

PROPOSED HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM FOR GRASS VALLEY

1. Holbrook Hotel
2. Numerous building fronts on Main and Mill Streets
3. Mt St Mary's Convent & St Joseph's Chapel
4. Cemetery across from Convent.
5. Lola Montez House
6. Stone House on Mill Street
7. Empire Mine Office  
Bourne Mansion & Gardens  
12 acre site containing these and all existing structures
8. Lotta Crabtree House
9. Numerous homes that offer splendid examples of early architectural styles.
10. Episcopal Church
11. Markers designating state registered "Points of Historical Interest"
  - a) North Star Mine ( should be visible from Freeway)
  - b) Gold Discovery Site
  - c) Gilmore Airfield ( sign on Hyway 20)
  - d) Unusual sites as Diamond-National - same type of business on this site makes its oldest in town.
  - e) Empire Mine ( sign on So Auburn & Empire St)
  - f) Josiah Royce site
12. Rear wall of Del Oro could have an attractive sign - perhaps a map or eye catching legend - should have professional designer.
13. Sidewalk awnings on Mill Street should be replaced.
14. Encourage painting of houses and bldgs. in general beautification plan.
15. Eyecatching markers to attract travelers speeding by on Freeway.
16. Continue the Cornish Christmas.
17. Initiate Sign Control Ordinance
18. Selected business houses to have simple brochure giving history of bldg or business.
19. Use the "Gold Key" plan for visitors as used in Fredericksburg. Virginia.
20. Get a live wire Tourist Info Center that is accessible and open 7 days a week.
21. Revive the Cornish Choir and publicise Cornish customs.

Problems

Brockington Shopping Center is anything but attractive. Merchants there may eventually be influenced to do moderate remodeling of store fronts (even one or two of them) Like the conglomeration at Colfax-So Auburn corner these are eyesores. And like Hills Flat an eye sore is an eye sore is an eye sore ..  
Tragic our program was too late to save the old George house on Colfax-Auburn corner. THAT house offered a noble milestone to identify Grass Valley to travelers ..double front door, bay windows, inside shutters, iron fence, marvelous potential for landscaping  
Now that corner looks like a hundred others in a hundred other towns .. THAT house offered Madison Avenue ad men's dream of publicity-promotion ..

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

DATA FROM LYLE WHITE June 1970

Business Buildings - Grass Valley

1. RAINBOW REALTY

Brick building located on SW corner of Mill and Main  
Built in 1854-55  
Gutted by fire and repaired 1855-56

2. WILLIAMS STATIONERY STORE

One story brick building on Main St  
Built 1854  
Attic of this structure shows evidence of fire

3. HOLBROOK HOTEL

Two story brick on Main Street  
In 1855 a woman named Smith built a brick building to house  
a saloon. In 1862 she purchased the land on either side of her bldg  
and erected the present hotel. The present bar is the original saloon.  
News items show a mechanics lean against the owner for plastering.

4. GRASS VALLEY HARDWARE

Thress brick buildings built 1855 following the fire  
Two used for hardware; one for Doughnute shop  
Newsclipping of 1854 used wrong date. Correct date 1855.  
O.O.F. hall built in 1870 adding 2nd story to building housing Doughnut shop  
and making use of a six foot alley.

5. DIAMOND NATIONAL

Located corner of Main and Bennett Streets  
Oldest site on town used for same business operation (Lumber)  
Was used as early as 1853. Existing building not original even though  
it materials indicate considerable age.  
Work shop in rear contains beams blackened by fire, so likely earliest  
part of existing structures.

After the destructive fire pf \_\_\_\_\_ the business district was rebuilt  
with many owners erecting brick buildings which still remain today.



**1984 Designers Showhouse**  
Last 3 Weekends in May  
Don't Miss the Magnificence!!

THE UNION, Grass

## Jones-Brown home 'core' of redevelopment

By SUSAN WOLBARST  
Of The Union Staff

Meeting in special session Tuesday morning, Grass Valley City Council members passed a resolution describing the historic Jones-Brown property at 125 South Auburn St. as "the core" of the city's proposed urban redevelopment project, presently in conceptual stages.

