residence of Major Pierson B. Reading. The Legislature committed the management of county affairs to the Court of Sessions, comprising the county judge and two justices of peace. These officers, elected in September 1850 along with the first county sheriff, assembled for the first time at Reading's Ranch on February 10, 1851. During this session, the court adjourned to Shasta City for the remainder of the term "on account of a convenient room."⁶⁹ The county seat would remain in Shasta City for thirty-seven years.

While the first county government was carried on in rented buildings in 1851, Shasta County constructed its first official courthouse and jail in 1854. At a cost of \$5,280, Owens and Ward built the county a two-story log building on High Street, west of Litsch's store in Shasta City. The building measured twenty by twenty-eight feet in dimensions and included a courtroom on the first floor and an office and two iron-bound cells on the second.⁷⁰ An exterior staircase led to the cells and reportedly offered ease of access for outside assistance to free an inmate (see Figure 9).⁷¹

⁶⁹ Richard B. Eaton, "Shasta County's Four Court Houses" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 48.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ "Shasta Sheriff's Office History."



FIGURE 9. IMAGE OF THE FIRST OFFICIAL COURTHOUSE IN SHASTA COUNTY. NOTE THE EXTERIOR STAIRCASE THAT LEADS TO THE SECOND STORY CELLS. (“SHASTA SHERIFF’S OFFICE HISTORY,” COUNTY OF SHASTA CALIFORNIA, [HTTPS://WWW.SHASTACOUNTY.GOV/SHERIFF/PAGE/SHASTA-SHERIFFS-OFFICE-HISTORY](https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history).)

By 1861, just seven years after its construction, the log building had been outgrown as the population boomed with miners. The building was subsequently converted into a schoolhouse and, in its place, the county bought for \$25,000 in scrip a brick building, measuring sixty-five by seventy feet in dimension, on the west side 1500 block on Court Street in Shasta City.⁷² Originally constructed by James Loag in 1855 to house three stores, the building was repurposed as the second county courthouse and comprised five offices, a courtroom, and a

⁷² This brick courthouse building has been restored and is now the Courthouse Museum of the Shasta State Historical Monument. While Eaton’s “Shasta County’s Four Court Houses” states that this building was located on the west side of 1500 block on Court Street, it is possible that there was an error, as the extant courthouse building is located on the 1500 block on Court Street in Redding. There also may have been a Court Street in both Shasta City and Redding. The 1855 brick building is located at present-day 15312 Highway 299 West in Shasta City.

jail. In this new courthouse, the jail was located in the basement and presented greater challenges in escape (see Figure 10 and Figure 11).^{73 74}

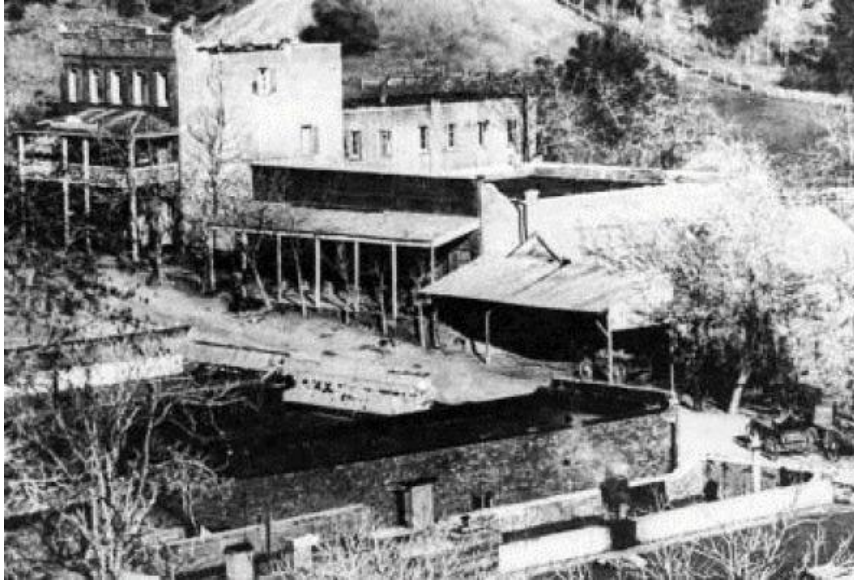


FIGURE 10 IMAGE OF SHASTA COUNTY'S SECOND COURTHOUSE. ("SHASTA SHERIFF'S OFFICE HISTORY," COUNTY OF SHASTA CALIFORNIA, [HTTPS://WWW.SHASTACOUNTY.GOV/SHERIFF/PAGE/SHASTA-SHERIFFS-OFFICE-HISTORY.](https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history))

⁷³ Ironically, one of the biggest escapes occurred in this jail when Shorty Hayes, a notorious highway man and stage robber, along with three other inmates, burned through the floorboards in their cell and managed to steal firearms from the sheriff's office and ambush the undersheriff. ("Shasta Sheriff's Office History.")

⁷⁴ Ibid.; Eaton, "Shasta County's Four Court Houses" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 48.

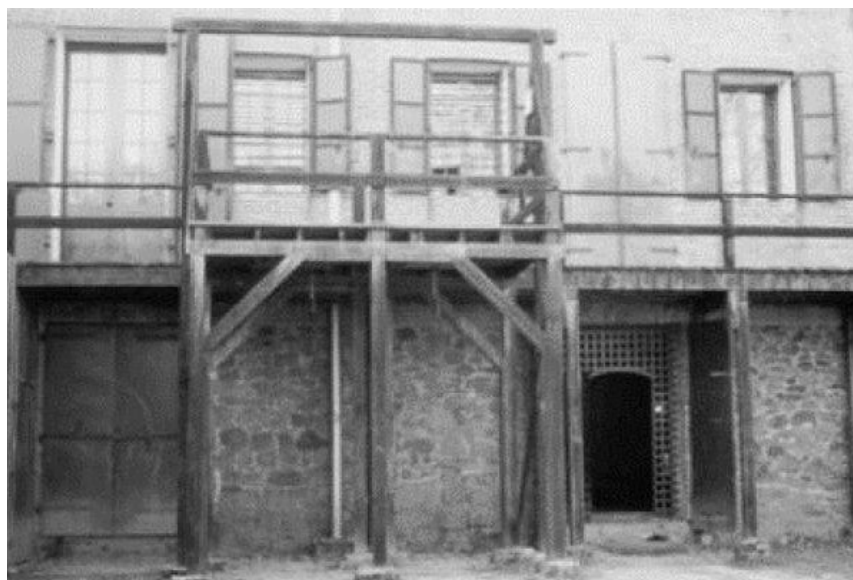


FIGURE 11 IMAGE OF SHASTA COUNTY’S SECOND COURTHOUSE, SHOWING ENTRANCE TO THE JAIL IN THE BASEMENT. (“SHASTA SHERIFF’S OFFICE HISTORY,” COUNTY OF SHASTA CALIFORNIA, [HTTPS://WWW.SHASTACOUNTY.GOV/SHERIFF/PAGE/SHASTA-SHERIFFS-OFFICE-HISTORY.](https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history))

3.2.3 County Seat Moves to Redding: Third Courthouse

With the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad connecting to Portland not through Shasta City but six miles east, the residents of the latter began to feel the effects of isolation from the quickly expanding region that relied heavily on the railroad system. Once the shopping center of the mining towns, this isolation from major transportation, coupled with the dwindling gold mining industry, caused a decline in both Shasta City’s population and economic viability. As discussed in Section 2.1.2, residents of Shasta City relocated to Redding in the 1870s and 1880s, deeming the new town to be the best option for future development.

As Redding grew and Shasta City declined, the location of a permanent county seat came into question. A bitter dispute erupted between those who claimed that the county seat should be moved to the developing town and those who argued that it should remain in the first city. A disputed ballot count in the special county election of 1882, another election in 1886, and a lawsuit followed, and in the state supreme court held on February 15, 1888, the court ruled in favor of Redding. County electors of Shasta County officially moved the county seat from Shasta City to Redding on May 18 of the same year.⁷⁵

While County Supervisors worked to establish formal, permanent locations, county offices were accommodated in rented quarters in the Hoff building on Yuba Street and the original Methodist

⁷⁵ Eaton, “Shasta County’s Four Court Houses” in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 49; *Images of America, Redding*, 10.

Church at Market and Placer Streets in Redding in the first months following the move . They subsequently acquired a block of land from J.B. Haggin, a local rancher and entrepreneur who had made a fortune in the Gold Rush, for the construction of a new county courthouse and jail. This decision was met with considerable criticism from Redding residents for its remote and inaccessible location: when, in the 1880s, most of Redding's business district was along California Street between Yuba and Butte Streets, east of the railroad, the proposed courthouse block, Block 22, was located to the west of the railroad tracks. During this time, the selected area was covered with manzanita and chaparral bushes with a scattering of pine and oak trees, and the streets were not yet laid out.⁷⁶

Despite public complaints and criticism, the county moved forward with the construction of a courthouse at the selected location. In July 1888, they published a call for detailed plans and specifications for a courthouse and jail to be erected on Block 22, "the jail to be constructed adjoining the courthouse and connected therewith."⁷⁷ Designed by architect A.A. Cook and contracted to Jame T. Long, by 1889, an brick building, three stories tall (or two stories tall with a basement and attic) and cruciform in footprint, was constructed. The building measured seventy-six by ninety-two feet and featured a bell tower at its center; its cupola topped with a statue of Lady Justice.⁷⁸ The Victorian-era building displayed elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style with its Romanesque (rounded) arches over windows, its compound gable roof form, and the presence of a tower. However, it lacked the asymmetry central to the style, instead boasting an absolute symmetry in its form and fenestration (see Figure 12).

⁷⁶ Eaton, "Shasta County's Four Court Houses" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 49; Albert F. Ross, "The Courthouse Fence," *The Covered Wagon*, Shasta Historical Society, 1955, 32.

⁷⁷ *American Architect and Building News*, Vol. XXIV, No.657, July 28, 1888, 43. (Also known as the *American Architect and Architecture*).

⁷⁸ "Board of Supervisors," *Free Press*, February 23, 1889; Eaton, "Shasta County's Four Court Houses" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 49; "Superior Court of California, County of Shasta, Courthouse #1, Redding, CA," Pacific Coast Architecture Database, accessed August 2025, <https://pcad.lib.washington.edu/building/16776/>.



FIGURE 12 IMAGE OF THE 1889 COURTHOUSE IN REDDING, CA. VIEW NORTHWEST. C.1889-1909.
("SHASTA SHERIFF'S OFFICE HISTORY," COUNTY OF SHASTA CALIFORNIA,
[HTTPS://WWW.SHASTACOUNTY.GOV/SHERIFF/PAGE/SHASTA-SHERIFFS-OFFICE-HISTORY.](https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history))

As required in the call for plans in 1888, a two-story jail (and sheriff's office) was also constructed on Block 22, to the rear of the courthouse along West Street. Designed by W.H. Ledbetter, the jail and sheriff's office building was topped with a flat roof with a crenelated trim.⁷⁹ Police wagons appear to have entered the premise from West Street where a sallyport provided direct access to the jail (see Figure 13). The jail building was built to directly connect to the courthouse by way of a walled yard and porch (see Figure 14).

The completed Shasta County's third official courthouse and jail were occupied May 9, 1889.⁸⁰ The streets and the city blocks surrounding the courthouse and jail were also likely laid out in conjunction with the construction of the two buildings. The 1890 map of Redding depicts the area west of the railroad as laid out in a grid of blocks and streets (see Figure 2).

⁷⁹ "Notice, To Contractors and Builders," *Free Press*, September 15, 1888; "Superior Court of California, County of Shasta, Courthouse #1, Redding, CA."

⁸⁰ Eaton, "Shasta County's Four Court Houses" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 49.



FIGURE 13 VIEW OF THE REAR OF THE 1889 COURTHOUSE SHOWING THE TWO-STORY JAIL AND THE SALLYPORT AND POLICE WAGONS IN THE FOREGROUND. VIEW NORTHEAST. C.1889-1909. ("SHASTA SHERIFF'S OFFICE HISTORY," COUNTY OF SHASTA CALIFORNIA, [HTTPS://WWW.SHASTACOUNTY.GOV/SHERIFF/PAGE/SHASTA-SHERIFFS-OFFICE-HISTORY.](https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history))

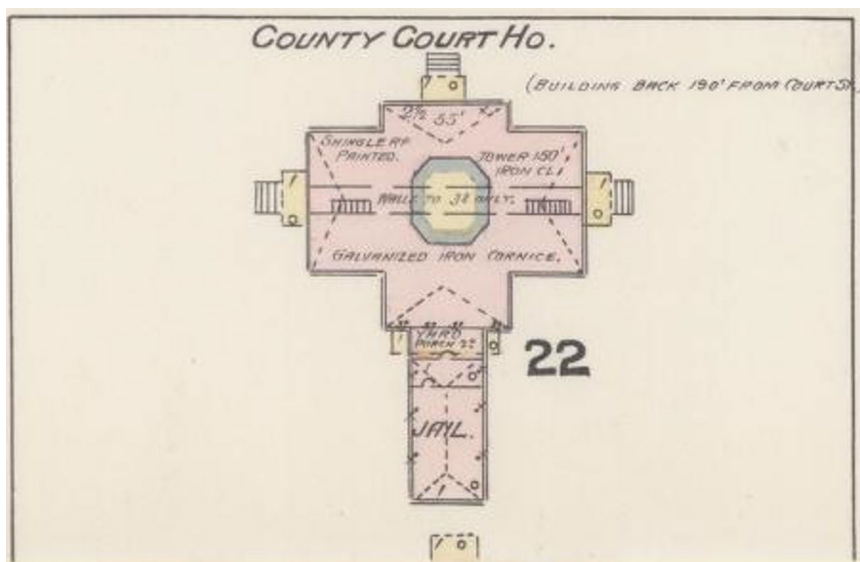


FIGURE 14 CLIPPED IMAGE OF THE 1889 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP SHOWING THE COURTHOUSE AND JAIL. NOTE THE JAIL IS DEPICTED AS CONNECTED TO THE COURTHOUSE. ("SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP FROM REDDING, SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA," SHEET 6, SANBORN MAP CO., 1889. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION, WASHINGTON, D.C.)

Almost as soon as the courthouse was constructed Block 22, the Grand Jury of Shasta County recognized the “absolute public necessity” of a Hall of Records.⁸¹ All records had been housed in the courthouse, leaving valuable, irreplaceable county records in a non-fireproof building easily accessible to the public. Further, as the county population more than doubled in the two decades since the construction of the courthouse, and continued to rise, assessed valuation in Redding more than trebled, and the volume of public business tremendously increased, the arrangement of housing records in the courthouse building was deemed grossly inadequate and unfit for public requirements. The Board of Supervisors and the Grand Jury determined that a new building, though it need not be expensive or heavily adorned, was necessary.⁸² On January 25, 1907, the Board of Supervisors advertised for plans and specifications for a Hall of Records building with the requirements that the new construction must be two stories high; contain six offices, with the Clerk’s Office and Chambers of the Board of Supervisors on the lower floor and the Recorder’s, Assessor’s, Auditor’s, and Tax Collector’s Offices on the upper floor; be completely fireproof, built of brick, stone, or concrete; and to include modern apparatus for heating and ventilation. The new construction would occupy the southwest corner of the “courthouse square.”⁸³

On March 29, 1909, the Hall of Records was completed and furnished. Designed by architect M.W. Herron, the only architect to enter the competitive contest for the Hall of Justice, and contracted to Robert Brothers, the new building was a substantial two-story brick building, and completely fireproof. No wood was used in its construction: window frames, sashes, and doors were of metal and floors of reinforced concrete and tiling. All interior furnishing were also of metal.⁸⁴

The Hall of Records was situated immediately south of the courthouse and oriented southward to face Yuba Street (see Figure 15). Architect Herron’s proposal for the building reportedly called for the adjacent buildings to be connected by a covered passageway; a concrete and steel framed corridor was constructed to connect the two buildings.⁸⁵

The 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the block also suggests that the 1889 jail facilities were expanded by this time. A separate “cells for insane” and “dark cell,” as well as two other wood structures appear in the map, as well as a fifteen-foot-high brick wall that encloses the jail yard (see Figure 16).

