

HISTORIC LANDMARKS IN NEVADA CITY

THE NATIONAL HOTEL

Built April 1856 consisting of three brick buildings known as the "Bicknell Block". Unharmed by the great fire of July 1856. Began business as the National Exchange Hotel on August 20, 1856. In operation since that date causes it to be considered the longest continuing hotels in California.

THE DURBROW BUILDING

Completed late in 1856 this building occupying two lots replaced a frame building lost in the July 1856 fire. This bldg. owned by Hamlet Davis was site of the first theatre in Nevada City located in the second floor. Edwin Booth appeared in this theatre. Adjoining the Davis bldg. was the first brick bldg in the city. The sandblasting that uncovered the original bricks and the side walk canopy was done the fall of 1970. It represented the first major restoration under the city's historical ordinance zoning.

THE NEVADA THEATRE

Built in 1865 the old Nevada is today the oldest original theatre in California. It was used for a movie house by 1920 and had major remodeling in 1947 when a modern front was added with a marquee and neon sign. The theatre was purchased in 1967 by the L.A.C. and is being restored by that organization. The commission membership is open to the public

THE EMIL OTT HOUSE

Emil Ott son of James J Ott returned to conduct the assay office when his father died in 1905. This house built in the 1890s by a druggist named Vinton was purchased by Ott and is still the home of his daughter Beatrice Ott Hogue.

The E.E.BERGGRON HOUSE

This house was built by A.A.Sargent who has been called the "father" or first citizen of Nevada City due to his many contributions. Sargent served on the first city council; he edited the first newspaper and wrote a history of Nevada (City) that is still used as source material. He also contributed the section on law and lawyers in T-W history After studying law and passing the bar he became dist attorney - He served as both US Rep and Senator and then was named Amb to Germany He retired to San Francisco where he died in 1888 - his tomb was moved from Laurel Hill Cemetery and relocated in Pioneer cemetery

THE ENGLEBRIGHT HOUSE

This early house (built before 1860) had several famous owners. Wm Morris Stewart - Capt Thomas Mein the mining engineer whose son Wm W Mein was born here and Congressman Harry Englebright.

PIONEER CEMETERY - West Broad Street

The first cemetery in town and contains the graves of many notables including William Sutter son of Capt John Sutter who lived here with his cousin James J Ott. Plots are available only to native born.

MEDICINE ROCK - East Broad Street

This rock was a favorite place for the Indians who claimed it possessed strange curative qualities.

SEARLS HOUSE - Main Street

This house was the wedding gift of Judge Niles Searls to his son Fred Searls. Here the six children were born five of whom became distinguished in their chosen fields. Fred, Jr. and Robert as mining engineers - Carroll a lawyer became an officer of Newmont Mining - Dr Henry became professor of surgery at University of California. The home is still owned by the family and used by members of the family -

SEARLS LAW OFFICE - Church Street

Judge Niles Searls who arrived in N City to practice law in 1851 moved his office to this bldg in 1873. His son Fred, Sr his grandson Carroll both practiced in this office. In 1922 Carroll Searls moved to NYC and the bldg was closed. This year the widow of Carroll Searls gave the bldg to the Hist Society as a memorial to the family. The first room will be an exhibit showing an early law office with many original furnishings used. The second room will contain the valuable law and mining collections ~~xxxxxx~~ from the files of the office. It will also serve as headquarters for the County Archives and Historical Library.

OSBORN-WOODS - Commercial Street

Built in 1855 this bldg was badly gutted in the 1856 fire. The second floor originally used for a billard parlor was rebuilt essential as it is today - the original iron shutters and large beams remain. The owners commercial artists maintain their working studio in San Francisco. Their shop is one of the outstanding in the area.

NEVADA TRANSCRIPT BUILDING - Commerical Street

This building housed the first newspaper in Nevada City and originally had a side walk canopy. The second floor was devoted to the printing operation.