City officials are considering redevelopment of the area between City Hall and the Golden Center Freeway, including portions of the east side of South Auburn Street, Stewart Street and Bank Street.

City Attorney Dwight Moore has described plans for redevelopment, including possible construction of an enclosed shopping mall with underground parking, linked to a parking structure across South Auburn Street by a pedestrian bridge. The area along Wolf Creek may be landscaped and developed as a pedestrian parkway as part of the redevelopment plan.

The City Council, acting as a self-appointed

Redevelopment Agency, would acquire the land, by eminent domain if necessary, and lease it to a developer.

The resolution passed Tuesday was necessary, according to a memo from Moore to Council members, because of problems with the pending sale of the Victorian-style Jones-Brown home, built in the mid-1870s and lived in since by only two families.

After the most recent owner, Leone (Noni) Brown died, the property was placed on the market by her heirs. Realtor John Morgan offered it to the city for \$300,000 in November, but the offer was declined.

Since then, a buyer expressed interest in purchasing the home through a limited partnership for conversion to a bed and breakfast inn. But "their investment team withdrew from the project after they had discovered that a portion of the garden area might be included in the City's proposed redevelopment project," according to Moore's memo.

Formal gardens, some fruit trees, a vegetable garden,

lawn area and large pedestrian walkway from South Auburn Street are included in the 21,450-square-foot property.

The resolution passed Tuesday notes that the property has been designated a "point of historic interest" by the Nevada County Landmarks Committee. The short resolution calls the property's location "the heart of a proposed Grass Valley redevelopment program."

It makes no mention of preserving the home or property, but calls the present boundaries "the core of this proposed redevelopment program if such redevelopment proposal ever takes place."

In other business Tuesday, the City Council:

- Authorized employees of the Building Department to sign Community Development Block Grant claims. City Planner Bill Roberts, who is out of town, usually signs such claims for payment.

- Held a closed-door session on the subject of personnel matters. No announcement was made following the session.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BLOCK

Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

County Nevada

Name SITE OF IDAHO-MARYLAND MINE

Location Idaho-Maryland Road, Grass Valley

Historical Significance:

The Idaho quartz mine was discovered in 1863. It prospered under the Coleman brothers from 1867-93, then consolidated with the Maryland and other small mines. Eventually it became one of the "Big Three" of the Northern Mines, the other two being the Empire and the North Star. Its final years under the management of Errol MacBoyle were very productive. He developed a revolutionary method of shaft sinking, using a huge core drill called the Newsome drilling machine. World War II and government order L28 brought about final closing.

References: Gold Mines of California by Jack Wagner; Mines and Mineral Resources of Nevada County by Errol MacBoyle

THIS POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IS NOT A STATE REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

RECOMMENDED:

*Alse E. Barnhart*

Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

Date

*March 12, 1984*

APPROVED:

Signature—Chairman, State Historical Resources Commission

Date

*Nov. 2, 1984*



**POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BLOCK

Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

County Nevada

Name The Caroline Hansen House

Location 319 Neal Street, Grass Valley.

Historical Significance: Home of the originator of Grass Valley's "Donation Day" that began in 1883. Mrs Hansen, an invalid, sat in the bay window of her home and watched children troupe by to school. Hearing of the Ladies Relief Society's shortage of funds she suggested a plan to help the needy share the Feast of Christmas. Each child would bring a stick of wood and a potatoe to school on the same day ased by the school supt. The potatoes would be put in a sack provided by the janitor; the wood would be piled in the school yard. On the following day these donations would be removed by the Relief Society and dispensed as needed. Mrs Hansen conveyed her plan in a letter to the Grass Valley Daily Union that was pub. 20 Nov. 1883. Since that date thousands of Grass Valley school children and citizens have marched in the Donation Day parade.