⁸¹ “Hall of Records,” *Record-Searchlight*, February 8, 1906.

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ “County Wants Plans for Hall of Records,” *Weekly Searchlight*, January 25, 1907.

⁸⁴ “The Supervisors Purchase Land Adjoining Hospital,” *Record-Searchlight*, March 29, 1909; “Hall of Records Stands Completed,” *The Searchlight*, March 16, 1909; “Notice,” *The Searchlight*, December 23, 1908.

⁸⁵ “Hall of Records Plans Submitted,” *Weekly Searchlight*, May 10, 1907.



FIGURE 15 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE 1889 COURTHOUSE AND THE 1909 HALL OF JUSTICE BUILDINGS, 1937. PHOTOGRAPHED BY JERVIE HENRY EASTMAN. (B-372, EASTMAN'S ORIGINAL COLLECTION, U.C. DAVIS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY.)

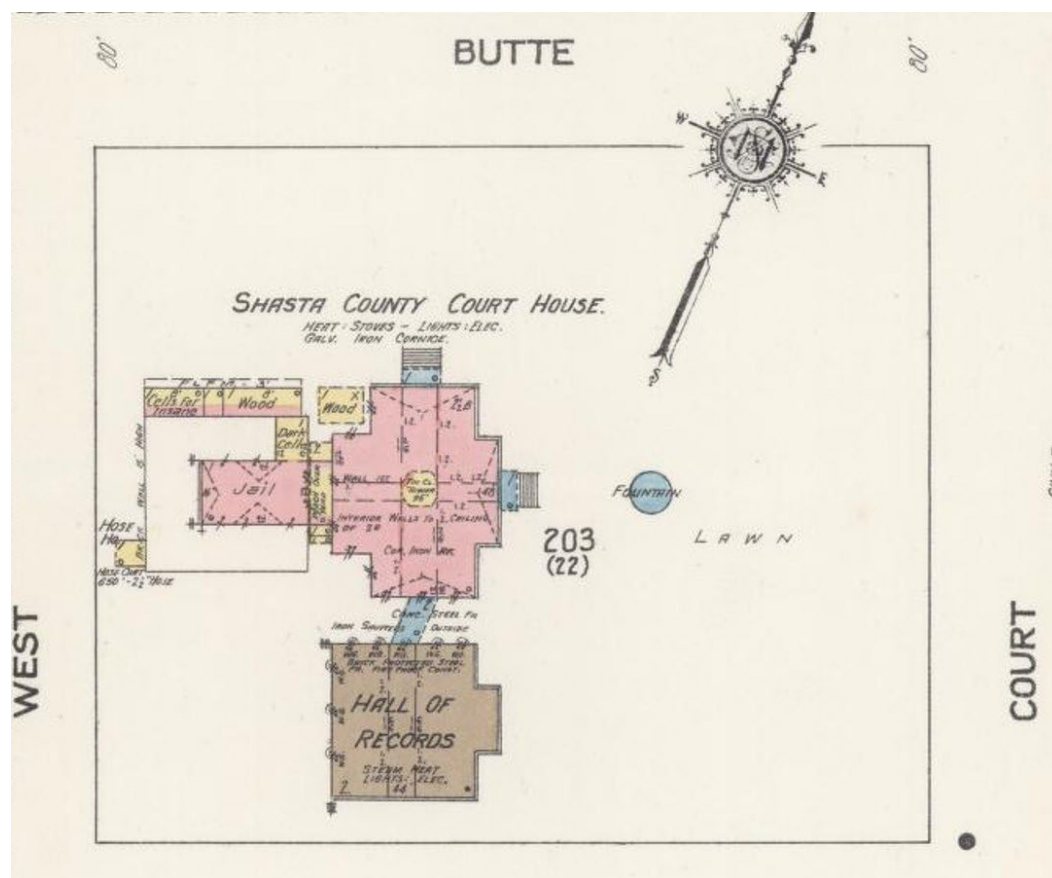


FIGURE 16 CLIPPED IMAGE OF THE 1912 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP SHOWING THE COURTHOUSE BLOCK. NOTE THE EXPANDED JAIL FACILITIES AND THE FOUNTAIN IN FRONT OF THE COURTHOUSE. ("SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP FROM REDDING, SHASTA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA," SHEET 10, SANBORN MAP CO., 1912. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS GEOGRAPHY AND MAP DIVISION, WASHINGTON, D.C.)

Though referred to as the “courthouse square” by contemporary newspapers, the immediate grounds around the county courthouse appear to have been minimally landscaped in the late-nineteenth century. A photograph of the courthouse prior to the construction of the Hall of Records in 1909 shows an absence of ornamental vegetation depicting only a grassy expanse through which a path traverses diagonally from the southeast corner of the block to the courthouse entrance (see Figure 17). The first evidence of purposeful landscaping around the courthouse dates to 1908 when, during the process of letting the contract for the construction of Hall of Justice, Chris Tharsing of the County Horticultural Commission, spoke at length to the Board of Supervisors on appropriate plants and their placement within the “courthouse yard” to “[beautify] with pretty palms, orange trees, and shrubbery.” He was then tasked to purchase “forestry material” to the amount of \$250 and appointed to superintend the “artistic arrangement”

of the shrubbery on the grounds.⁸⁶ The extent to which this task was completed is unclear. By 1912, a fountain was constructed in front of the main entrance to the courthouse (see Figure 16).



FIGURE 17 IMAGE OF THE 1889 COURTHOUSE, VIEW NORTHWEST. NOTICE THE NATURAL, NON-LANDSCAPED GROUNDS AROUND THE BUILDING. C.1889-1909. (FROM RICHARD B. EATON, "SHASTA COUNTY'S FOUR COURT HOUSES" IN *REDDING AND THE THREE SHASTAS*.)

3.2.4 New County Jail, 1939

By the 1930s, the 1889 jail was proving insufficient to match the rate of crime in Shasta County. Sheriff W.W. Sublett reported in 1938 that the average number of prisoners had doubled in just four years, likely associated with the economic depression of the decade and the red-light district and saloons on California Street following the ratification of the 21st Amendment that

⁸⁶ "Will Advertise for Bids for New Hall of Records," *Record-Searchlight*, March 7, 1908.

effectively ended the Prohibition.^{87 88} The need for a new county jail was becoming increasingly evident, especially as the county braced itself for impacts of the influx of thousands of persons into the county in association with the Shasta Dam Project that was scheduled to begin later that year. Following a tour of comparable county jails across the state, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors asked San Francisco architects Lester W. Hurd and Charles F. Masten, Sr. (of Masten & Hurd) to prepare preliminary plans for a new county jail to accommodate at least 100 prisoners, with the intention to submit said plans to Washington together with an application for a Public Works Administration grant of 45% of the funds needed for the new construction.^{89 90}

Construction of the new county jail began in September of 1938. Estimated at \$92,000, the contract was let to C.H. Dodd to erect the new three-story concrete building to the northwest of the courthouse. The building was completed and occupied by October 3, 1939, at the final cost of \$99,923.45. (See Figure 18, Figure 19, and Figure 20). The completed building was a pared-back variation of the Streamline Moderne or more appropriately a PWA/WPA Moderne style structure described as “modern in every detail” and the cellblocks in the jail constructed to be foolproof. The visiting room was glassed in on the cellblock side to prevent visitors from transferring contraband, specifically weapons, and the lower windows and the interior were screened with heavy materials to further prevent passage of anything to prisoners.⁹¹ Each cell measured four and one-half by eight feet with two bunks, a toilet, and a sink. The jail comprised four cellblocks, referred to as “tanks” by the sheriff’s office: Tanks Nos. 1 and 2 had two bunks per cell, and tanks Nos. 3 and 4 housed four people in each cell.⁹²

Sheriff Sublett and his police force also moved into the new jail building in October of 1939, vacating the 1889 jail (see Figure 21). In 1940, the latter, still vacant, was recommended to be

⁸⁷ The average number of prisoners also likely increased through the 1920s through the Prohibition era: the county was reportedly heavily impacted with the enactment of the 18th Amendment and the federal Volstead Act that banned alcohol. Shasta County created the “Dry Squad” which included Deputy Sheriffs Charles George and W.B. Scott as Prohibition Agents. They covered the entire county and confiscated alcohol and its makers and transporters until the act was repealed in 1933. (“Shasta Sheriff’s Office History,” County of Shasta California, accessed August 2025,

<https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history>.)

⁸⁸ “Travelin’ Time: One Cellblock Remains from Old County Jail,” *Record Searchlight*, April 23, 2010, accessed August 2025, <https://archive.redding.com/lifestyle/travelin-in-time-one-cellblock-remains-from-old-county-jail-ep-376922140-355290391.html/>.

⁸⁹ While the County debated between renovating and making additions to the existing county jail and building a new jail entirely, the conditions of the PWA grant may have influenced the decision to build anew. The grant stipulated that 45% of the entire cost may be received from the federal government for new construction while only 15% of the cost may be received for additions and improvements to an exiting building.

⁹⁰ “New Jail Studied by Supervisors,” *The Searchlight*, April 30, 1938; “\$100,000 Estimate on Cost of New Jail for County,” *The Searchlight*, May 7, 1938.

⁹¹ “Shovel Digs Own Way Off Truck,” *The Searchlight*, September 29, 1939; “Screens Placed on New Jail,” *The Searchlight*, August 11, 1939; “New County Jail Will Open Today,” *The Searchlight*, October 3, 1939; “New Veteran’s Memorial Hall, Modern County Jail Finished,” *Redding Record*, October 16, 1939.

⁹² “Travelin’ Time: One Cellblock Remains from Old County Jail.”

renovated for use as a juvenile detention home. As the county population increased, juvenile crimes also increased proportionately; however, State laws provided that no child under the age of fourteen could be incarcerated in any county jail and additional facilities were needed to resolve the dilemma.⁹³



FIGURE 18 VIEW OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL, LOOKING WEST. C.1939-1967. ("PUBLIC, SHASTA COUNTY JAIL," SHASTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CAT # 1978.58.51)

⁹³ "Number Four," *The Searchlight*, December 12, 1940.
It is unclear if the old county jail was actually repurposed for this use.



**FIGURE 19 VIEW OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL, LOOKING NORTHWEST. C.1939-1967.
("SHASTA COUNTY JAIL," SHASTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CAT # 1978.58.53)**



**FIGURE 20 VIEW OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL, LOOKING SOUTHWEST. C.1939-1967.
("SHASTA COUNTY JAIL," SHASTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CAT # 1978.58.52)**



FIGURE 21 PHOTOGRAPH OF SHASTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE STAFF IN FRONT OF THE NEW COUNTY JAIL, 1940s. ("SHASTA SHERIFF'S OFFICE HISTORY," COUNTY OF SHASTA CALIFORNIA, [HTTPS://WWW.SHASTACOUNTY.GOV/SHERIFF/PAGE/SHASTA-SHERIFFS-OFFICE-HISTORY.](https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history))

Concurrent with the construction of the new county jail were discussions of improving the overall landscape of the courthouse square. In early 1939, the Grand Jury recommended that an expert landscape designer be consulted to furnish a complete and comprehensive plan of landscaping the entire grounds around the courthouse, including the area around the new jail. They noted that plants and shrubs could be obtained from the high school grounds to aid this purpose as necessary.⁹⁴ The Board let an advertisement for an experienced gardener and tree surgeon to work in "architecture landscaping," whose duties would involve work in botany, chemistry, and even in planning and laying out landscape work.⁹⁵ In 1940, it was announced that the California State Relief Association (SRA) would assist with the landscape work on the courthouse grounds, a project that would be funded by the SRA.⁹⁶ ⁹⁷It is unknown whether a gardener was hired from the 1939 advertisement.

⁹⁴ "Grand Jury," *The Searchlight*, February 8, 1939.

⁹⁵ "Opportunities for Employer-Employee," *The Searchlight*, March 23, 1939.

⁹⁶ "SRA Project at County Courthouse Approved," *The Searchlight*, May 16, 1940.

⁹⁷ In 1941, a newspaper article reported that the "SRA project on a county-wide basis" was ruled down by the State. It is unclear if this refers to all SRA projects within Shasta County (including the landscaping project around the courthouse) or to a specific county-wide project. ("County Project Under SRA Ruled Down By State," *The Searchlight*, January 1, 1941.)

Historic photographs of the grounds from 1937 and 1939, however, show that efforts had been expended on landscaping the courthouse grounds since the late-nineteenth century. A 1937 photograph of the courthouse (see Figure 15) shows a number of young palm and other trees and shrubbery planted in the foreground. The bottom right corner of this photograph also shows the southern end point of a rock wall that delineates the lawn along Court Street. A bird's-eye photograph of the area from 1939 also depicts the courthouse, Hall of Records, and the new county jail on the western half of the courthouse square (Bloc 22), with its eastern half covered in lawn and planted with trees, lawn, and other vegetation. Two diagonal paths from the northeast and southeast corners traverse the lawn to converge in front of the courthouse entrance (see Figure 22). The plantings display a form of linear order. An undated photograph shows a clear view of the rock wall delineating the lawn along Court Street (see Figure 23).



FIGURE 22 A CROPPED IMAGE OF THE 1939 BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF REDDING, SHOWING COURTHOUSE SQUARE. NOTE THE DIAGONAL PATHS AND LINEARLY PLANTED VEGETATION IN THE EASTERN HALF OF THE BLOCK (FOREGROUND OF THE COURTHOUSE). (B-897, EASTMAN'S ORIGINAL COLLECTION, U.C. DAVIS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY.)



FIGURE 23 VIEW OF THE 1889 COURTHOUSE AND 1909 HALL OF RECORDS FROM COURT STREET, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST. NOTE THE ROCK WALL ALONG EDGE OF THE LAWN. C.1909-1954. ("SHASTA COUNTY COURT HOUSE," SHASTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CAT # 1986.021.1471.)

3.2.5 Redding's Fourth Courthouse

As with the Shasta County jail, the courthouse likely felt the strain of the Shasta Dam Project-related population increase on its facilities in the late 1930s. The issue of overcrowding in the courthouse persisted through World War II and was recognized as a point of concern in the 1940s, so much so that preliminary plans for a county courthouse addition were presented and approved in 1946.⁹⁸ The plans to construct the addition had seemingly stalled as the County began to budget for the project through the remainder of the decade. Further exacerbated by the development of the lumber industry that set in motion a wave of local progress and increased the population to exceed 40,000, the issue of the "courtroom squeeze" was raised once again in 1952.⁹⁹ Representatives of the Shasta County Bar Association urged the Board of Supervisors in November 1952 to start action towards solving the problem of overcrowding in the courthouse. They described the existing facilities, the 1889 courthouse, to be "terrifically inadequate and about as bad as you can find."¹⁰⁰ Existing judges' chambers, offices, and law

⁹⁸ "Plans for Two Buildings Set Okay of Board," *Record-Searchlight*, June 1, 1946.

⁹⁹ Eaton, "Shasta County's Four Court Houses" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 49; "Board Gets Nudge on New Courthouse," *Record-Searchlight*, November 4, 1952.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

library were deemed inadequate and inefficient; the representatives called for at least two courtrooms, one for each judge, and an additional courtroom for industrial accident hearings in the addition.¹⁰¹

In response to the renewed urgency for a new courthouse, E. Geoffrey Bangs, architect, “revamped” his 1946 plans for the courthouse addition to meet the specific requests and requirements. In his vision, the extant 1889 courthouse would not be destroyed but planned to be integrated with the new building by two tunnels connecting the two sites.¹⁰² The new courthouse would be situated within the lawn area on Block 22, immediately east of the existing facility (facing Court Street).

