

PH 0065-269

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Lassen
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 2 1974

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Roop's Fort, Roop's Trading Post

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Fort Defiance, Roop House

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North Weatherlow Street, -1/2 block north of Main, adjacent to City Park

CITY OR TOWN:  
Susanville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
2

STATE: California      CODE: 06      COUNTY: Lassen      CODE: 035

#### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

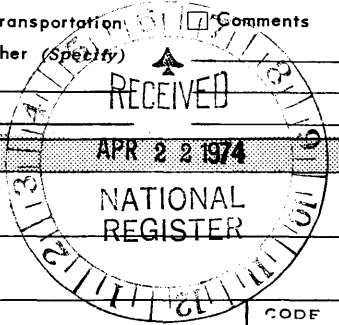
OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Susanville

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North Weatherlow Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Susanville

STATE:  
California

CODE:  
06



#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Lassen County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South Lassen Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Susanville

STATE:  
California

CODE:  
06

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
California Registered Historical Landmark No. 76

DATE OF SURVEY: 1932       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
California Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Office Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN:  
Sacramento,

STATE:  
California 95811

CODE:  
06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California

COUNTY: Lassen

ENTRY NUMBER: 2

DATE: MAY 2 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

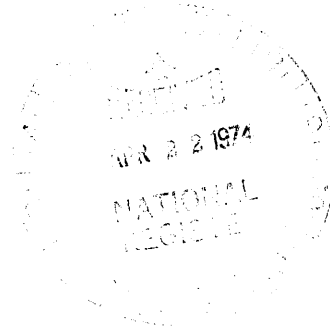
7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input 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

Built in 1854, Roop's Fort is a log structure, 21 x 30 feet, with no foundation and a shake roof. It is quite large as log structures go. The logs are in fair condition as is the roof. It has one floor and a loft. It has received a new shake roof some years ago to copy the old one which had practically vanished. It is located on the original site, and the re-roofing is the only alteration.



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) 1854, construction; 1863-64 Sagebrush War

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roop's Fort was the first building erected in Lassen County by the white man. It was the first trading post the emigrants encountered after Fort Hall in Idaho on their way west. It was known as Roop House, and later known as Fort Defiance when the boundry dispute (Sagebrush War) was fought between Lassen and Plumas County. Isaac Roop, its builder was the first provisional governor of the territory of Nevada.

The following description is found in California by the Federal Writers' Project:

To the site of Susanville in the spring of 1853, alone and penniless, came Isaac N. Roop on horseback from Shasta. He staked out a claim and built a cabin in July 1854. Here he stored his merchandise and supplies, and to it he brought water from Piute Creek in a half-mile ditch. In its day the cabin even had the honor of serving as capitol of a "territory," which its founders called Nataqua. Nataqua's boundaries hemmed in 50,000 square miles, from the northeast corner of California to 25 miles south of Lake Tahoe. So far away were California on one hand and the Utah Mormon settlements on the other that the valley's settlers determined to set up their own government. On April 26, 1856, they created Nataqua--and while they were at it, the town of Susanville--meeting at Roop House and electing Isaac Roop recorder. But Nataqua was short-lived. A year later the local men were joining with settlers to the east in a demand for the establishment of the Territory of Nevada. In the same month, August 1857, California asserted jurisdiction when Plumas County created Honey Lake Township. Grumbling, some of the settlers paid their taxes, but not the 40 to 50 pioneers who had endured the early hardships and the Indian fights. In rebellion they set up a local government in 1858, and the year after helped elect Isaac Roop Provisional Governor of what became, in 1861, Nevada Territory, with Honey Lake Valley included as Roop County.

When California stuck to its claims, the stage was set for the Sagebrush War; and Roop House acquired its new name of Fort Defiance. When Probate Judge John S. Ward and Sheriff William Hill Naileigh, of Roop County, refused to refrain from exercising authority, as the Plumas County Court ordered, Sheriff E. H. Pierce, of Plumas County, arrested Naileigh. He sent Deputy Byers to arrest Ward too, but Isaac Roop and seven mounted men blocked the way with shotguns. Forced to give up Naileigh, because snow in the mountains prevented taking him back to Plumas County, Sheriff Pierce crossed the mountains alone. With a posse of 90 men

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

California, Federal Writers' Project, Hastings House, N. Y., 1939, revised 1954.  
Fairfield's Pioneer History of Lassen County, Asa Fairfield, H. S. Crocker Co.,  
San Francisco, California.  
History of Lassen, Plumas, and Sierra Counties, Fariss and Smith, San Fran-  
cisco, California.  
History of the State of California and Biographical Record of the Sierra,  
Prof. Guinn, A. M., Chapman Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill.  
Nobles Emigrant Trail, Dr. Robert Amesbury, Lassen Litho, Susanville, Calif.

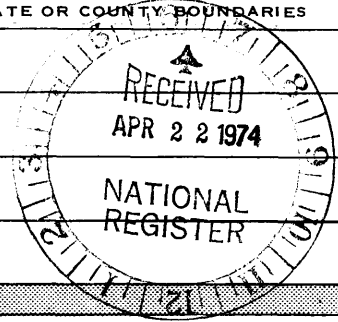
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	40	25	07
NE	° ' "	° ' "	120	39	20.8
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



LITM  
10/69890  
447668

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Dr. Robert H. Amesbury**

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: **February 12, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Post Office Box 587**

CITY OR TOWN: **Susanville** STATE: **California 96130** CODE: **06**

**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: *[Signature]*  
 State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: **MAR 11 1974**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*[Signature]*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/2/74

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5-1-74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	California	
COUNTY	Lassen	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		MAY 2 1974

(Number all entries)

No. 8 Significance (continued)

he returned February 13, 1863, to find an armed force of from 75 to 100 fortified in Roop's cabin. Negotiations proved fruitless. On February 15 Pierce and his men occupied and fortified a barn 200 yards away. When one of them, who went out to bring in timber, was fired on and wounded, the battle began; and for five hours both parties blazed away at each other. An armistice followed. Assured by the men in the fort that they would burn down the town around him unless he surrendered, Sheriff Pierce agreed to stop on condition that each party disband and all officers cease functioning. News of the compromise reached a party of reinforcements from Quincy, seat of Plumas County, who were dragging a small cannon over the mountains through the snow. They turned about and dragged it back. The boundary dispute was settled when the California-Nevada Line was run northward from Lake Tahoe, east of Honey Lake Valley; but hard feelings persisted until the California Legislature, on April 1, 1864, created Lassen County with its seat at Susanville.