Ref. Minutes of the Relief Society  
Grass Valley Union newsfiles

THIS POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IS NOT A STATE REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

RECOMMENDED:

*Thomas R. Ruma*  
Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

APPROVED:

Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

Date

3-11-75

Date

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—RESOURCES AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BLOCK

Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

County Nevada Name The Grass Valley Union newspaper

Location 151 Mill Street, Grass Valley, California R. Peter Ingram, Publisher/Editor

Historical Significance:

In continuous publication since October 28, 1864 the Grass Valley UNION is one of seven newspapers in California that has been in publication under the same name for 100 years or longer.

The original building of this newspaper is illustrated in Thompson-West History of Nevada County. A plaque commemorating the centennial of publication was placed by William Bull Meek-Wm M Stewart chapter of E Calmpus Vitus.

THIS POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IS NOT A STATE REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

RECOMMENDED:

Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

Date

APPROVED:

Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

Date

LOTTA CRABTREE HOUSE

Condition: fair altered original site

This building shows little of its original character.

Presently the walls are covered with asbestos shingles.

A modern porch has been built across the front ~~which~~ affording entrance to the several apartments it has been divided into.

It is two-storied with a gable roof and there is a shed roofed addition at the rear.



OCT 7, 1969 The Union



## Chinatown plaque is dedicated

CLAMPERS of William Bull Meek-William Morris Stewart Chapter 10, Nevada City, dedicated a plaque at the former Chinatown site on Bank Street, Grass Valley, Saturday, on the first day of their annual Clampout to Malakoff Diggins State Park. Noble Grand Humbug Tom Barry (right) addresses the crowd of Clampers, participants in the Kiwanis Mine Tour and interested local residents. Introduced during the short program were (from left to right) Mrs. Lu Cramer (far left) who contributed the site, Grass Valley Mayor Jerry Brust and lifelong resident, Ed Tinloy, whose family name is commemorated on the plaque. Inscription on the plaque reads: "Of the many gold rush immigrants the Chinese were noted for their honest, sober and industrious characteristics. Each mining camp had its Chinatown and Grass Valley's was second only to San Francisco's. Former residents Duck Egg, Georgie Bow, Ah Louie and the Pioneer Yuen, Gon and Tinloy families are an integral part of Nevada county's history."

(Union Photos)





The Union March 18, 2000

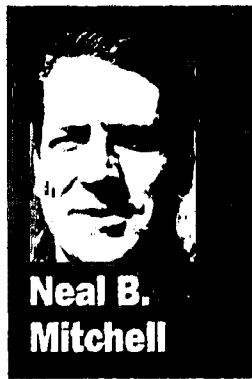
## Opinion

## OTHER VOICES

## Awake, Grass Valley! Your past is burning

On March 7, *The Union's* front-page story titled "First time under fire" depicted three color photographs of the intentional burning of the "Northstar Cottage." As a training exercise for local fire fighters, the cottage and two other structures were burned that day at the old Northstar Mine property. My letter concerns one of those structures referred to in *The Union's* article as "the house off Old Auburn Road." No mention was made of the historical significance of this house and of those that once lived within its walls.

"The Cottage," as it was known, was built in 1886 near the incline shaft of the Northstar Mine. The Arts and Crafts-style cottage was exactly like the first house built for George Starr at the Empire Mine and served as a company residence for the Northstar. In 1895 the cottage became the home of the Foote family. A.D. Foote took over as the resident superintendent for the mine. Sharing the house with Arthur were his wife, Mary Hallock Foote, and



Neal B. Mitchell

their two daughters.

A.D. Foote's first task was to conceive, design and construct a new power source for the mine (the powerhouse presently stands at the corner of McCourtney and Allison Ranch Roads). "Arthur recommended against electricity in favor of compressed air; the air was to be compressed through power generated by a high-speed water wheel of unprecedented large dimensions" wrote Mary Hallock Foote in her book. "A Victorian Gentlewoman in the Far West." Most probably, A.D.'s world famous design for power generation was developed in the cottage at Northstar.