The revised plans for the courthouse addition was approved and budget was finally secured in 1954. Funding for the building was accumulated by a tax levy and not by sale bonds, part of a major building program with zero deficit financing and a significant feat for Shasta County and the City of Redding.¹⁰³ Bids for construction of the courthouse opened in July and the contract was awarded to Marion V. Allen. The groundbreaking took place promptly thereafter, on September 1, 1954 (see Figure 24).¹⁰⁴ The completed facility was planned to be the third permanent seat of county government, as the Shasta County Superior Court.¹⁰⁵

While optimism initially ran high in the speed of progress of the building project, a major point of concern became evident as excavation for the new building began. In December of the same year, structural damage was noticed in the 1889 courthouse building in the form of cracks in the walls (see Figure 25). These structural cracks were determined to have been caused by the excavation activities relating to the new courthouse “annex,”¹⁰⁶ taking place immediately in front of the existing building. Fears of the 1889 building toppling into the eighteen-foot-deep cut in the ground heightened as cracks widened in the following weeks, the city building inspector H.E. McIntire recommended that Allen, the general contractor, install additional shoring as a precautionary measure.¹⁰⁷ The additional shoring, or buttressing, appears to have sufficiently addressed the problem as the cracks remained unchanged even after a rolling earthquake later in the month and construction of the new courthouse addition moved forward.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰¹ “Board Gets Nudge on New Courthouse.”

¹⁰² “Architect, Board Discuss Courthouse,” *Record-Searchlight*, December 2, 1952.

¹⁰³ “Shasta County on Building Spree,” *Record-Searchlight*, June 1, 1957.

¹⁰⁴ “Board Approves Courthouse Plans,” *Record-Searchlight*, February 25, 1954; “Low Courthouse Bids \$738,000 Combined, Bangs Expects Early Start,” *Records-Searchlight*, July 27, 1954; “Courthouse Ground-Breaking,” *Record-Searchlight*, September 2, 1954; Eaton, “Shasta County’s Four Court Houses” in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, 49.

¹⁰⁵ “75 Hear Speeches, Watch Courthouse Ground Broken,” *Record-Searchlight*, September 2, 1954.

¹⁰⁶ The 1956 courthouse by E. Geoffrey Bangs, initially conceived as an addition to the old courthouse, is referred to as the “annex” in many newspaper articles of the period. This has caused some confusion in research as the 1956 “annex” assumes to role of the main courthouse and a new “annex” is built in 1967.

¹⁰⁷ “Cracks in Aged Courthouse Call for Big Bracing Job,” *Record-Searchlight*, December 2, 1954;

“Inspector Eyes Courthouse Cracks; Worker Moves,” *Record-Searchlight*, December 9, 1954.

¹⁰⁸ “Courthouse Undamaged in Earthquake,” *Record-Searchlight*, December 22, 1954.

The courthouse addition was completed and the Shasta County Superior Court moved to its new facilities on February 14, 1956, in a ceremony in which an assembly began in the old courthouse and concluded in the new.¹⁰⁹ The completed building was a three-story, steel-and-concrete building built in the International Style, fronting Court Street with a 100-foot setback. The cast-concrete structure was a sleek, modern building built under the motto “if we’re going to build one, let’s build a nice one,”¹¹⁰ and designed to permit ready expansion with changing county requirements. The new addition connected to the existing silver-domed courthouse by a twelve-foot covered corridor. The basement included space for service and storage rooms; the ground floor included the offices of the Auditor, Recorder, and Superintendent of Schools; the second floor housed the Assessor, County Clerk, and the Board of Supervisors; the third floor provided three superior court rooms, two with provisions for a jury and one without.¹¹¹ (See Figure 26 and Figure 27).

¹⁰⁹ “Court Starts in Old Quarters, Concludes in New.”

¹¹⁰ “Architect, Board Discuss Courthouse.”

¹¹¹ “Low Courthouse Bids \$738,000 Combined, Bangs Expects Early Start”; “Board Approves Courthouse Plans.”



FIGURE 24 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE NEW COURTHOUSE ADDITION. ("COURTHOUSE GROUND-BREAKING," *RECORD-SEARCHLIGHT*, FEBRUARY 25, 1954.)



FIGURE 25 PHOTOGRAPH OF ONE OF THE CONCERNING CRACKS IN THE OLD COURTHOUSE AMIDST NEW COURTHOUSE EXCAVATION. ("INSPECTOR EYES COURTHOUSE CRACKS; WORKER MOVES," *RECORD-SEARCHLIGHT*, DECEMBER 9, 1954.)



FIGURE 26 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE 1956 COURTHOUSE, VIEW WEST. C.1957-1960S. ("SHASTA COUNTY," SHASTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CAT # 1987.025.0017.)



FIGURE 27 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE 1956 COURTHOUSE, VIEW NORTHWEST. C.1957-1960S. ("SHASTA COUNTY COURTHOUSE," SHASTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CAT # 1980.002.0578.)

Following the completion of the new courthouse addition, the Board of Supervisors shifted their attention to the grounds around the new modern building. An “eyesore” ever since the construction project, Earnest D. Breuning, county public works director, expressed concern over the condition of the grounds urged the supervisors to provide for landscaping of site (see Figure 28). An advertisement was let for a landscaper and a grader to clear the disturbed grounds and plant a lawn and shrubs before winter.¹¹² The contract was let to gardener Robert Neal. Landscaping efforts began in 1956. In this effort, two of the tallest palm trees on site were slated for removal from the courthouse grounds. Despite strong resistance from the Wonderland Garden Club and the Redding Women’s Improvement Club, both of which emphasized the importance of palm trees in Redding as landmarks and points of great interest to tourists (Redding was considered the northernmost point in the state where palm trees were found), the trees were felled on February 19, 1957 (see Figure 30).¹¹³ Breuning explained that they “just had to remove [these] trees” as they were “hiding a beautiful building.”¹¹⁴ In consolation, five dwarf palms and six other palms, as well as three or four nut trees and a sycamore tree were saved. The landscaping project also included the installation of indirect lighting concealed in the shrubbery and floodlights to illuminate the building at night. The grounds improvements were completed in early June 1957.¹¹⁵ A 1957 aerial photograph of the courthouse block shows a wide plaza extending the width of the façade (east) of the 1956 courthouse building where a diagonal path from the northeast and southeast corners of the block converge to grant access to the building (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

¹¹² “New Courthouse Grounds to Get Lawn, Shrubby,” *Record-Searchlight*, September 6, 1956.

¹¹³ “Letters to the Editor: Park vs. Parking Lot; Would Keep Palms, Park,” *Record-Searchlight*, October 16, 1956; “Landscapers Topple Tallest Palms on Courthouse Grounds,” *Record-Searchlight*, February 20, 1957.

¹¹⁴ “Landscapers Topple Tallest Palms on Courthouse Grounds.”

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*; “Shasta County on Building Spree.”



FIGURE 28 CROPPED IMAGE OF A 1955 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE NEW COURTHOUSE BUILDING MID-CONSTRUCTION. NOTE THE STATE OF THE DISTURBED GROUNDS. NORTH IS UP. (FLIGHT ID WAC-REDDING, FRAME 2-3, MAY 22, 1955. U.C. SANTA BARBARA FRAMEFINDER.)



FIGURE 29 CROPPED IMAGE OF A 1955 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH ANNOTATING THE DIFFERENT BUILDINGS ON THE BLOCK. THE 1956 COURTHOUSE IS SHOWN IN RED (1); THE 1939 COUNTY JAIL IN CYAN BLUE (2); THE 1889 COURTHOUSE AND JAIL IN GREEN (3); AND THE 1919 HALL OF RECORDS IN MAGENTA (4).



FIGURE 30 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE FELLING OF TWO OF THE TALLEST PALM TREES WITHIN THE COURTHOUSE GROUNDS. ("LANDSCAPERS TOPPLE TALLEST PALMS ON COURTHOUSE GROUNDS," *RECORD-SEARCHLIGHT*, FEBRUARY 20, 1957.)



FIGURE 31 CROPPED IMAGE OF A 1957 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE COURTHOUSE GROUNDS MID-LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS. (FLIGHT ID CAS-1957, FRAME REDDING, JANUARY 1, 1957. U.C. SANTA BARBARA, FRAMEFINDER.)

3.2.6 Fourth Courthouse Expands, Annex

Amidst the continual growth in population in Redding and Shasta County during the post-war years, plans were made for a “supplemental” addition to the new courthouse almost immediately after the 1956 courthouse addition was completed. County officials determined that, at the rate of growth of the County, the extant 1889 courthouse building, at the time housing the District Attorney’s office, the Probation Office, the Treasurer’s Office, the County Coroner, the Welfare Investigator, the court reporters, and a part of the appraisal staff of the Assessor’s Office, would

only be sufficient for another five years. Funds to tear down and replace this building were planned since as early as 1957, just one year after the completion of the courthouse addition.¹¹⁶

The Redding architectural firm Smart & Clabaugh was hired to design a \$550,000 courthouse annex in 1962 with the County-provided specification of 25,000 square feet or more, about twice the space of offices in the 1889 building and the sheriff's quarters.¹¹⁷ A newspaper article from the same year suggests that the Board of Supervisors considered incorporating a nuclear fallout-proof sub-basement in the new annex, potentially for the additional federal funding (50% of the costs) for construction of that type.¹¹⁸ The lack of follow-up coverage on the topic suggests that this consideration was ultimately dismissed.

On February 21, 1963, the statue of Lady Justice atop the 1889 courthouse cupola was removed by the Redding Air Service helicopter, to be installed at a brick monument overlooking the courthouse lawn facing Court Street (see Figure 32).¹¹⁹ In the subsequent weeks, the old courthouse was demolished, clearing the site to prepare for the new annex building (see Figure 33). The groundbreaking ceremony for the new courthouse annex was held on November 15, 1965 and was completed and dedicated on March 29, 1967.¹²⁰ The completed three-story cast-concrete building was constructed in the International Style and stood behind (west) of the 1956 courthouse addition, now the "main" courthouse, and south of the 1939 county jail. It connected to both buildings via covered corridors. As originally planned, the new annex housed the offices for the Coroner-Public Administrator, District Attorney, County Counsel, the Sheriff's Department, probation officers, Treasurer-Tax Collector, and court reporters. The new building also housed the emergency operation center and the Redding Justice Court. (See Figure 34, Figure 35, and Figure 36).

Aerial photographs from 1963 and 1972 confirm that the old county jail (1889) building was also removed during the demolition of the 1889 courthouse. The images, however, show that the 1909 Hall of Records building remained extant. At an unspecified time, the building was repurposed into the Department of Social Welfare. (See Figure 37 and Figure 38).

¹¹⁶ "New Courthouse Addition Planned," *Record-Searchlight*, March 29, 1957.

It is unclear if the 1956 construction was intended to be the beginning of a process to phase out the late-nineteenth century facilities or if during the period of construction, the old building was deemed too old and structurally unstable.

¹¹⁷ "Courthouse Annex Plan Called For," *Record-Searchlight*, March 27, 1962.

¹¹⁸ "Shasta County May Build Fallout Shelter," *Record-Searchlight*, November 20, 1962.

¹¹⁹ "Copter Removes Justice Statue," *Record-Searchlight*, February 21, 1963.

¹²⁰ "Ground-Breaking Rites Set for County Courthouse Annex," *Record-Searchlight*, November 11, 1965; "Old to the New," *Record-Searchlight*, March 28, 1967.

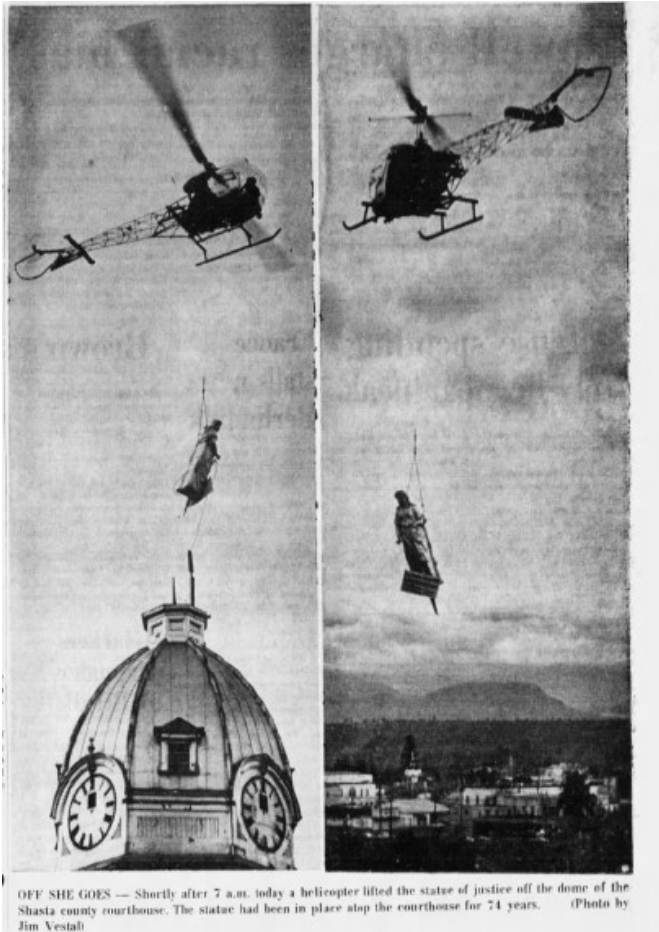


FIGURE 32 PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE STATUE OF LADY JUSTICE BEING REMOVED FROM THE 1889 CUPOLA IN 1963. (“COPTER REMOVES JUSTICE STATUE,” *RECORD-SEARCHLIGHT*, FEBRUARY 21, 1963.)



FIGURE 33 IMAGE OF THE CUPOLA GETTING PULLED DOWN IN THE DEMOLITION OF THE 1889 COURTHOUSE IN 1963. ("TOWER TUMBLES," *THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER*, MARCH 6, 1963.)

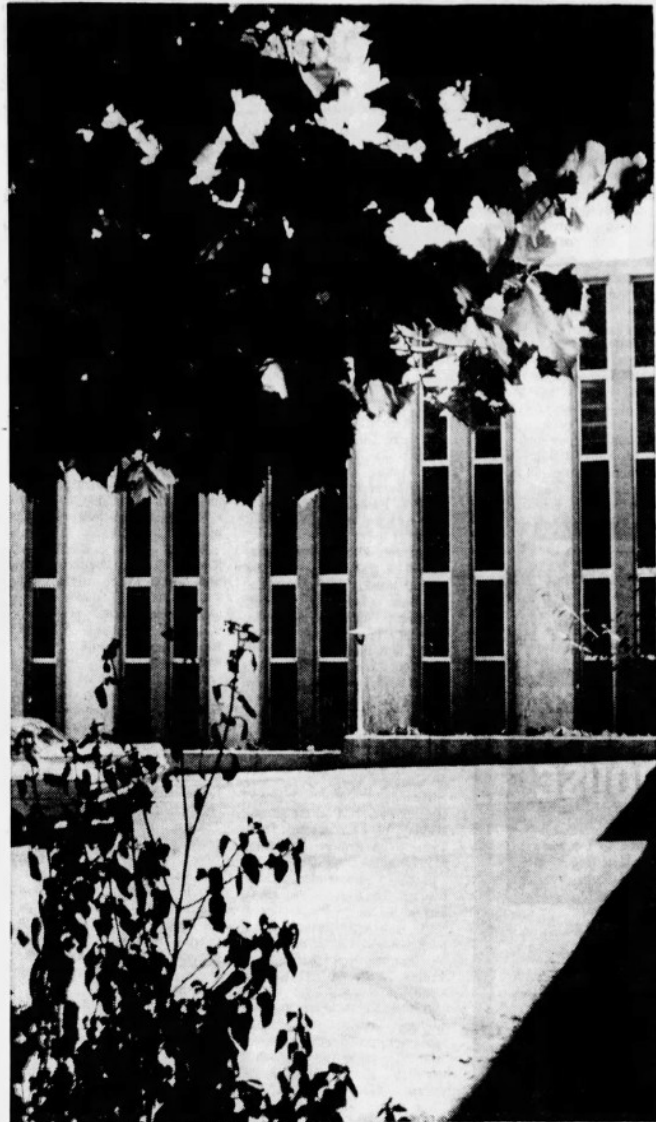


FIGURE 34 IMAGE OF THE NEW COURTHOUSE ANNEX CA. 1967. (“NEW ANNEX,” *RECORD SEARCHLIGHT*, AUGUST 25, 1967.)

