

## 39. THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE BUILDING 101 214<sup>TH</sup> Street (1922)



**Landmark Preservation Commission Resolution:** September 15, 1997  
**Designated by City Council:** October 14, 1997

**Description:** This is a three-story, Renaissance-style building with a flat roof and red brick on the front and a short way on the sides. It has a classical cornice below the parapet with flat modillions, bed molding, dentils and the effect of a frieze by using a brick string course. It has an entrance vestibule on the right corner of the front with a floor of small, white, hexagonal tiles and fretted black border. To the rear of the 1922 building is a 1950s addition.

**Historic Significance:** The telephone came to Modesto in 1887 and expanded rapidly from its early beginnings. On Tuesday, May 9, 1911, headlines in *The Modesto Morning Herald* were "HUMAN VOICE HEARD FROM NEW YORK TO THE COLORADO CAPITOL. TWENTY-TWO PEOPLE SEND MESSAGES ACROSS WIRES." The telephone company expanded to keep pace as subscriptions increased. In 1894, Modesto got a new, larger switchboard and its first public telephone. The first buildings were at 1018 and 1016 "I" Street in Modesto. By 1922, the company had outgrown these facilities and moved to the 11<sup>th</sup> Street location.