Mary Hallock Foote was a noted illustrator and author from the late 1870s to World War I. She became one of the best known writers and illustrators who made the Far West their genre. Her short stories, serialized novels and illustrations appeared regularly in the best periodicals of the day such as *Century Magazine* and *Atlantic Monthly*. Critics of the time hailed her as "an authentic voice of the West" as she followed her mining engineer husband through a series of projects in Idaho, Colorado and California during the second half of the 19th century. Many of these works were created in the cottage at Northstar.

The Footes lived in the cottage until 1905 when they moved into the newly constructed Northstar House about 100 yards above the

cottage. Another famous professional woman named Julia Morgan designed the Northstar House. She was the first woman to receive a degree in civil engineering from Berkeley and to graduate from the Ecole des Beaux-arts in Paris. The Northstar House was her first major commission that led to a long career of designing over 800 buildings in California, including Hearst Castle in San Simeon.

After the Footes moved into the Northstar House, the Northstar Cottage became the residence for young engineers at the mine. An upstairs room and bath were added along with an outside staircase. The "Cottage boys," as they became known, were trained under "Old A.D." and all went on to successful careers. Ray Tremoureaux invented the traveling cement mixer. Fred Sabin managed copper mines in Arizona and Bob Bedford became the superintendent at Northstar.

Not one mention in *The Union* article was made of the history that was destroyed in the fire on March 4 at North Star. How can we permit such important historical landmarks to be used as "training" targets for our fire departments? Why as a community are we so apathetic towards these critical links to our past? A culture without history is not a culture!

□□□

*The opinions of columnists are not necessarily those of The Union.*

The Union March 22, 2000

THE UNION'S OPINION

## Save our historical landmarks before

Firefighters practiced battling house fires a few weeks ago, using an abandoned old house on the North Star Mine property south of Grass Valley.

But this wasn't just another abandoned old house. The cottage built in 1886 had some historic significance as a company home for the North Star mine, and the home of the family of A.D. Foote, a famed mining engineer.

Nearby is one of the architectural treasures of western Nevada County, the North Star House designed by Julia Morgan, one of the century's great architects — and America's first great woman architect. The grand house designed by Morgan is a shambles, the victim of

time, the elements, vandals and neglect.

The firefighters who set the cottage afire for practice had no knowledge of the history they sent up in smoke. Neither did most of the community — and that's a fact we should find profoundly disturbing.

The roots of western Nevada County draw sustenance from the deep riches of its history. We are surrounded by our history, and we claim to understand our roles as stewards of our historical resources.

As the unthinking destruction of the North Star cottage demonstrates, however, our track record as preservationists falls far short of perfect.

The losses have been painful. The destruction of the great Kidder mansion along Bennett Street in Grass Valley is an oft-cited example. Yet we have made little progress toward ensuring that we act consciously when we address our heritage.

The immediate issue is the Morgan house at North Star. Its condition may put it beyond salvation. Its loss would be a wide, deep and black mark on our record as stewards of our heritage.

The owners of the North Star property, good people who have demonstrated that they care about the community, can create a legacy at the North Star House, a legacy that would be profoundly

## e they go up in smoke

appreciated for decades to come. They hope someday to develop the property. We can think of no greater keystone to that project than a shining example of the preservation of an architectural treasure.

Yet the preservation cannot be simply the work of the property owners. A broad-based effort would ensure that the community has a strong stake in the protection of this and other landmarks. Equally important, it is needed to provide the substantial resources that would be needed if the Foote mansion is to be saved.

No one knows for sure if the Foote mansion can be saved. But the time to

ask the questions is now.

And the loss of the Foote's cottage at the North Star Mine points out the great need to compile a list of historically significant buildings throughout Nevada County. Even if the listings are not accompanied by measures to protect significant buildings, the mere fact that the public knows of the importance of a structure provides a measure of protection. Nevada City's residents have demonstrated the power of an educated public committed to historic preservation.

No longer must we be able to cite ignorance as a reason for the destruction of our heritage.