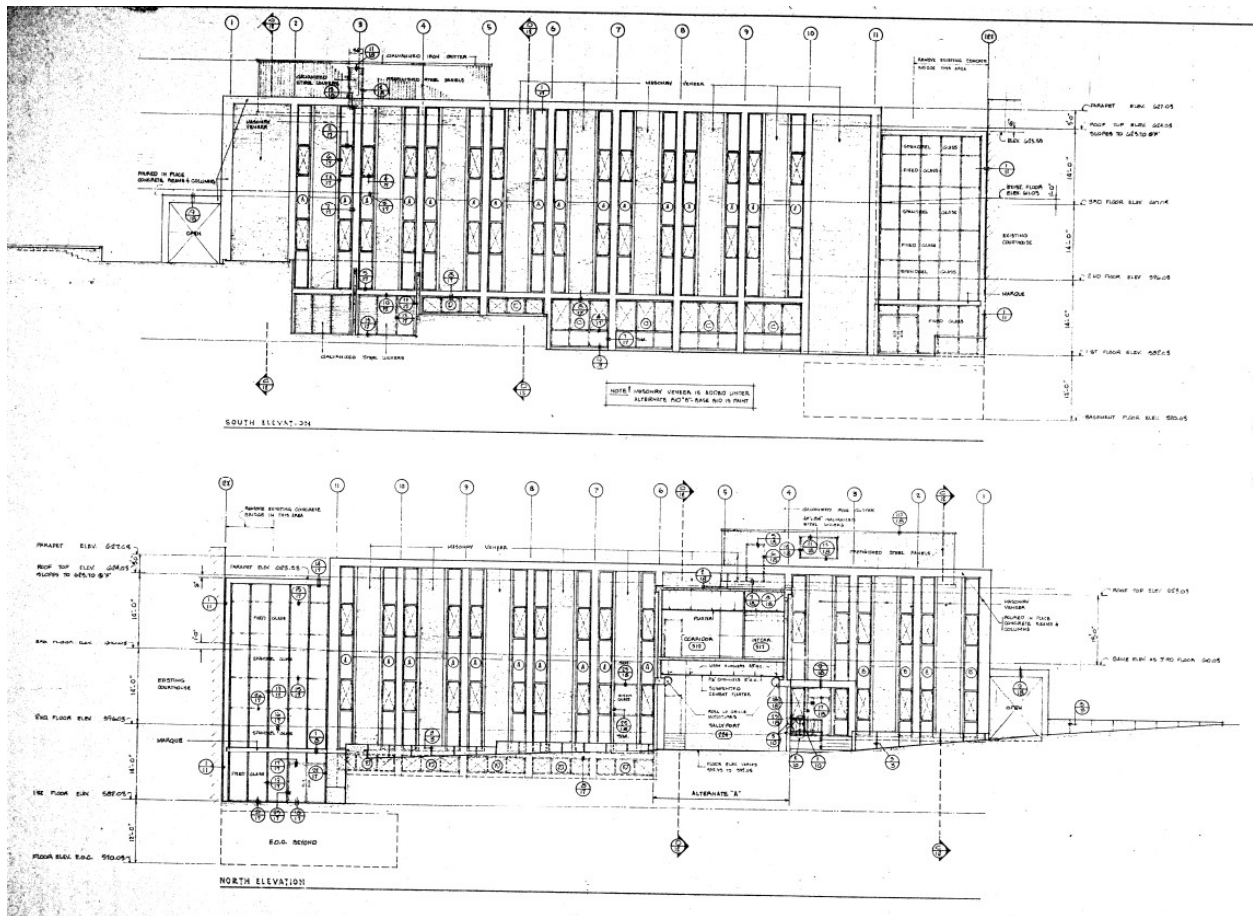


FIGURE 35 NORTH (BELOW) AND SOUTH (ABOVE) ELEVATION PLANS OF THE 1967 COURTHOUSE ANNEX. ("SHASTA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX," SHEET 10, SMART & CLABAUGH, 1965.)

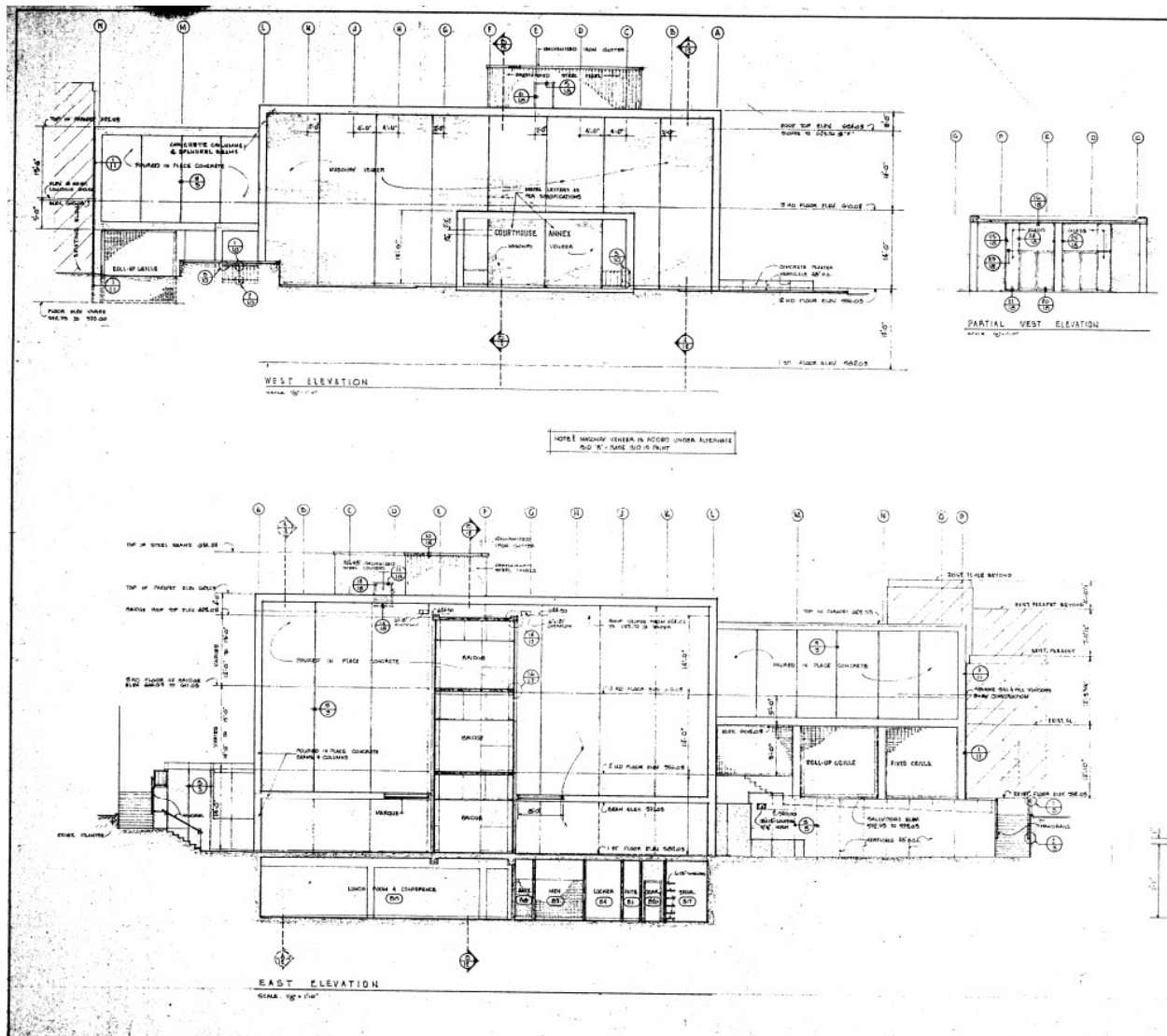


FIGURE 36 EAST (BELOW) AND WEST (ABOVE) ELEVATION PLANS OF THE 1967 COURTHOUSE ANNEX. ("SHASTA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX," SHEET 11, SMART & CLABAUGH, 1965.)



FIGURE 37 CROPPED IMAGE OF A 1963 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING COURTHOUSE SQUARE FOLLOWING THE DEMOLITION OF THE 1889 COURTHOUSE AND JAIL. THE SMALL STRUCTURE IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE BLOCK WAS LIKELY A CONSTRUCTION STAGING BUILDING. (FLIGHT ID CH2M-1963-CAH, FRAME 10-14, JULY 9, 1963, U.C. SANTA BARBARA, FRAMEFINDER.)



FIGURE 38 CROPPED IMAGE OF A 1972 AERIAL SHOWING THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX. NOTE THE 1909 HALL OF RECORDS BUILDING AND PARKING LOT TO THE SOUTH OF THE ANNEX. (FLIGHT ID CH2M-1972-CAN8-RDD, FRAME 3-8, JUNE 15, 1972, U.C. SANTA BARBARA, FRAMEFINDER.)



FIGURE 39 CROPPED IMAGE OF A 1972 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH ANNOTATING THE DIFFERENT BUILDINGS ON THE BLOCK. THE 1956 COURTHOUSE IS SHOWN IN RED (1); THE 1939 COUNTY JAIL IN CYAN BLUE (2); THE 1967 COURTHOUSE ANNEX IN YELLOW (3); AND THE 1919 HALL OF RECORDS IN MAGENTA (4).

Upon completion of the courthouse annex in 1967, the governmental activities resumed in its new facilities until the 1980s. In 1984, the 1939 county jail was identified as grossly overcrowded, its population running as high as 178 with an average of 140, while the facility's state-certified capacity was set to fifty-nine. While a \$20 million jail with a capacity of 240 was already underway, until its completion, the Shasta County jail was considered "possibly the most severely overcrowded jail in the United States west of the Mississippi River."¹²¹ The new jail was

¹²¹ "Jails," *Record-Searchlight*, May 1, 1984.

completed and opened in August. All detainees were transferred to the new facility and the 1939 building was left vacant.¹²²

Population growth and overcrowding, likely relating to the recreational industry, continued to exacerbate all areas of civic spaces into the 1990s, including the courthouse facilities. In 1993, the county listed a request for bids on the Shasta County Courthouse Remodeling Project to approximately 40,000 square feet of space within the existing courthouse, courthouse annex, and the old jail to accommodate courtrooms, secure court holding, court clerks, library, court reporters, relocation of Sheriff's I.D. Lab, secure parking area, handicap access, building security, and other code and engineering updates as necessary.¹²³ In the following year, realizing that they had underestimated the cost of the renovation plan by nearly \$1 million, they scaled down the project and solicited new bids from contractors. The project was awarded to Nichols, Melburg & Rosetto, AIA, of Redding. The renovation added courtrooms and holding cells, as well as two additional elevators; the project also included new carpeting, new furniture, and fresh paint, among other improvements. Walk-through metal detectors were installed in the first-floor lobby of the main courthouse, which became the only public entry to the building.¹²⁴

The last major physical change to the courthouse square was made in 1998 when the 1909 Hall of Records building was demolished on February 16. Despite an effort by Redding businesswoman Morgan Kennedy to save the building, on the grounds of its architectural beauty and its importance to Redding's history, the Board of Supervisors moved forward with the demolition deeming it structurally unsafe and too costly to fix.¹²⁵

In 2010, recognizing the deficiencies in capacity and building safety of the Shasta County Courthouse, the County began the process to locate and construct a new facility. Finally, in February 2024, the Shasta County Superior Court moved out of its complex on the historic courthouse square across the street to its newly completed six-story courthouse at 1515 Court Street.¹²⁶

¹²² "Travelin' Time: One Cellblock Remains from Old County Jail."

¹²³ "County of Shasta State of California Notice to Bidders for Shasta County Courthouse Remodeling Project," *Record-Searchlight*, May 14, 1993.

¹²⁴ "Courthouse is Getting a New Look," *Record-Searchlight*, August 4, 1994.

¹²⁵ "Broken Records," *Record-Searchlight*, February 17, 1998.

¹²⁶ "New Redding Courthouse," California Courts, Judicial Branch of California, accessed August 2025, <https://courts.ca.gov/facilities/shasta-county-new-redding-courthouse>; "Press Release: Shasta County Votes to Demolish Old Courthouse and Explore Future Development Options," Shasta County Administrative Office, March 19, 2025.

4 Site Description

The following provides a description of the existing conditions of the project site.

4.1 Setting

The Old Shasta County Courthouse is located on the 1500 block of Court Street, in Downtown Redding, on the west side of the railroad tracks that run in a north-south alignment. The site comprises three buildings connected by covered corridors, set back from Court Street by 100 feet.

The three distinct massings, each independently built in its own construction project, interconnected into a single contiguous footprint, include the main courthouse (1956), the courthouse annex (1967), and the old county jail (1939).

The building complex is fronted by an aggregate concrete-paved plaza and overlooks a lawn towards Court Street. The gentle slope of the city block perches the building on higher ground than Court Street, contributing to its stately presence as a civic building. The 100-foot setback is carpeted by a grassy lawn along the entire north-south length of the block. A low, three-course volcanic rock retaining wall with a cap delineates the eastern edge of the landscaped grounds of the courthouse along Court Street. Paralleling this rock wall is a low brick retaining wall that, together with the lower rock wall, create a narrow planting bed that extends the entire north-south expanse of the main courthouse building. This planter is planted with shrubbery. From this planting bed, the lawn extends to the plaza, the outline of which is also delineated with a low brick wall and planted with shrubbery. Pedestrian paths extend from the northeast and southeast corners of the block, diagonally traversing the lawn to converge at the plaza. A north-south walkway leads directly to the plaza from the mid-block on Butte and Yuba Streets. From the plaza, three concrete steps and two ramps provide access to a brick paved landing in front of the main entrance.

Six palm trees dot the foreground of the courthouse, two directly framing a brick monument where the statue of Lady Justice and the bell from the 1889 bell tower were installed in 1967 (see Figure 49). The brick monument is extant; the statue and bell have been moved across the street to the new courthouse complex. A stone memorial dedicated by the Shasta Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association is located at the north end of the plaza; a number of memorial plaques are found in the planting area to the south of the plaza. Additional trees stand to the north and south of the courthouse.

The courthouse complex includes a parking lot in the southwestern corner of the block and a secured parking lot between the main courthouse building and the old county jail.

The surrounding blocks feature civic institutions to the north, east, and south, and residential neighborhoods to the west.

4.2 Main Courthouse (1956)

4.2.1 Exterior

The main courthouse, built in 1956 by architect E. Geoffrey Bangs, is the primary mass of the project site. Situated eastward to face Court Street, the main courthouse is a three-story International Style building with a rectangular plan flanked by covered stairwells on its north and south ends. The steel-frame cast-concrete construction measures 166 feet wide and sixty-four feet deep and is topped with a flat roof. The building sits on a concrete foundation and has a setback of approximately 100 feet from the street (see Figure 40).

The façade (primary elevation, east) comprises a central recessed entrance characterized by a floor-to-ceiling aluminum glazing system that includes three sets of evenly spaced double doors, each with their own sidelights and transoms. Two columns of rough aggregate concrete, smoothed and tinted a reddish hue, support the overhang of the recess (see Figure 41). Four sets of double-hung aluminum windows span the ground floor elevation to the north and south of the entrance. With a total of eight, these double-hung windows each comprise two aluminum sashes, each sash window divided into two lights by a horizontal aluminum muntin (see Figure 42). A slight projection spans the entire elevation (sans elevator wells) on the second and third floors and displays an unbroken ribbon of blue-green tinted glazing on each floor. Each ribbon comprises a series of thirty-one double-hung aluminum windows identical in style to those found on the ground floor. Above the third story ribbon windows, on the projection, is inscribed “Shasta County Court House” in 15.5-inch letters.