CANAL OFFICE & OTT ASSAY OFFICE - Main Street

This historic complex was the subject of a long and stormy struggle to preserve the building. The original route of the freeway was altered at tremendous cost to bypass the building. The present structure was built in 1855 as the 3rd bldg on this site and replaced the two earlier bldgs built of wood. The 2 storied section was a pottery shop and became the office of the great SYCWater Company. James Ott moved his assay office here in 1863 when his original office (in an adjoining bldg) was lost by fire. Ott assayed the first ore of the Comstock Lode in 1859 in the original office. The office remained in business until Emil Otts death in 1956. The bldg was built by Dr John Lark and used as the City Drug Store. This structure is the only one remaining from the city's first business street. It is the oldest extant bldg in town.

THE RECTOR HOUSE - Nevada Street

Built in 1888 by Dr Robert Hunt this home replaced one built of brick - the owner believed brick caused rheumatism! The home of the Rector family for many years the house offers an elegant example of late Victorian -

THE NAFZIGER HOUSE - Nevada Street

Dr Howard Nafziger was born and raised in N City He became internationally known as a neuro-surgeon being one of the pioneers in that field - He was long associated with the University of California .

THE MARTIN LUTHER MARSH HOUSE - Boulder Street

Built in 1873 this house was restored in 1956 by the owner's granddaughter Mrs James B. Christie and her late husband. M.L.Marsh had come to N City as a young carpenter - he became a prosperous lumber man and owned several saw mills including one located directly opposite his home. Many furnishings original to the house. The bathroom was added in 1888 and the conservatory after 1900. Marsh built this home for h M.L.Marsh was widowed before the house was completed but he raised his four children here with the help of a housekeeper.

THE RED CASTLE - Prospect Street

Built by John Williams in 1862 this house has been termed an outstanding example of carpenter Gothic style and is a reg. point of historic interest. It has been painstakingly restored by its present owner Mr and Mrs James W Schaar. And offers five bedrooms for overnight guests. The house may be toured by appointment. Admission is charged.

THE WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART HOUSE

The legendary Stewart built this home for his bride Annie Foote and lived here for two years before he departed for Nevada in the great exodus to the Constock Lode. Stewart who had practiced law in Downieville and N City played a major role in establishing early mining laws of California. He helped draft the constitution of Nevada and served as the first senator from that state. Like A.A.Sargent, Stewart was buried in Laurel Hill Cemetery in SF Niles Searls purchased the house from Stewart. Restored by Mr and Mrs Victor Hermann of Hillsbough the refurbishing and restoration is a superb example of authenticity and good taste.

NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARKS COMMISSION

529 EAST BROAD STREET

NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95959

1. NATIONAL HOTEL - Built in 1856 consisting of three brick buildings known as the Bicknell Block; escaped damage in the July 1856 fire and became the National Exchange Hotel in August. Had operated continuously since that date.
2. DURBROW BUILDING: Built late 1856 to replace two buildings lost in July fire of that year. One a frame bldg. general merchandise - 2nd story the first theatre in Nevada City; Edwin Booth performed here. Owned by Hamlet Davis The adjoining building was first brick structure in town which was gutted in the July fire. Present bldg is first completed major restoration under the city's historical ordinance.
3. NEVADA THEATRE built 1865 was the 7th and last theatre in Nevada City. Began to show movies by 1910; remodeled in 1947 with movie marquee, neon sign and box office added. Owned by the Liberal Arts Commission and is now being restored. Operated as a movie theatre until 1957. It is the oldest original theatre existing in California today.
4. FIREHOUSE # 2 - Cornerstone October 1860; first permanent firehouse in Nevada City and first built here with funds raised by public subscription. Only original firehouse here still in use by fire department.
5. EMIL OTT HOUSE - built in the 1890's by a druggist named Vinton; became the home of Emil Ott in 1905 who was the son of James J. Ott. Operated his father's assay office until his death in 1956. Residence of his daughter Beatrice Ott Hogue.
6. AARON A. SARGENT HOUSE - was called the " first citizen " of N.City - edited the first newspaper; wrote a history of Nevada (City) 1856 which is still used as source material for historians; served on first city council; served as district attorney. His law office in the 2nd floor of the Canal Bldg. Was U.S. Rep for six years; U.S.Senator for six years and then Ambassador to Germany. Retired to San F where he died in 1888; entombed at Laurel Hill Cemetery When this cemetery was turned to other use his tomb was moved to Pioneer Cemetery.
7. ENGELBRIGHT HOUSE - Built shortly after the 1856 fire. Many famous owners. Wm Morris Stewart; Capt Thos Mein whose son Wm Wallace Mein was born here; and U.S.Congressman Harry Engelbright.
8. SEARLS HOUSE - Built as a wedding gift for Fred Searls and his wife by his father Judge Niles Searls. Still the family home and birthplace of the children. Each son became prominent in his field - Fred, Jr., and Robert mining engineers, Carroll in law and Dr Henry professor of surgery at UC Medical School. Frederick J. Searls the great grandson of Judge Niles Searls is attorney for P.G. & E. in San Francisco.
9. SEARLS LAW OFFICE - Judge Niles Searls who came to N City in 1851 opened his law office in this bldg in 1873. His son Fred and his grandson Carroll both practiced law here. The bldg was closed in 1922 when Carroll Searls moved to NYC. The property has been given to the County Historical Society as a memorial to the family. It is being developed as an exhibit of an early law office and headquarters of the county's historical library and archives. The library

