

LOLA MONTEZ HOUSE

Condition: deteriorated altered on original site

This old wooden house sits in what must have been an appealing garden - now consisting of uncared for shrubs and large trees, all enclosed by a dilapidated picket fence.

Although all paint has weathered away, and the foundations have sagged, and some windows are boarded up, the house, nevertheless hints of having been a gracious home.

The main part is two-storied, its gabled roof, sloping to front and rear, is cut by a steep dormer over the front door at the center. There is a comfortable looking porch across the front. The several additions occur haphazardly. There are suggestions of the early General Grant "carpenter architecture" in the panelled doors, in the double-hung windows, in the quoins at the corners and in the jig-saw work around the front porch and the eaves.

There is a large dove-cote in the rear yard.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
LOLA MONTEZ HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mill and Walsh Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Grass Valley

STATE: California CODE: COUNTY: Nevada CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Miss Lorraine Andrews

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mill and Walsh Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Grass Valley STATE: California CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Nevada County Assessor's Office - Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Nevada City STATE: California CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

DATE OF SURVEY: September 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Commission files - 529 E. Broad Street, Nevada City, California

STREET AND NUMBER:
Duplicate files - Nevada City Library (Historical Section)

CITY OR TOWN: North Pine Street, Nevada City STATE: California CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original structure was a one story cottage which served as the office of an early mining company known as _____

It was still a one story structure during the two years when it was the residence of Lola Montez, who - after her departure from Grass Valley in 1862 - sold the property to the local postmaster named Stewart.

Around 1870 Postmaster Stewart did extensive remodeling and new construction which resulted in the existing two ~~xxx~~ storied house. The only structure original to the period of Lola Montez's residence is the stone and wood dove cote in the rear yard. The proof is mainly local tradition, however knowledgeable appraisal of the structure's construction and building materials reports it is indeed one of very early date.

" This old wooden house sits in what may have been an appealing garden - now consisting of uncared for shrubs and large trees, enclosed by a dilapidated picket fence. Although all paint has weathered away and the foundations have sagged and some windows are boarded up, the house nonetheless hints of having been a gracious home. The main part ~~is~~ is two-storied. Its gabled roof, sloping to front and rear, is cut by a steep dormer over the front door at the center. There is a comfortable looking porch across the front. The several additions occur haphazardly. There are suggestions of the early General Grant "carpenter" architecture in the panelled doors, in the double hung windows, in the quoins at the corners and in the ~~jag~~ jig-saw work around the front porch and the eaves. There is a large dove cote in the rear yard. "

Francis E. Lloyd, A.I.A.
P.O.Box 177
Cedar Ridge, California 95924

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian; | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | <u>Office of an</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>early mining company</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Residence of Lola</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | <u>Montez for two yrs.</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Some local opinion to the contrary, there is documented evidence that this house was the site of Lola Montez's residence during the period she resided in Grass Valley. There is also basis to conclude the original house was retained in the subsequent remodeling. To local historians and history buffs the greatest historical significance concerns the use as the office of the early mining company. Documented facts on this company have been difficult to find and information in general has been meagre. But the interest of the general public that causes the Lola Montez House to be the most popular "landmark" in the area, perhaps stems from the sensationalism of the former owner's career and conquests. Such feats catch the public fancy that completely overlooks such an individual as lovely Lotta Crabtree who virtually grew up in Grass Valley and became renowned for her performing talent; whose business acumen resulted in accumulating a sizeable fortune which was used to benefit needy actors and entertainers after Lott's death. The Lola Montez House should be preserved and restored for it remains the prime tourist attraction of Grass Valley. The city has prohibited its use to the public, due to its deplorable and ~~unsafe~~ "unsafe" condition. We have hoped to establish public ownership and begin restoration and rehabilitation. However, due to the eccentricity of the elderly owner we believe the only means of ownership will be by means of condemnation. This house is a SRL which was obviously granted during an earlier period when criteria was far less demanding than today.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Doris Foley's The Divine Eccentric pub 1969

Joseph Henry Jackson's Anybody's Gold reprinted 1970; pp 201,202

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	39	12	56
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	121	03	54
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One city lot

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs Leland S. Lewis, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission DATE: Sept. 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
529 East Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Nevada City STATE: California CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1973-07-28

NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARKS COMMISSION
529 EAST BROAD STREET
NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95959

July 28, 1973

William Penn Mott, Jr., Director
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O.Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr Mott:

The July 20 meeting was extremely informative and elicited much interest. We were delighted to have such response. I had guests sign in because we wanted to know where they came from and what group they were representing.

The largest out of town contingent came from Auburn. Following the meeting we had luncheon at the National and there was obvious enthusiasm from the remarks I heard as I circulated around the dining room.

Because the Landmarks Commission is an official county agency and funded with county funds, I assume we shall continue to be responsible for completing the current inventory. But we shall consult with the Supervisors and learn what they wish.

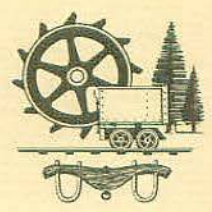
I wish to ~~complement~~ compliment the department on the California History Plan booklet. It is a handsome format and offers a chunk of information. My copy is presently circulating among members of the LMC Commission.

I am enclosing the article and news picture of the July 20 meeting for I thought you would be interested to observe what splendid coverage our local newspaper gave to the event.

John Michael had advised us in a recent letter that our applications of several historical landmarks for National Registry are now being reactivated. These had been submitted the summer of 1971 and needed a few minor changes. I am eager to get the Lola Montez house listed for the structure is now facing condemnation proceedings. The owner is difficult to deal with and so an impasse has existed for some time. The house's dilapidated state poses much hazard. It has been hoped the owner would agree to cooperate with the Restoration Committee in preference to having the house torn down. We have found the Lola Montez house is the best known landmark and the place most visitors wish to see. The Ott Assay Office is also well known but must take 2nd place to "Lola" who fame (or infamy) appears known far and wide.

Cordially,

Mrs Leland S. Lewis, Chairman





Conference of California Historical Societies

Phone (209) 946-2169

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95204

February 18, 1974


Mr. Ed Tellam, Mayor
and the City Council
City Hall
Grass Valley, California - 95945

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

As you know, the Nevada County Historical Land Marks Commission has under consideration a proposal to restore the Lola Montez house. Although this building has been considerably altered since the time of Lola's residence, historical researchers in your County report that the house was also the residence and headquarters of the Gold Hill Mine, the first deep quartz mine in the County. It also appears that the existing structure is all that remains of the residences of Lola Montez in the United States. For these reasons, I feel your City Council should give every consideration to the restoration project, not only because of its National historical significance but also because its preservation will enhance the historical attractions of Grass Valley and will provide additional tourist interest.

May I remind your eminent Council that the 1974 historic facilities Bond Act, which will be on the June 4th election ballot, will provide, if approved, a minimum of \$200,000 for Nevada County and for every other County in the State. Projects like the Lola Montez house restoration and other programs might possibly be funded, at least in part, from the proceeds of this allocation. The State Department of Parks and Recreation has been actively campaigning for its passage, and the Conference of California Historical Societies also is solidly behind it. We hope the voters in your County will give it overwhelming support.

Sincerely,


Ronald H. Limbaugh, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary

RHL:m

cc: ✓ Mrs. Sally Lewis
Mr. Allen Goddard