The north and south elevations of the main courthouse are largely identical and comprise the main rectangular mass of the building and the covered stairwells that project outward from the former. The main mass portion of these elevations are devoid of fenestration or any other distinctive architectural elements. On the elevations of the stairwell projections, double-hung aluminum windows are located at all three floors at their eastern bays; a metal door with a single light (also known as a “gun slot window”) on the ground floor that connects directly to a floor-to-ceiling aluminum glazing system of fixed-pane windows on the second and third floors create an illusion of a vertical class strip at its western bay of the elevation. The door and glazing system are framed by slight vertical projections (see Figure 43 and Figure 44).

The rear of the main courthouse is interrupted by a covered three-story connecting corridor (see section 4.1.3) that joins the 1956 structure to the 1967 annex. Three awning windows span each floor on the rear (west) elevation to the south of the connecting corridor; another four span each floor on the same elevation to the north (see Figure 45 and Figure 46). The windows on the first and third levels, on both the north and south sides of the corridor, are identical. These are aluminum sash windows, painted white, with the central panel that opens in an awning motion, with fixed top and bottom panels. The central panel is divided into four lights; the top and bottom panes are divided into two by a vertical muntin. The fenestration style has an initial appearance of an eight-light window. The windows on the second level appear to have been replaced, characterized by the vinyl sash around the panes. Like those on the first and third floors, these windows have an overall appearance of an eight-light window (two lights wide and four lights

tall). The central four lights also likely operate as an awning window (see Figure 47 and Figure 48).

The primary façade and the covered stairwells on the north and south ends of the main courthouse are clad in squares of Indiana limestone in two colors: the second and third floor projection is clad in a shade of buff; the remainder of the elevations are clad in a shade of gray. The distinction between the two colors is subtle from decades of weathering. The remainder of the building is clad in white stucco, this difference in cladding likely influenced by the building's proximity to the non-extant 1889 courthouse, immediately in front of which the 1956 building was built, and public visibility of these areas upon initial construction.

All windows on the main courthouse mass display minimal exterior reveals. They are without ornament and appear to be "punched in" the walls.



FIGURE 40 VIEW OF THE 1956 MAIN COURTHOUSE WITH THE LANDSCAPED GROUNDS IN THE FOREGROUND. LOOKING WEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 41 CLOSER VIEW OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE MAIN COURTHOUSE. LOOKING WEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 42 VIEW OF THE GROUND LEVEL WINDOWS AND THE AGGREGATE CONCRETE PLAZA IN THE FOREGROUND. LOOKING NORTHWEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 43 VIEW OF THE METAL DOOR AND GLAZING SYSTEM ON THE SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 44 VIEW OF THE NORTH ELEVATION OF THE COVERED STAIRWELL, LOOKING SOUTH. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 45 VIEW OF THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE MAIN COURTHOUSE, SOUTH OF THE CONNECTING CORRIDOR, LOOKING EAST-NORTHEAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 46 VIEW OF THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE MAIN COURTHOUSE, NORTH OF THE CONNECTING CORRIDOR, LOOKING EAST-SOUTHEAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 47 CLOSE-UP VIEW OF THE ALUMINUM WINDOW FOUND ON THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE MAIN COURTHOUSE. LOOKING EAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 48 CLOSE-UP VIEW OF THE VINYL WINDOW FOUND ON THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE MAIN COURTHOUSE, LOOKING EAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 49 VIEW OF THE GRASSY LAWN, BRICK MONUMENT, AND PALMS IN THE FOREGROUND OF THE MAIN COURTHOUSE, LOOKING WEST. (MIG 2025)

4.2.2 Interior

The 1956 main courthouse has three stories and a basement. All levels have a largely consistent layout, characterized by a central north-south double-loaded corridor that bisects the building mass lengthwise. Along the corridor are spaces for various courthouse functions. Larger spaces, such as courtrooms, are located in the front (east) half of the building; an elevator lobby is centered in the rear (west) half of the building. The corridor on all levels is lined with either linoleum or vinyl composition tiles over concrete floors. The basement corridor walls are simple painted drywalls or plaster walls and show little ornament (see Figure 50). The three above-ground levels display marble slabs installed along the lower half of the painted walls. The first level walls show beige-toned marble, the second and third levels display a red tone. Original from the 1956 construction, the beige marble is an Italian marble and the red marble is the Red Rosement marble from Tennessee (see Figure 51 and Figure 52). All doors to offices and courtrooms are wood doors with a single light and all rooms off the main corridor are carpeted. The ceilings feature auditorium ceiling tiles with embedded fluorescent light panels. Prior to vacancy, the basement housed a cafeteria, a kitchen, the law library (see Figure 53), and various mechanical and storage spaces (see Figure 54).

The first floor shows the most variation in floor plan to accommodate the formal lobby. Entering through the three sets of aluminum-framed glass double doors, the formal lobby comprises an initial commemorative and orientation space where bronze plaques dedicating the building history and a directory board flank a cased opening to the security screening and reception area

(see Figure 55, Figure 56, and Figure 57). The central corridor is accessible once passing through the security and reception area. Immediately across the hallway from the reception area is the elevator lobby. This formal entry and lobby area display distinctly finer quality finishes than the rest of the building, the walls clad in sheets of white marble and limestone. The floors also show terrazzo tiles. The formal entry also features more ornamental, hanging ceiling lights (see Figure 55).

The second and third floors are similar in concept of layout; rooms of varying sizes lined along the central north-south corridor. These floors included courtrooms and various other office and storage spaces. A typical courtroom in the main courthouse featured carpeted floors, wood paneling on walls, fixed auditorium seating, and a rounded judge's desk and seat (see Figure 58). The judges private chambers were accessed via a wood door behind the judges desk.



FIGURE 50 VIEW OF THE BASEMENT CORRIDOR IN THE MAIN COURTHOUSE. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 51 VIEW OF THE FIRST FLOOR ELEVATOR LOBBY. NOTE THE BEIGE MARBLE PANELING ON THE LOWER HALF OF THE WALL. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 52 VIEW OF THE THIRD FLOOR CORRIDOR. NOTE THE RED MARBLE PANELING ON THE LOWER HALF OF THE WALL. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 53 VIEW OF THE FORMER LAW LIBRARY. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 54 VIEW OF THE MECHANICAL ROOM. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 55 VIEW OF THE LOBBY UPON ENTERING THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE MAIN COURTHOUSE. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 56 VIEW OF THE BRONZE PLAQUES IN THE LOBBY COMMEMORATING THE BUILDING HISTORY. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 57 VIEW OF THE COMMEMORATIVE/ORIENTATION AREA IN THE LOBBY, LOOKING NORTH. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 58 VIEW OF A TYPICAL COURTROOM IN THE MAIN COURTHOUSE. (MIG 2025)

4.2.3 Connecting Corridor

While an aerial photograph from 1972 suggests that the original connecting corridor was narrow in width, rectangular in footprint, centered on the rear (west) elevation of the main mass, the extant corridor appears to have been widened and includes an additional stairwell that abuts the main courthouse along the southern side of the corridor. The widened connecting corridor continues to be centered on the rear elevation. On the north side of the corridor, an additional elevator was added, likely as a part of the 1993 renovations.

On the south elevation of this corridor, the added stairwell creates a deep recessed entry into the building. A flat roof sheltering the entrance creates an even more dramatically recessed effect (see Figure 59). The entrance comprises a set of aluminum-framed glass doors with a transom. This entrance provides access to an enclosed patio. A pot light illuminates the doorway. Above the flat roof over the entrance is a vertical window column comprising an aluminum glazing system of windows that span floor to ceiling across the second and third floors. The same window pattern is seen on the south elevation of the additional stairwell, with the exception that here, the window column also extends to the ground floor (see Figure 60).

The north elevation of the corridor is similar to the south elevation in that it also features a deeply recessed entrance. However, with the projection of the elevator shaft centered on the corridor, the entrance is tucked to the western side of the shaft and comprises a single aluminum-framed glass door with a transom (see Figure 61). This entrance provides access to the secure parking area behind the courthouse.



FIGURE 59 VIEW OF THE RECESSED ENTRYWAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CONNECTING CORRIDOR, LOOKING NORTH. (MIG 2025)

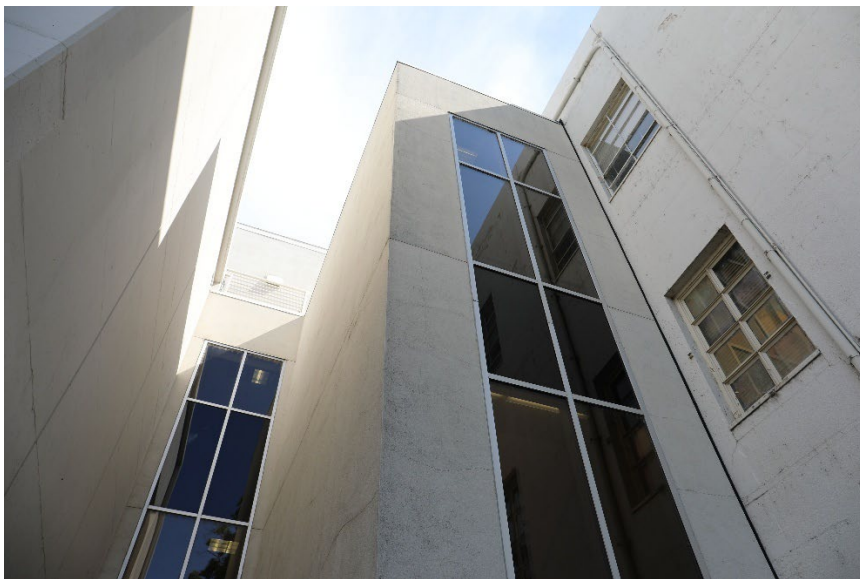


FIGURE 60 VIEW OF THE ALUMINUM GLAZING SYSTEMS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CONNECTING CORRIDOR, LOOKING NORTHEAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 61 VIEW OF THE ELEVATOR SHAFT AND ENTRYWAY ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CONNECTING CORRIDOR, LOOKING SOUTH. (MIG 2025)

4.3 Courthouse Annex (1967)

4.3.1 Exterior

The courthouse annex, built by architectural firm Smart & Clabaugh in 1967, is a modern three-story building with a rectangular plan. The cast-concrete construction with a flat roof measures 120 feet wide and eighty feet deep, its width oriented on an east-west axis. The building sits on a poured concrete foundation to the rear (west) of the main courthouse and connects to it via the connecting corridor. The north, south, and west elevations of the 1967 building are clad in vertical masonry veneer tiles. The east elevation, where the connecting corridor joins the structure, is clad in white stucco. The roof features a small penthouse of refurbished steel panels that houses the ventilation and other mechanical systems of the building.

The south elevation, facing Yuba Street, comprises a slightly projecting vertical columnar framing system. From corner to corner, there are eleven concrete columnar elements; they are painted white. These include two that mark the corners and nine that span the elevation plane, forming ten bays. The roofline and the second-story floor line are also lined with a horizontal

trim that join the vertical elements, creating a geometric framing of the elevation. The central eight bays include fenestration adjacent to the vertical columns, comprising narrow aluminum glazed systems of operative and fixed windows, framed on the outer sides by smaller, non-structural columnar features. From the roofline down, the glass panes alternate between spandrel glass and a single-pane awning window with rounded bottom edges. Swaths of masonry veneer tiles break the window pattern to create the appearance of two vertical glass stripes alternating with a panel of building cladding. The corner bays are devoid of fenestration. This system of fenestration spans the entire elevation across the second and third levels (see Figure 62). The ground level fenestration features a similar style of aluminum glazing system of an opaque panel and an awning window with rounded bottom edges. However, unlike the upper floors, these systems fill the entire bays created by the vertical and horizontal framing elements. Each bay comprises a floor-to-ceiling system of three awning windows with a spandrel glass panel base. There are no visible swaths of masonry veneer cladding on this level (see Figure 63).

The west elevation features a projecting covered pedestrian entrance into the annex. The covered entrance features square concrete columns that echo the vertical elements on the south elevation (see Figure 64). Two sets of metal double doors with large aluminum-framed transom panels grant entry to the annex. Each door includes a single, narrow light (see Figure 65). A non-structural wall clad in the same masonry veneer partially screens the doors and features lettering that reads “Court House Annex” (see Figure 66).

The north elevation largely resembles the south elevation in fenestration style but is interrupted by the sallyport that connects the annex to the 1939 county jail. The sallyport (a secure, controlled entryway, see section 4.2.3) spans the width of three bays (the third through sixth columnar elements from the western end) on this elevation. To the east of the sallyport, the fenestration pattern is identical to that on the south elevation, with the addition of a glazing system bordering the easternmost column. An additional single-pane, aluminum-framed window dots the swath of masonry veneer closest to the sallyport, on the second floor (see Figure 67). Five sets of aluminum-framed triplet windows line the ground level. The portion of the north elevation west of the sallyport is consistent in the fenestration pattern as its eastern counterpart (see Figure 68).



FIGURE 62 VIEW OF THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX, LOOKING NORTH. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 63 VIEW OF THE GROUND LEVEL FENESTRATION ALONG THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 64 VIEW OF THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX, LOOKING EAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 65 VIEW OF THE ENTRANCE DOORS TO THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX UNDER THE COVERED ENTRYWAY, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 66 VIEW OF THE COVERED ENTRANCE ON THE WEST ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX, WITH THE LETTERING ON THE SCREEN WALL UNOBSCURED BY VEGETATION. LOOKING EAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 67 VIEW OF THE NORTH ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX, EAST OF THE SALLYPORT, LOOKING SOUTH. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 68 VIEW OF THE NORTH ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX, WEST OF THE SALLYPORT. LOOKING SOUTHEAST. (MIG 2025)

Owing to the westerly incline and grading of the city block, the 1967 annex appears set into lower ground, only the second and third levels visible from the parking lots that front the north and south elevations. A set of concrete steps lead down to the ground level immediately around south elevation of the annex where an enclosed patio provided outdoor space for staff (see Figure 69). Along the western end of this elevation, enclosed space conceals the ventilation and other mechanical ducts for the building (see Figure 70). The ground level is noticeably higher on the west end of the block than on its east; the western entrance to the annex provides direct access to the second floor of the building.

A series of rectangular concrete planters also surround the courthouse annex along its north, south, and west elevations. These planters were installed as a part of the 1967 annex construction project, likely as a means to stabilize the natural slope as the site was graded for construction. Most of these planters are layered with gravel today, with some shrubbery planted and lawn carpeting the unit immediately in front of the western entrance (see Figure 71 and Figure 72).



FIGURE 69 VIEW OF THE ENCLOSED PATIO ALONG THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX, LOOKING WEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 70 VIEW OF THE ENCLOSED SPACE THAT HOUSES THE VENTILATION AND MECHANICAL DUCTS ALONG THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 71 VIEW OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX WITH THE PLANTERS IN THE FOREGROUND, LOOKING EAST-NORTHEAST. (MIG 2025)

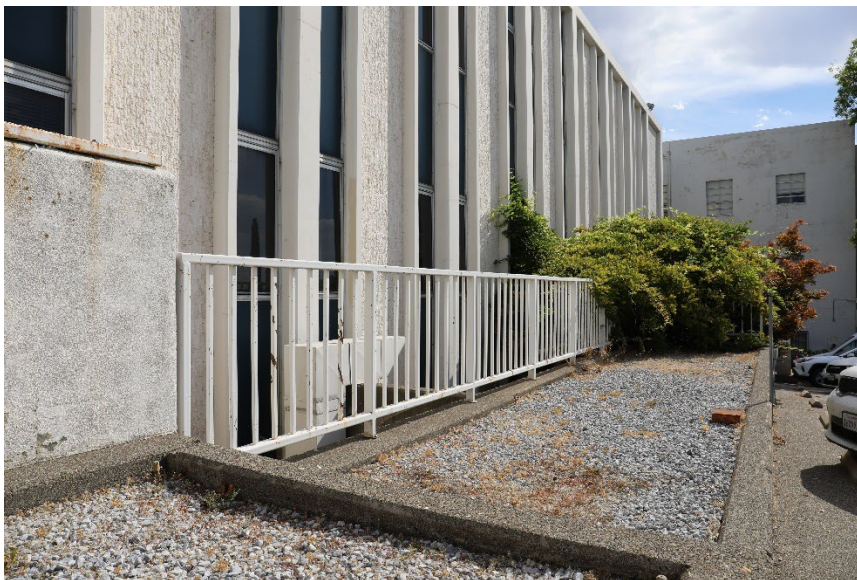


FIGURE 72 VIEW OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX WITH THE GRAVELED PLANTERS ALONG THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX, LOOKING EAST-NORTHEAST. (MIG 2025)

4.3.2 Interior

The 1967 courthouse annex has three stories, all laid out in a consistent manner along a central corridor that extends the east-west width of the building. The corridor is less adorned than that in the main courthouse, with plain linoleum tile flooring and painted drywall or plaster walls (see Figure 73). Some of the larger spaces in the Shasta County Courthouse complex are located in this annex, including the former jury assembly area (see Figure 74) and four courtrooms. These rooms are all carpeted and have painted walls consistent with those in the corridor. Although

mostly dismantled at the time of survey, the former courtrooms typically consisted of a semi-circular layout reminiscent of an amphitheater (see Figure 75). These courtrooms were installed in the annex during the 1993 renovation. A stairwell and an elevator are located in the southwest corner of the annex building.