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inventory will include the valuable law and mining documents contained in the original office files.

OSBORN-WOODS - Built in 1855 with the first floor a general merchandise store and the second floor a billards parlor this structure was badly gutted in the 1856 fire and immediately repaired. The 2nd floor studio contains the original ceiling beams which are exposed.

OTT ASSAY OFFICE & SOUTH YUBA CANAL BUILDING: The oldest structure in N City Built in 1855 to replace a frame structure lost by fire. James J. Ott operated his first assay office in an adjoining building where he assayed the first ore from the Comstock Lode in 1859. His frame building burned in 1863 and he moved to the present bldg and conducted his assay office there. The adjoining Canal Bldg was first built for the china, book and stationery shop of a man named Potter. By 1857 it became the office of the great South Yuba Canal Water Company whose vast network of ditches and flumes made it the largest in California. It eventually became the property of PG&E which was organized in N City.

FIREHOUSE # 1 - Nevada County Historical Museum. Completed May 1861 and built by Nevada Hose Company No 1, the first organized volunteer fire department in N City.

GHIDOTTI GOLD COLLECTION displayed in the Bank of America. This building the first new construction under the city's historical ordinance. The gold collection are rich specimen of quartz which assay over \$ 8,000; from the 16-1 Mine in Allegheny. This high grade rock was purchased at auction in 1967 for a bid of \$ 25,000; purchased by the late Wm Ghidotti whose personal story is another of the local legends.

RECTOR HOUSE - Built in 1884 by Dr Robert Hunt this stately home replaced on built of brick which was torn down because the owner believed the dampness of the bricks caused rheumatism! The home for many years of the Rector family and still used by Dr Wm Rector. Considered an outstanding example of mid-Victorian architecture in this area.

MARTIN LUTHER MARSH HOUSE - Built in 1873 by M.L.Marsh who came to N City as a young carpenter from Ohio and became a prosperous lumber man here. The house was restored by Marsh's granddaughter Mrs James B. Christie and her late husband. The restoration in 1955 included many of the original furnishing.

WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART HOUSE - Stewart who became a legend in his lifetime practiced law in N City and Downieville. He became county district attorney and later attorney general of California responsible for designing many basic mining laws. He built this home in 1855 and sold it two years later to Judge Niles Searls. Stewart moved to Nevada in 1860 joining the rush to the Comstock Lode. There he helped write the constitution for the new state and became its first U.S.Senator. This home has been painstakingly restored by the present owner Mr and Mrs Victor Hermann of Hillsborough.

THE RED CASTLE built in 1862 this house has been called an outstanding example of Carpenter Gothic. Excellant restoration in 1964-65 by the present owner Mr and Mrs James Schaar. Overnight accomodations include suites and sleeping single bedrooms. Tours available with reservation preferred.

FIRE HOUSE # 1 on Main Street

Condition: fair unaltered original site

This small two-storied brick building (about 16' x 30' in plan) is eclipsed by the joyful, white, flamboyant, ginger-bread ~~and~~ laden, wooden, two-storied portico in front. This portico is crowned by a hipped roof which is covered with shingles, cut and spaced to a delightful pattern; and from this roof emerges a most elaborate square bell ^{HOUSE} ~~tower~~ capped by a pyramidal roof and this is finally tipped with a carved ornament high above the roof of the building itself.

FIRE HOUSE NO. 2 on Broad Street

Condition: good unaltered on original site

This red brick building measures about 16 feet across the front by about 14 feet deep and is a startling thirty some feet from sidewalk to the eaves of the roof which is gabled at the front. The second floor is reached by an open stair hung on the west wall.

At the front is a two storied white wood portico built with shaped posts and with a decorative ballustrade railing at the second floor level. The fire bell is housed in a square cupola placed on the roof near the front.

There is a corrugated iron addition at the rear.

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 Aaron Baruh House**

Location

516 Main Street, Nevada City

Historical Significance: Built c. 1852 as a modest two room cottage by Jacob Coleman and sold in 1858 to Katherine Stevens. Purchased in 1866 by Aaron Baruh, a local grocer who later owned and operated a saloon. The birthplace of his daughter Jennie Baruh who married Isadore Zellerbach. Still owned by Baruh-Zellerbach descendants. Maintained in excellent condition; furnishings include many family heirlooms.

Legal description, identifying location of this property in original records furnished valuable information on early landmarks including a hospital and cemetery located on the site of the present Elementary School.

Ref. Nevada County Deeds
Nevada City Newfiles
Beans Directory

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

RECOMMENDED:

Thomas R. Luma
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 American Hill Digging

Location Highway 49 north of Nevada City

Historical Significance:

Site of first hydraulic mining in 1853 by Edward E. Matteson.

The first approach to this method of mining was that of Antoine Chabot at his claim, Buckeye Hill, Nevada County where in 1852 he used water to assist directing gravel into the sluicibox. But it remained for Matteson to develop fully when in 1853 Matteson employed a nozzle attached to a rawhide hose to wash down soil for gold recovery at his claim known as American Hill.

References: Thompson-West History of Nevada County p.179
Wagner's Gold Mines of California; Howell-North
page 23

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

RECOMMENDED:

Ralph C. Buchanan
Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

Date

APPROVED:

Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

Date

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

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Reg. No. _____

Date _____

By _____

County Nevada

Name Site of Caldwell's Upper Store

Location

Corner Nevada-Grave Streets (Trinity Episcopal Church occupies site)

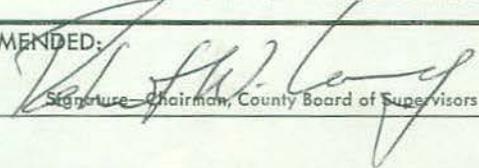
Historical Significance: Dr A.B.Caldwell, who had previously kept store at Beckville, 4 miles down Deer Creek, moved to present Nevada City October 1949; erected a crude cabin on Nevada St. "and the slope of Aristocracy Hill" where he sold supplies to miners. The area became known as "Caldwell's Upper Store". By 1856 W.H.Orr had built a fine brick house on the Caldwell site which he sold in 1859 to Charles Foster. The Orr-Foster brick house combined with a wooden extension was used as the city high school 1862-69. In 1871 the property was purchased by the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church. The existing house was removed and the existing church erected on this site in 1873.