Prior to vacancy, between the main courthouse and the courthouse annex, the first floor housed the Family Court Services office, a courtroom, the Human Resources department, the court collections counter, the Self Help Center/Family Facilitator's office, and a jury assembly room. The second floor housed the Court Administration office, the Marshall's Office/Sheriff's Civil Unit, the Criminal Division, the traffic counter, two courtrooms, each with an associated judge's chamber and a jury deliberation room, and various offices. The third floor housed three courtrooms and an additional civil courtroom, each with an associated judge's chamber and a jury deliberation room, and various office and storage spaces.



FIGURE 73 VIEW OF THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX HALLWAY. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 74 VIEW OF THE FORMER JURY ASSEMBLY AREA IN THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 75 VIEW OF A FORMER COURTROOM IN THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX. NOTE THE REMNANTS OF THE SEMICIRCULAR LAYOUT. (MIG 2025)

4.3.3 Sallyport

A concrete, two-story connecting corridor¹²⁷ connects the north side of the 1967 courthouse annex and the south side of the 1939 county jail (see Figure 76 and Figure 77). An elevator shaft abuts the west side of the corridor structure and the annex building. This structure is clad in white stucco. The ground level of this corridor functions as the sallyport into the jail and the secure holding area.¹²⁸ The sallyport is accessed by secure metal vehicular doors from both the secured parking area between the jail and the main courthouse and from West Street. These doors are heavy-duty metal doors with solid panels in the center expanse and grated across the top and base for ventilation. The upper levels of the corridor provide secure inmate holding areas that provide direct access between the jail and the courtrooms in the annex. A secure door also provides access to the holding areas from the jail. A typical holding cell consists of concrete floors and walls, two concrete benches, and a toilet and sink screened by a low concrete pony wall (see Figure 78). Due to the nature of this structure, the connecting corridor is devoid of fenestration along its east elevation where the holding cells line the wall. A single set of horizontally sliding vinyl-sashed windows dot the west elevation above the garage door and provides natural light to the office across the hall from the holding cells.



**FIGURE 76 VIEW OF THE SALLYPORT STRUCTURE FROM THE MAIN COURTHOUSE, LOOKING WEST.
(MIG 2025)**

¹²⁷ Due to the slope and level changes on the block, the roofline of this two-story corridor blends into the roofline of the adjacent three-story building.

¹²⁸ A sallyport is defined as a secure, controlled entryway often found in prisons or fortifications.



FIGURE 77 VIEW OF THE SALLYPORT STRUCTURE FROM WEST STREET, LOOKING EAST. (MIG 20225)



FIGURE 78 A TYPICAL INMATE HOLDING CELL IN THE SALLYPORT STRUCTURE. (MIG 2025)

4.4 1939 Shasta County Jail

4.4.1 Exterior

The 1939 Shasta County Jail, built by architectural firm Masten & Hurd in 1939, is a two- and three-story steel-framed, cast-concrete building constructed in the PWA/WPA Moderne style. The building, clad in white stucco, comprises three primary masses: the two-story mass in the front (east) of the building; the rear (west) three-story mass along West Street; and a three-story stairwell tower. The two-story mass is narrower in width than its rear three-story counterpart and creates a stacked effect. The stairwell tower was historically set into the southern corner created by these two stacked masses and created planar variation. The 1967 sallyport, however, slotted perfectly into the southern side of the jail, creating a flush, contiguous elevation plane along the north side of the building (see Figure 79).

The entrance to the jail is centered on the east elevation of the two-story mass and features a slight recess covered by a flat overhang supported by two smoothed aggregate concrete columns. The corners of the flat overhang and the exterior wall surrounding the recessed entry are curved, subtly displaying the basic identifying features of Streamline Moderne as characteristic of the PWA/WPA Moderne style (see Figure 80). Immediately to the north of the entrance are two bronze plaques affixed to the exterior wall, recognizing the building's PWA history and the Board of Supervisors who approved its construction.

The entry is accessed by three concrete steps from the secure parking area. Flanking the entry systems on both sides is a single window comprising five stacked awning panels with wired glass, heavily secured with metal grates on the interior. A nondescript sill is at the base of each window. Centered on the second floor, above the entrance, are three sets of narrow windows, each comprising seven stacked awning panels with wired glass and a simple sill and lintel. Flanking this set of central windows on the north and south ends of the elevation are a series of six windows identical to the central three. These feature a continuous sill and lintel that span the expanse of the six windows and continue to the corner of the building. In the southern set, the sill and lintel terminate where the sallyport adjoins the jail. On the north end, the sill and lintel curve around the corner and continue onto the north elevation (see Figure 81).

The north elevation of the two-story mass features the same style of fenestration as those found on the façade (east). On the ground floor, at the east end, is the same five-awning-panel window as seen flanking the main entrance. These, too, feature metal grates on the interior. The structural remnants of what appear to have been a garbage enclosure with a lean-to shed roof is found in the corner formed by the joining of the two- and three-story masses. On the upper level, the sill and lintel that wrap around the corner from the façade continue across the entire elevation. These continuous features frame three triplets of seven-awning-panel windows. The central triplet is obscured by ducts that descend from the roof. A swamp cooler is attached to the western of the three triplets (see Figure 82).

Obscured by the two-story mass, only the third level and the northern end of the façade is visible in the three-story mass. The ground and second levels each feature a triplet of seven-awning-panel windows. The ground level window features the same sill and lintel that frames

the fenestration and wraps around the corner to the north elevation. The sill and lintel from the second level of the two-story mass turns the corner to frame the triplet on the three-story mass and also continues around the corner. On the third level, the same series of six seven-awning-panel windows is featured on the south end of the façade, aligned with that found on the upper floor of the two-story mass. The central portion of the elevation is left without fenestration but instead features a ladder to the upper roof. On the north end of the elevation, the same series of six windows mirror its counterpart, but is also followed by a triplet of seven-awning-panel windows. The triplet and the series of six windows are connected by the continuous sill and lintel that wraps around the corner to the north elevation.

The north elevation of the three-story mass features identical fenestration across all three levels. The sill and lintel that wrap around the corner from the east elevation continue to span the entire width of the elevation and wrap around the northwest corner. Between the continuous sill and lintel on each level are three sets of a series of six seven-awning-panel windows identical to those on the east elevation (see Figure 83). Metal grates are bolted on the exterior of the third story windows; unlike those on the two-story mass, the ground-level windows in this portion of the building do not appear to feature metal grates on the interior.

The rear (west) elevation of the building is devoid of fenestration (see Figure 84). The sill and lintel that curve around the northwest corner on each level terminate shortly thereafter, approximately one foot from the corner. A small lean-to shed is located in the north end of the elevation.

The south elevation mirrors the fenestration pattern of its northern counterpart almost identically. The only exception to this symmetry is that the eastern sets of windows comprise a series of five seven-awning-panel windows instead of six. A swamp cooler unit is affixed to the central window series on the ground floor.

The east end of the south elevation of the rear mass adjoins the three-story stairwell tower. The southwest corner of the tower features a rounded corner, which, according to the former county facilities manager of the building, featured glass blocks. The curve of the building is now sheathed in metal panels, painted white (see Figure 85). The roofline features a metal railing that also follows the curve of the corner. The south elevation of the 1939 Shasta County Jail is fronted by a driveway that leads directly from West Street into the sallyport.

Two chain-link fenced enclosures line the west elevation of jail building. The southern of the two serves as the parking area for the marshals, with an automated security gate that slides open along the enclosure's southern edge. The parking area is accessed from the same driveway from West Street that grants access to the sallyport. The northern enclosure serves as an area for trash and other storage bins and racks (see Figure 86). The lean-to shed observed on the north elevation is set within this enclosure. The chain-link fencing around this area is partially screened by additional slats woven through the chain-link. A pedestrian gate at the southern end of the enclosure, secured by a pad lock, provides access to this area.

Another secured driveway extends from West Street along the northern boundary of the parcel, along Butte Street, to provide access to the parking area in front of the jail building (see Figure

87). The chain-link fence that lines the driveway is screened with mature vine growth. Additional trees line the fence to screen the secured parking area from the public (see Figure 88). This parking area was likely established as a part of the 1993 renovations.



FIGURE 79 VIEW OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL FAÇADE FROM THE SECOND STORY OF THE MAIN COURTHOUSE BUILDING, LOOKING NORTHWEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 80 VIEW OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL, LOOKING WEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 81 VIEW OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 82 VIEW OF THE EAST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS OF THE THREE-STORY MASS OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL FROM THE SECURE DRIVEWAY, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 83 VIEW OF THE NORTH ELEVATION OF THE 1939 COUNTY JAIL FROM THE PARKING STRUCTURE ALONG BUTTE STREET, LOOKING SOUTH. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 84 VIEW OF THE WEST AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL, LOOKING NORTHEAST. NOTE THE MARSHAL'S PARKING AREA PHOTO LEFT. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 85 VIEW OF THE SOUTH ELEVATION AND THE ROUNDED CORNER OF THE STAIRWELL TOWER OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL, LOOKING EAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 86 VIEW OF THE NORTHERN ENCLOSURE AREA AND THE LEAN-TO SHED, LOOKING NORTHEAST. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 87 VIEW OF THE SECURED PARKING AREA EAST OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL, LOOKING SOUTH. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 88 VIEW OF THE SECURED DRIVEWAY INTO THE PARKING AREA, LOOKING WEST. NOTE THE VEGETATION ALONG THE FENCE LINE. (MIG 2025)

4.4.2 Interior

The absence of original building plans, in conjunction with its long-term vacancy and its semi-demolished interiors, renders it difficult to determine the historic layout of the 1939 Shasta County Jail as originally constructed. Resources suggest that during its occupation, the jail comprised four cell blocks, a sheriff's office, and a kitchen. The building likely included additional unidentified spaces. Three of four cellblocks have been removed since its vacancy in 1984; only Cellblock No. 1 remains today (see Figure 89).¹²⁹ A visiting area featuring standing stalls and small metal-screened openings is still visible on the ground floor, likely associated with Cellblock No. 1 (see Figure 90).

The interior of the building features concrete floors, painted concrete walls now in a state of severe peeling and flaking, sturdy metal doors, and wired glass windows. The reception room entered through the main entrance shows that its floors were covered in linoleum tiles (see Figure 91), suggesting that only floors of the cellblocks were bare concrete. Heavy metal bars secure the extant cellblock and individual cells on the ground floor. The extant cells each comprise two bunks and a sink; the toilets appear to have been removed (see Figure 92). The walls within the cells all feature various graffiti by its former occupants, with varying levels of racial epithets and symbolism, as well as references to a local motorcycle gang known as the Brothers of the Wind.

The 1939 Shasta County Jail building was reportedly used as a storage space in the years following its vacancy. This use is evidenced by various pieces of furniture observed throughout the building, as well as wooden racks on the upper floors that suggest some form of storage organization (see Figure 93).

¹²⁹ "Travelin' Time: One Cellblock Remains from Old County Jail."



FIGURE 89 VIEW OF CELLBLOCK NO. 1. (MIG 2025)

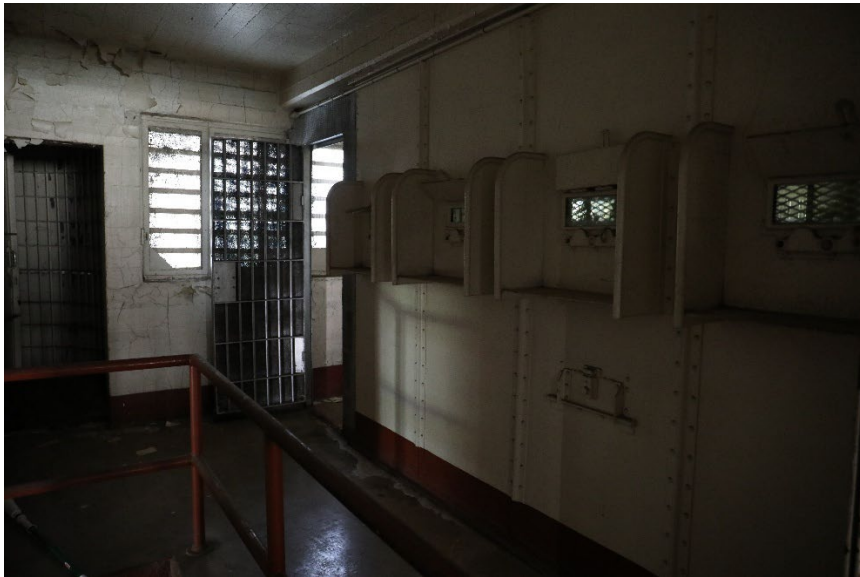


FIGURE 90 VIEW OF THE VISITING AREA, CELLBLOCK NO. 1. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 91 VIEW OF THE RECEPTION ROOM THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST. NOTE THE FLOORING MATERIAL. (MIG 2025)



FIGURE 92 VIEW OF ONE OF THE INTACT CELLS IN CELLBLOCK No. 1. (MIG 2025)

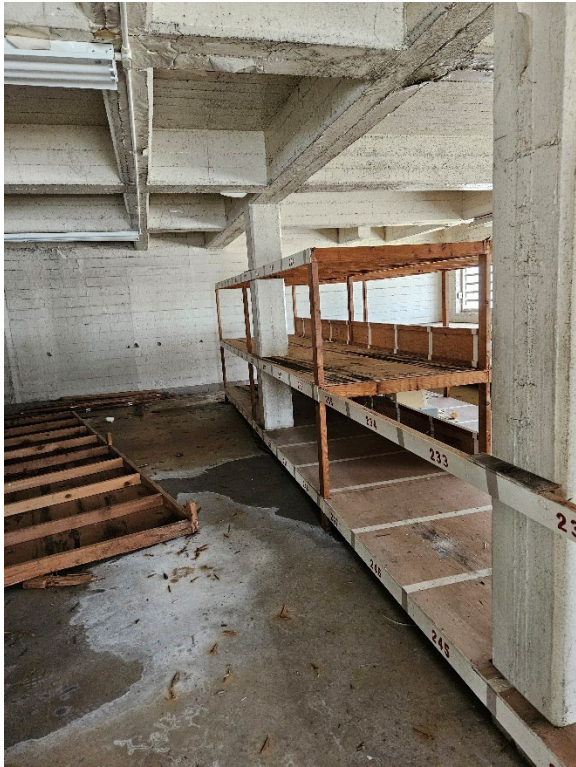


FIGURE 93 VIEW OF THE WOODEN STORAGE RACKS ON THE UPPER FLOORS OF THE 1939 SHASTA COUNTY JAIL. (MIG 2025)

5 Evaluation

5.1 National Register of Historic Places/California Register of Historical Resources Criteria

This section evaluates the subject property to determine whether it meets the significance criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) or the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). To be eligible for listing in either register, a property must demonstrate significance under one or more of the following criteria:

Criterion A/1 (Events): Resources that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local, California, or national history.