References: Nevada County Deeds
Bean's Directory 1867
Thompson/West's Hist.Nevada County pub 1880

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

RECOMMENDED:

X


Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

Date

X

APPROVED:

Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

Date

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

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Reg. No. Nev 023
Date 3-15-74
By 

County **NEVADA** Name **ENGLEBRIGHT HOUSE**

Location **524 E. Broad Street, Nevada City (residence of Mr and Mrs W.Lon Cooper)**

Historical Significance: Notable as one of the earliest recorded houses in Nevada City and for its history of prominent owners. The tradition that the legendary Wm Morris Stewart built the house in 1853 cannot be documented for no deeds remain earlier than 1858. However, the house appears as the residence of P.G.Womack in the first map of the city prepared in 1855 and published in 1856.
Other owners included the famous mining engineer, Capt Thos Mein whose son William Wallace Mein was born ~~here~~ in the house in 1873. The family of the late U.S.Represent. Harry Englebright purchased the house in 1897 and resided there until 1959.
The interior shows the work of many occupants and the exterior reflects eclectic borrowings from many past styles.
References: Kuchel & Dresel Map of Nevada (City) pub.1856
Nevada County Deeds Book 3, 10, 13, 24, 47, 78, 89.

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

RECOMMENDED:
 
Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

APPROVED:

Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

Date February 13, 1974

Date March 7, 1974

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

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BLOCK
Reg. No. Nev-021
Date 3-15-74
By [Signature]

County NEVADA Name MINER'S FOUNDRY

Location 400 Spring St., Nevada City

Historical Significance: Opened in 1855 behind the National Hotel, the foundry was moved to its present location after the fire of 1856. Supplied equipment to the milling shops of many mines. Notable equipment included the Patent Mill Guide as installed at the Tonopah Mine in Nevada and the gadget known as the Miner's Foundry Ejector that had universal demand. E.E.Mattson's patented device - the Rock Derrick - used to extract rocks from streams and rivers was perfected here.

The famous wheel invented by Lester Pelton in 1878, that revolutionized mining methods, was developed here. Much of our current electricity comes from generators driven by the direct descendants of the original Pelton Wheel.

Ref.: Foley's Gold Cities

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

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| RECOMMENDED: <u>[Signature]</u> Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors | APPROVED: <u>[Signature]</u> Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee |
| Date <u>February 13, 1974</u> | Date <u>March 15, 1974</u> |

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

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BLOCK
Reg. No. Nev-020
Date 3-15-74
By [Signature]

County **NEVADA** Name **PIONEER CEMETERY**

Location **West Broad Street, Nevada City**

Historical Significance: Located in the church yard of the original Methodist Church that once occupied this site. It has been in use since 1851.
Many famous pioneers and early settlers are buried here including William Sutter - son of General John Sutter - who died in 1863 in the Nevada City home of his cousin James J. Ott. The tomb of Aaron A. Sargent located here.
Notable as the first cemetery in Nevada City and the earliest cemetery in Nevada County after the arrival of the 49'ers.

References: Records of the N.C. Cemetery Commission
Deris Foley's Gold Cities

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| RECOMMENDED: <i>Laurence Tiler</i> Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors | APPROVED: <i>Kathryn H. Kaiser</i> Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee |
| Date February 13, 1974 | Date March 7, 1974 |

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

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Reg. No. Nev-022
Date 3-15-74
By 

County **NEVADA** Name **PLAZA GROCERY**

Location **101 Broad Street, Nevada City**

Historical Significance:

Located on Deer Creek in the city's Plaza this grocery store was opened in April 1882 by Tom Shurtleff. It operated continuously as a grocery store until September 1973. The building contains the only water operated elevator in Nevada County. It has had six owners since it opened.

Notable as the longest continuing grocery store in Nevada City and the longest in one location in Nevada County.

References: Nevada City Newspaper files (Display ads)
Nevada County Deeds

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| RECOMMENDED: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Lawrence Filer</i> Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors | APPROVED: <i>Kathryn W. Haise</i> Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee |
| Date <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> February 13, 1974 | Date March 7, 1974 |

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 William Morris Stewart House

Location 416 Zion Street, Nevada City - Owners Mr and Mrs Victor Hermann

Historical Significance:

Built in 1855 by Stewart for his bride Annie Foote Stewart as a replica of her family home in Jackson, Mississippi.

Example of excellent restoration and refurbishing to period.

Marked by ECV in 1957.

References: Deeds -Nevada County Courthouse
Reminiscences of Wm Morris Stewart
Net Neale Pub. Co 1908

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

RECOMMENDED:

Ralph C Buchanan

Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

APPROVED:

Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

Date

Date