Criterion B/2 (Persons): Resources that are associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.

Criterion C/3 (Design/Construction): Resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values.

Criterion D/4 (Information Potential): Resources that have yielded, or have the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

When a property is determined to be historically significant under the above listed criteria, an associated period of significance is defined. This period corresponds to the era in time during which the property gained or exhibited its significance.

The Old Shasta County Courthouse, a complex comprising three independent building projects, is evaluated as both a single entity and its individual components where applicable.

5.1.1 Criterion A/1: Events/Broad Patterns of History

The 1939 Shasta County Jail is historically significant at the local level under National and California Registers Criterion A/1 as a tangible representation of the New Deal-era federal investment and impacts of the Shasta Dam Project, not only on the population and economy, but also on the social and legal infrastructure of Shasta County and the City of Redding.

5.1.1.1 Shasta Dam and the County Jail

The Shasta County Jail, planned in 1938, was in large part preparation for the anticipated impacts of the influx of thousands of workers – young, male, and unemployed – migrating to Shasta to partake in the major construction project, the Shasta Dam Project. Sheriff Sublett, in a meeting with the Board of Supervisors in 1938, voiced his anticipation and concern regarding the flood of young men expected to pour into his county, and the gross inadequacy and unpreparedness of the existing, already-overcrowded legal facilities to accommodate this spike in population. His support for a new facility was well received and the new jail was completed by the following year.

The sheriff's concerns regarding the effects of the Shasta Dam Project-related spike in population were proven valid and accurate when, within two years of construction of occupancy,

the 1939 Shasta County Jail exceeded maximum capacity.¹³⁰ Shasta Dam workers were known to frequent the red-light district, the nearby saloons, and other businesses of entertainment in Redding, on California Street east of the railroad tracks, during their off-hours. It is assumed that numerous disputes, acts of violence, and even illicit activities took place in these areas that would necessitate police interference and detainment. While there are no concrete statistics available for the number of incidents relating to these workers, the Police Department in Redding had to expand to include up to seven police officers, two cars, one paddy wagon, and one motorcycle following the start of the Shasta Dam Project, an expansion that directly correlates to the project-related population spike and associated crime rate.¹³¹

The extant 1939 Shasta County Jail stands evidence to this facet of economic revival accredited to the Shasta Dam Project, its impacts on the social and legal infrastructure of the city and county. The building is a tangible relic of the roaring revitalization of Redding and Shasta County during the New Deal-era and the increased crime rate that came along with it.

The period of significance for the 1939 County Jail is 1939-1945, starting with the construction of the jail extending through the duration of the Shasta Dam construction project.

5.1.1.2 Other Areas of Considerations: Redding as a seat of Superior Court

While the construction of the 1956 Main Courthouse coincided with the designation of the site as the seat of the Superior Court, there are no indications that the construction of the building had a direct impact on the designation. As the county seat, Redding had been home to a county courthouse since 1889 and as such, served as the legal center one of the original twenty-seven counties of the state for decades. In light of the larger context and history of the site as a courthouse since the late-nineteenth century, it cannot be determined that the construction of the 1956 courthouse was the deciding factor in the site's designation as a superior court. Therefore, the 1956 main courthouse is not eligible for the National or California Registers under criterion A/1 as a tangible representative of the designation of Redding as a seat of the California Superior Court.

Additionally, historical research has revealed a long-lived process of constructing, expanding, and demolishing courthouses and related facilities. The 1956 main courthouse was originally constructed as an *addition* to the 1889 courthouse to accommodate the growing population and administrative needs. The 1939 county jail replaced its predecessor to accommodate a spike in population, and the 1889 courthouse was ultimately replaced by the 1967 annex to further accommodate the developing city and county. In 2025, the courthouse complex has been replaced entirely by new facilities to further account for the developing needs and population of the area. As such, the old Shasta County Courthouse, as a complex, is merely a step in an

¹³⁰ "Shasta Jail is Crowded," *Redding Record*, February 4, 1941.

¹³¹ "History of Redding Police," City of Redding California, accessed August 2025, https://www.cityofredding.gov/government/departments/police/your_rpd/history.php.

ongoing process of civic facilities development in Redding and is not historically significant under the context of an early courthouse in the region.

5.1.2 Criterion B/2: Association with Significant Persons

The old Shasta County Courthouse is not historically significant under National and California Registers Criterion B/2. In the review of local publications and through historical research, the information gathered failed to indicate that the subject property has any distinctive associations with significant persons in the history of the City or otherwise. While important community members worked and visited the courthouse over the course of its function as such, their significance is better conveyed through other sites such as the Eaton House Museum, the home of former Superior Court Judge Richard B. Eaton. The subject property does not best represent historic contributions of any important individuals.

5.1.3 Criterion C/3: Design

The old Shasta County Courthouse as a complex of all three buildings does not collectively represent a specific style or type of construction. Spanning from 1939 to 1967, and renovated in 1993, the complex development spans multiple styles of modernism and is not an exemplary representative of a single period or style. The old Shasta County Courthouse as a complex is not historically significant under Criterion C/3. However, the 1939 Shasta County Jail and the 1956 Main Courthouse are historically significant under National and California Registers Criterion C/3 as individual representations of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The 1967 Courthouse Annex, on the other hand, though broadly fitting the architectural style of the second period International Style, is not an exemplary representation of the type. While building is geometric in form and incorporates linear accents, it features neither horizontal bands of windows nor curtain walls characteristic of the style. Although the building plan integrates planters into its design, constructed as an annex, it does not feature a formal entrance or a grand lobby. It lacks a floor-to-ceiling aluminum glazing system and the ground floor finishes do not feature high quality materials. As such, the Courthouse Annex is not a true representative of the architectural style and is therefore not historically significant under Criterion C/3.

5.1.3.1 **PWA/WPA Moderne**

The 1939 Shasta County Jail is historically significant as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the PWA/WPA Moderne architectural style. As originally constructed by architectural firm Masten & Hurd, the building displays the restrained and austere application of the Streamline Moderne style reflective of the tighter constraints forced upon architects by the economic downturn of the Great Depression and characteristic of the PWA/WPA Moderne. The building incorporates a flat roof, smooth exterior surfaces, simple horizontal fenestration, and streamlined linear elements in the form of continuous sills and lintels. These linear elements emphasize the horizontality of the building mass. The building also features rounded corners around the entrance and the stairwell tower, and in the continuous lintels. Beyond these subtle applications of basic identifying elements of the Streamline Moderne style, the 1939 Shasta

County Jail is without ornamentation. The building is painted white, which contributes to the stark, austere character, consistent with the PWA/WPA Moderne.

Despite the addition of a sallyport that connected the jail building to the 1967 annex, the 1939 Shasta County Jail retains the fundamental identifying characteristics of the PWA/WPA Moderne. The scale and height of the sallyport was built to be consistent with that of the jail building and thereby neither dwarfs the 1939 building nor causes it to be perceived as towering. The horizontality of the jail is retained through the visible linear elements along the façade and the north and south elevations, and the rounded corners have not been lost by the addition. The roof form also remains consistent since its construction. As such, the present 1939 Shasta County Jail building clearly contains the distinctive characteristics of the PWA/WPA Moderne and is a true representative of the architectural style.

It is worth noting that, while the 1939 Shasta County Jail also reflects elements of the Streamline Moderne, the restrained application of the streamlined forms such as the curve, teardrop, and uninterrupted horizontal line renders the building style more accurately categorized as the PWA/WPA Moderne. In its dialed-back, austere form, the 1939 Shasta County Jail does not contain enough distinctive characteristics of the Streamline Moderne to be a true, exemplary representative of the style.

The period of significance of the 1939 Shasta County Jail under Criterion C/3 is 1939, its date of construction.

5.1.3.2 International Style

The 1956 Main Courthouse is historically significant as an embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of the International Style, specifically the second period of the style that underpins the Mid-Century Modern and Corporate International Styles of postwar Modernism. Characteristic of the second period of Internationalism, the 1956 Main Courthouse displays strong geometric forms with strong right angles through its rectangular massings and projections. Largely clad in Indiana limestone (in all publicly visible areas) and topped with a flat roof, the building features smooth and uniform surfaces, and incorporates horizontal bands of flush, metal-framed windows across its façade. The building is entered via a landscaped courtyard through a recessed vestibule where a floor-to-ceiling aluminum glazing system grants entry into a lobby with marble and terrazzo tile finishes.

Despite the addition of a covered corridor that connects to the 1967 annex, the 1956 main courthouse building retains the fundamental identifying characteristics of the International Style. The corridor, adjoined to the rear (west) elevation of the building, is built in an unassuming modern style with compatible materials and is not visible from the front of the building. The addition of the corridor does not detract from the main courthouse building's ability to embody the characteristics of the International Style: the 1956 construction retains its geometric form, strong right angles, horizontal bands of windows. The main entrance remains on the east side of the building, across the courtyard and into the recessed vestibule. As such, the present 1956 Main Courthouse clearly contains the distinctive characteristics of the second period of the International Style and is a true, exemplary representative of the architectural style.

The period of significance for the 1956 Main Courthouse is 1956, the date of its construction.

5.1.3.3 Work of a Master

The general lack of information available regarding architects of the old Shasta County Courthouse, E. Geoffrey Bangs, Masten & Hurd, and Smart & Clabaugh, suggests that none of these firms nor their individual architects and engineers were considered masters in the field during or after their years of practice. While E. Geoffrey Bangs was known to have designed several public buildings, little information is available to establish him as a master as defined by the National Register Bulletin: “a figure of generally recognized greatness in a field, a known craftsman of consummate skill, or an anonymous craftsman whose work is distinguishable from others by its characteristic style and quality.”¹³² While he is accredited with various projects, there is a general absence of resources that recognize his “greatness in a field.” Similarly, although the architectural firm of Masten & Hurd were responsible for numerous PWA/WPA buildings in Redding, and several non-federal aid projects across the Bay Area and Northern California, there is insufficient information to establish these architects as masters in the field. Finally, the firm of Smart & Clabaugh is little discussed in publications even in the context of their awarded projects. They appear to have designed a number of buildings for the unified school districts and other civic buildings in Northern California during the 1950s and 1960s, but little else is known. The old Shasta County Courthouse is therefore not historically significant under Criterion C/3 as a work of a master.

5.1.4 Criterion D/4: Archaeology and/or Information Potential

The subject property has not yielded information important to the pre- or post-contact history of Redding, Shasta County, California, or the nation. Having been disturbed multiple times through a series of construction projects since the late-nineteenth century, the subject property is unlikely to yield any information in the future and has very low information potential. The property is therefore ineligible under Criterion D/4.

5.2 Integrity Analysis

In addition to demonstrating historic significance under at least one of the California or National Register criteria, a property must retain historic integrity to be considered eligible for listing in local, state, and national registers. Integrity is evaluated based on the property’s ability to convey its historical significance. To retain integrity, a property must exhibit some or all of the seven aspects of historic integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places and adopted by the California Register, including: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting,

¹³² National Park Service, “National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation,” U.S. Department of the Interior, 20.

feeling, and association. The following provides a discussion of the 1939 County Jail and 1956 Main Courthouse's historic integrity under each aspect.

5.2.1 1939 Shasta County Jail

Location: The subject property has not been moved since it was constructed in 1939 and therefore retains integrity of location.

Design: Although the absence of original plans or construction drawings of the 1939 Shasta County Jail makes it difficult to analyze integrity of design at the material level, a historical photo analysis confirms that the overall building has remained relatively unchanged since its construction, save for the addition of a sallyport. The pre-1967 photographs of the jail building confirm that the character-defining horizontal elements and the rounded corners remain unchanged today. Most of the fenestration patterns remain intact; the addition of the sallyport has encompassed the three-story stairwell tower and its windows, but the rear (west) of the tower and its rounded corner are still visible, and the exterior of the building retains its fundamental elements characteristic to the PWA/WPA architectural style. In the interior, only one cellblock remains, with the remainder of the interior spaces demolished since its vacancy in 1984. The remaining cellblock and its associated features such as the cells, metal-barred enclosures and doors, and visiting area continue to display the original interior layout and design. The 1939 County Jail retains some of its historic integrity of design, partially affected by the sallyport addition and the decades-long vacancy.

Materials and Workmanship: The absence of historic building plans and construction drawings of the 1939 Shasta County Jail poses a challenge to an accurate analysis of integrity in materials and workmanship. Photographs from the mid-century, prior to the sallyport addition, and historical newspaper research, suggest that the building exterior retains sufficient integrity in materials and workmanship: cast-concrete construction clad in white stucco, continuous horizontal banding across the elevations, metal awning windows with minimal trim, flat roof, covered entrance with a curved overhang supported by concrete columns and framed by rounded corners, and a flat roof. The metal screen described in 1939 is observed on the interior of the ground-floor windows. While some degree of materials and workmanship was lost with the addition of the sallyport which has enveloped and incorporated into it the three-story stairwell tower, most of the exterior materials and workmanship remain intact. The majority of the loss in these aspects of integrity has occurred inside the building, where, with the exception of one cellblock, the interior has largely been gutted. While the concrete floors and walls remain intact, any features that defined original use, such as the additional cellblocks, kitchen, and sheriff's office, are nonextant. As such, the 1939 Shasta County Jail retains integrity of material and workmanship on the exterior but has lost significant integrity inside.

Setting: Historically fronted by a lawn, the immediate setting of the 1939 Shasta County Jail within the old Shasta County Courthouse complex has been impacted by the paving of a parking lot in its foreground and its secure enclosure. The broader setting has also evolved with adjacent construction. However, the building retains its spatial relationship with the courthouse and annex in a tight cluster of legal and civic buildings. The jail also retains its spatial

relationship to the railroad tracks, a key transportation corridor that set the foundation for the City of Redding and its title as the county seat. Therefore, despite some impacts, the 1939 Shasta County Jail retains integrity of setting through its connections with its adjacent civic buildings.

Feeling: The 1939 Shasta County Jail's stark architectural style and the remaining cellblock inside preserve the building's historic feeling of an early moderne jail. Its spatial relationship with the adjacent buildings (the 1956 Main Courthouse and the 1967 Courthouse Annex) further contributes to the historic feeling of a law enforcement facility. The 1939 County Jail therefore retains integrity of feeling.

Association: The subject property was designed to function as a county jail and sheriff's office in 1939. Although the jail building has been vacated since 1984 and three of the four cellblocks have been removed from its interior, the retention of a cellblock and its associated features such as cells, metal-barred enclosures, and visiting areas, as well as former inmate graffiti on the walls and metal grates on windows, all contribute to the historic association of the site to its historic use. The intact architectural elements such as the flat roof, smooth surfaces, rounded corners, continuous horizontal elements across the elevations, and the general sense of restraint and lack of ornamentation also contribute to the association of the site to the economically depressed and restrained PWA/WPA era. As such, the building retains integrity of association.

In summary, though affected by the 1967 sallyport addition and the building's vacancy since 1984, the 1939 Shasta County Jail retains sufficient level of historic integrity on its exterior. With the exception of the sallyport addition, the exterior of the building remains largely unchanged since its construction. Some historic integrity remains inside the building, in the overall finishes of the floors and walls and the intact cellblock, which contributes to the feeling of the building and its historic use. The 1939 Shasta County Jail retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, and feeling, and retains sufficient overall integrity to convey its historic significance.

5.2.2 1956 Main Courthouse

Location: The subject property has not been moved since it was built in 1956 and therefore retains integrity of location.

Design: Although the absence of original plans or construction drawings of the 1956 Main Courthouse (at the time built as an addition) makes it difficult to analyze integrity of design at the material level, a historical photo analysis confirms that the overall design of the building has remained relatively unchanged since its construction in 1967. Photographs from the 1960s show that the façade of the courthouse, with its slight projection across the second and third levels, its recessed entrance supported by columns, and horizontal bands of windows that span the entire width of the building all intact. The lettering above the third story windows, noted in a newspaper article from the 1950s, is also still visible. The rear covered corridor addition from 1967 does not detract from the building's integrity of design as the building incorporated a covered corridor in its original construction in 1956. Aerial photographs confirm that the location of the corridor has

not changed. Finally, although the building interior has undergone reorganization through addition of a new annex and the 1993 renovation, verbal description of the building's interior and services provided appear to have remained largely consistent until the building's vacancy in 2024. As such, the 1956 Main Courthouse retains integrity of design.

Materials and Workmanship: The absence of historic building plans and construction drawings of the 1956 Main Courthouse poses a challenge to an accurate analysis of integrity in materials and workmanship. Photographs from the buildings, in conjunction with textual evidence from historic newspapers, suggest that the 1956 construction retains a significant level of integrity of materials and workmanship on its exterior. The horizontal band of uninterrupted blue-green tinted windows on the second and third levels of the building remain; the building name carved into the limestone above the third-story windows are still visible; and the building still features two tones of limestone cladding throughout, in buff and gray. Most of the fenestration appears to date to the period of construction, as evidenced by the aluminum framing, with the exception of the second-story windows on the rear of the building which appear to have been replaced with vinyl windows. The interior retains its beige Italian marble on the ground floor and Red Rosement marble from Tennessee on the second and third floors. The reorganization of the interior use, however, has affected the historic integrity of materials and workmanship of individual rooms. The 1956 Main Courthouse retains a significant level of integrity of materials and workmanship on its exterior; the building has lost a degree of integrity in the interior, save for the workmanship and materials found in the lobby and the corridors.

Setting and Feeling: The setting of the 1956 Main Courthouse within the old Shasta County Courthouse complex remains unchanged. Since its construction, the building was set atop a gentle slope overlooking Court Street, set back approximately 100 feet from the street. An associated court building always stood to its rear, and a county jail was always located immediately to its northwest. The courthouse building also retains its spatial relationship to the railroad tracks to its east, the foundation to the incorporation of the City of Redding and its title as the county seat. The 1956 Main Courthouse therefore retains integrity of setting and feeling.

Association: The subject property was designed to serve as a county courthouse and contained offices of related civic services. The building, vacant since 2024, has lost much of its interior furnishings and layout; however, a number of intact courtrooms contribute to the historic association of the building to its historic use. Further, the intact architectural elements such as strong geometric forms and right angles, horizontal bands of windows, smooth exterior surfaces, flat roof, and the incorporation of indoor-outdoor space via a courtyard contribute to the historic association of the building to the mid-century and the overall postwar International Style. The 1956 main courthouse therefore retains integrity of association.

In summary, the exterior of the 1956 Main Courthouse appears largely unaltered since its construction in 1956, and, despite the multiple phases of interior reorganization, its interior retains key character-defining elements to the historic use, architectural style, and the general mid-century era of development. Therefore, the 1956 Main Courthouse retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, and feeling, and retains sufficient overall integrity to convey its historic significance.

5.3 Character-Defining Features

The following lists outline the character-defining features for each of the 1939 Shasta County Jail and the 1956 Main Courthouse related to their significance under National and California Registers criterion A/1. Character-defining features are the physical aspects of the historic property that conveys its historic significance and should be protected in order to retain eligibility for the California and National Registers.

Although the detailed identification of the interior features that contribute to the building's architectural and historic significance lies beyond the scope of this report, MIG analyzed the exterior and intact and accessible spaces of the buildings and identified a list of character-defining features that assist in conveying the properties' historic significance.

5.3.1 1939 Shasta County Jail

- The form and massing of the building, consistent with the original construction
- Material, size, and location of exterior fenestration, including wired glass, continuous windowsills and lintels that curve around the northeast corner of the building, metal-sashed multi-paned awning windows, and the metal grates installed over the interior of the ground-level windows
- White stucco cladding on concrete construction
- Sense of restraint and austerity achieved by an absence of ornamentation
- Flat roof
- Covered entrance with a flat overhang with rounded corners supported by smooth concrete columns and framed by rounded corners around the entryway
- Floor-to-ceiling aluminum glazing system in the formal entrance
- Exposed rounded corner of the three-story stairwell tower on the west elevation
- The layout of Cellblock No. 1 including the individual cells each with two bunks, a sink, and a toilet, metal-barred enclosure, and visiting area
- The setting of the building in the northwestern corner of the courthouse square, to the north of the 1967 annex and to the west-northwest of the 1956 main courthouse building

5.3.2 1956 Main Courthouse

- The form and massing of the building, consistent with the original construction
- Material, size, and location of exterior fenestration, including the blue-green tinted glass, aluminum sashes, horizontal band of uninterrupted windows that span the second and third levels of the entire façade
- Recessed entryway with concrete columns and a floor-to-ceiling aluminum glazing system

- Exterior finishes including two tones of Indiana limestone, in buff and gray
- Flat roof
- Central corridor that extends the length of the building along which offices and courtrooms are distributed
- Wood-paneled walls and built-in wood furniture in the courtrooms
- Beige Italian marble on the ground floor and Red Rosement marble from Tennessee on the second and third floors
- The setting of the building fronting Court Street with the annex to its west and the 1939 County Jail to its northwest
- The 100-foot setback from Court Street and the landscaped lawn with stone and brick retaining walls and planters
- Indoor-outdoor transition into the building via the plaza/courtyard fronting the building
- “Shasta County Courthouse” inscription above the third level band of windows

5.4 Conclusion

The old Shasta County Courthouse, located at 1500 Court Street, California, is not eligible for individual listing on the California and National Registers as a building complex comprising three individual buildings. Having undergone multiple iterations of courthouse and jail buildings, the extant complex as a whole is not historically significant under the historic context of Shasta County courthouses, and spanning the construction period of 1939 to 1967, and renovated 1993, does not embody a specific type or style of construction.

However, the 1939 Shasta County Jail as an individual building is eligible for listing on the California and National Registers at the local level under criterion A/1 as representative of the effects of the Shasta Dam Project on the social and legal infrastructure of Redding, with a period of significance of 1939-1945. The building is also locally significant under C/3 as an embodiment of the local PWA/WPA Moderne architectural style, with a period of significance of 1939.

The 1956 Main Courthouse is also individually eligible for listing on the California and National Registers under criterion C/3 as an embodiment of the second-period International Style that underpins the Mid-Century Modern and Corporate International Styles of postwar Modernism.

The 1967 Courthouse Annex does not meet the eligibility criteria and is therefore not historically significant under the California and National Registers.

6 References

- “75 Hear Speeches, Watch Courthouse Ground Broken.” *Record-Searchlight*. September 2, 1954.
- “\$100,000 Estimate on Cost of New Jail for County.” *The Searchlight*. May 7, 1938.
- “About Redding.” City of Redding California. Accessed July 2025.
https://www.cityofredding.gov/government/about_us.php.
- Allen, Marion V. “Early Explorers” in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, edited by Marion V. Allen. Marion V. Allen, 1981.
- American Architect and Building News*, Vol. XXIV, No.657 (July 28, 1888).
- American Architects Directory*. R.R. Bowker, LLC., 1962.
- “Architect, Board Discuss Courthouse.” *Record-Searchlight*. December 2, 1952.
- “Board Approves Courthouse Plans.” *Record-Searchlight*. February 25, 1954.
- “Board Gets Nudge on New Courthouse.” *Record-Searchlight*. November 4, 1952.
- “Board of Supervisors.” *Free Press*. February 23, 1889.
- “Broken Records.” *Record-Searchlight*. February 17, 1998.
- Coffman Associates. “Chapter One: Inventory” in *Draft Airport Master Plan for Redding Regional Airport, City of Redding, California*. Prepared for The City of Redding. April 2024.
- Contra Costa County History Center. “Contra Costa County Hall of Records National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.” Department of the Interior, National Park Service. January 28, 1991.
- “Copter Removes Justice Statue.” *Record-Searchlight*. February 21, 1963.
- “County of Shasta State of California Notice to Bidders for Shasta County Courthouse Remodeling Project.” *Record-Searchlight*. May 14, 1993.
- “County Project Under SRA Ruled Down By State.” *The Searchlight*. January 1, 1941.
- “County Wants Plans for Hall of Records.” *Weekly Searchlight*. January 25, 1907.
- “Courthouse Annex Plan Called For.” *Record-Searchlight*. March 27, 1962.
- “Courthouse Ground-Breaking.” *Record-Searchlight*. September 2, 1954.
- “Courthouse is Getting a New Look.” *Record-Searchlight*. August 4, 1994.
- “Courthouse Undamaged in Earthquake.” *Record-Searchlight*. December 22, 1954.
- “Court Starts in Old Quarters, Concludes in New.” *Record-Searchlight*. February 15, 1956.
- “Cracks in Aged Courthouse Call for Big Bracing Job.” *Record-Searchlight*. December 2, 1954.
- “E. Geoffrey Bangs Collection, 1950-1969 approximate.” Online Archives of California. Accessed August 2025. <https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:%2F13030%2Ft3b69n71t>.

Eaton, Richard B. "Shasta County's Four Court Houses" in *Redding and the Three Shastas*, edited by Marion V. Allen. Marion V. Allen, 1981.

"Echoes of the Past: The Rich History of Whiskeytown." Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Accessed August 2025. <https://nps.gov/whis/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

"Fort Reading Historical Landmark." California State Parks. Accessed August 2025. <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/Detail/379>.

"Grand Jury." *The Searchlight*. February 8, 1939.

"Ground-Breaking Rites Set for County Courthouse Annex." *Record-Searchlight*. November 11, 1965.

"Half Million For Buildings, PWA Grants Assist in Construction." *The Searchlight*. November 13, 1938.

"Hall of Records." *Record-Searchlight*. February 8, 1906.

"Hall of Records Plans Submitted." *Weekly Searchlight*. May 10, 1907.

"Hall of Records Stands Completed." *The Searchlight*. March 16, 1909.

"History of Redding Police." City of Redding California. Accessed August 2025. https://www.cityofredding.gov/government/departments/police/your_rpd/history.php.

"Inspector Eyes Courthouse Cracks; Worker Moves." *Record-Searchlight*. December 9, 1954.

"Jails." *Record-Searchlight*. May 1, 1984.

Kleinfelder. "Final Geotechnical Investigation Report, Proposed Shasta County Administrative Center, Redding, California," November 13, 2002.

"L.A. Modernism, 1919-1980." SurveyLA Los Angeles Citywide Historic Context Statement. 2021.

"Landscapers Topple Tallest Palms on Courthouse Grounds." *Record-Searchlight*. February 20, 1957.

"Lester W. Hurd (Architect)." Pacific Coast Architecture Database. Accessed August 2025. <https://pcad.lib.washington.edu/person/347/>.

"Letters to the Editor: Park vs. Parking Lot; Would Keep Palms, Park." *Record-Searchlight*. October 16, 1956.

"Low Courthouse Bids \$738,000 Combined, Bangs Expects Early Start." *Records-Searchlight*. July 27, 1954.

"Masten and Hurd, Architects (Partnership)." Pacific Coast Architecture Database. Accessed August 2025. <https://pcad.lib.washington.edu/firm/134/>.

"Masten & Hurd are Designated Official PWA Correspondent." *The Searchlight*. July 26, 1938.

"Masten and Hurd Sites." Living New Deal. Accessed August 2025. <https://livingnewdeal.org/designers/masten-and-hurd/>.

- McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses, The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2013.
- National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. U.S. Department of the Interior, 1997.
- "New County Jail Will Open Today." *The Searchlight*. October 3, 1939.
- "New Courthouse Addition Planned." *Record-Searchlight*. March 29, 1957.
- "New Courthouse Grounds to Get Lawn, Shrubbery." *Record-Searchlight*. September 6, 1956.
- "New Jail Studied by Supervisors." *The Searchlight*. April 30, 1938.
- "New Redding Courthouse." California Courts, Judicial Branch of California. Accessed August 2025. <https://courts.ca.gov/facilities/shasta-county-new-redding-courthouse>.
- "New Veteran's Memorial Hall, Modern County Jail Finished." *Redding Record*. October 16, 1939.
- "Notice." *The Searchlight*. December 23, 1908.
- "Notice, To Contractors and Builders." *Free Press*. September 15, 1888.
- "Number Four." *The Searchlight*. December 12, 1940.
- "Official Home of the Pit River Tribe." Pit River Tribe. Accessed July 2025. <https://pitrivertribe.gov/>.
- "Old to the New." *Record-Searchlight*. March 28, 1967.
- "Opportunities for Employer-Employee." *The Searchlight*. March 23, 1939.
- "Outdoor Activities." Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Accessed August 2025. <https://nps.gov/whis/planyourvisit/outdooractivities.htm>.
- "Plans for Two Buildings Set Okay of Board." *Record-Searchlight*. June 1, 1946.
- "President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal." U.S. History Primary Source Timeline, Library of Congress. Accessed August 2025. <https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/great-depression-and-world-war-ii-1929-1945/franklin-delano-roosevelt-and-the-new-deal/>.
- "Press Release: Shasta County Votes to Demolish Old Courthouse and Explore Future Development Options." Shasta County Administrative Office. March 19, 2025.
- "Public Works Administration (PWA) (1933)." Living New Deal. Accessed August 2025. <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/public-works-art-project-pwap-1933/>.
- "QuickFacts: Redding city, California." U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed August 2025. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/reddingcitycalifornia/DIS010223>.
- "Redding Sites." Living New Deal. Accessed August 2025. <https://livingnewdeal.org/us/ca/redding-ca/>.

- Ross, Albert F. "The Courthouse Fence." *The Covered Wagon*. Shasta Historical Society, (1955): 32.
- Steger, Gertrude A. "A Chronology of the Life of Pierson Barton Reading." *California Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol.22, No.4 (Dec. 1943): 365-371.
- Jefferson, Jon. "Fort Reading, Shasta County." Recorded content posted May 11, 2021. Shasta Historical Society, Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRo0LiR27Y4>.
- Jefferson, Jon. "Redding History, Shasta County, California." Recorded content posted April 19, 2023. Shasta Historical Society, Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLzJuNT34FE&t=87s>.
- "Screens Placed on New Jail." *The Searchlight*. August 11, 1939.
- "Shasta County History – Pre 1900." Shasta Historical Society. Accessed July 2025. <https://shastahistorical.org/about/sc-history-pre-1900/>.
- "Shasta County on Building Spree." *Record-Searchlight*. June 1, 1957.
- "Shasta County May Build Fallout Shelter." *Record-Searchlight*. November 20, 1962.
- "Shasta Dam Construction." Bureau of Reclamation, Northern California Area Office. Accessed August 2025. <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/dam-work.html>.
- Shasta Historical Society and Al Rocca. *Images of America, Redding*. Arcadia Publishing, 2004.
- "Shasta Jail is Crowded." *Redding Record*. February 4, 1941.
- "Shasta Sheriff's Office History." County of Shasta California. Accessed August 2025. <https://www.shastacounty.gov/sheriff/page/shasta-sheriffs-office-history>.
- "Shovel Digs Own Way Off Truck." *The Searchlight*. September 29, 1939.
- "SRA Project at County Courthouse Approved." *The Searchlight*. May 16, 1940.
- "Superior Court of California, County of Shasta, Courthouse #1, Redding, CA." Pacific Coast Architecture Database. Accessed August 2025. <https://pcad.lib.washington.edu/building/16776/>.
- "The Supervisors Purchase Land Adjoining Hospital." *Record-Searchlight*. March 29, 1909.
- "Travelin' Time: One Cellblock Remains from Old County Jail." *Record Searchlight*. April 23, 2010. Accessed August 2025. <https://archive.redding.com/lifestyle/travelin-in-time-one-cellblock-remains-from-old-county-jail-ep-376922140-355290391.html/>.
- "Will Advertise for Bids for New Hall of Records." *Record-Searchlight*. March 7, 1908.
- "Works Progress Administration (WPA) (1935)." Living New Deal. Accessed August 2025. <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/works-progress-administration-wpa-1935/>.
- "WPA-Moderne." History Colorado. Accessed August 2025. <https://www.historycolorado.org/wpa-moderne>.