

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 19 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lewis Falkenstein House

AND/OR COMMON

Sarter House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

401 South Gold Street

CITY, TOWN

Yreka

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

STATE

California

CODE
06

COUNTY
Siskiyou

CODE
093

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- ☒ BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- ☒ PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ___ ACCESSIBLE
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| ___ AGRICULTURE | ___ MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL | ___ PARK |
| ___ EDUCATIONAL | ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| ___ ENTERTAINMENT | ___ RELIGIOUS |
| ___ GOVERNMENT | ___ SCIENTIFIC |
| ___ INDUSTRIAL | ___ TRANSPORTATION |
| ___ MILITARY | ___ OTHER: |
| apartment house | |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Warren E. Greene and Estelle L. Greene

STREET & NUMBER

1001 Northridge Drive

CITY, TOWN

Yreka

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 96097

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder, Siskiyou County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

311 Fourth Street

CITY, TOWN

Yreka

STATE

California 96097

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lewis Falkenstein House, located at 401 South Gold Street, Yreka, California, is a fine example of a two-story, rectangular Italianate design. Alterations create slight projections on the south and west walls; however, the feeling of a rectangular block remains.

This detached residence now serves as a small apartment complex. The original treatment of the facade (see photograph #7) was divided into three bays with a central bay that contained an entrance door and two flanking bays which contained single windows on both the first and second story elevations. The original construction material on the first floor, extending fourteen feet from ground level, is composed of thick stone and mud mortar. In 1865, a coat of hard-finished cement was added to the exterior and penciled to give the appearance of smooth, regular stone. The second story elevation above the fourteen foot height is finished in brick coated with penciled stucco. The roof is a low sloping hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. In 1949, the residence was converted into apartments. A two-story addition (cinder block) to the south side measured 18' x 10' 10". The blocks were plastered to match other walls of the house. Viewed from the front, this addition alters the original design with the addition of a third bay which contains both first and second floor windows. A boxed cornice and brackets were added to match others on the house.

The north side elevation contains three, equally spaced second story windows and a first story door towards the rear of the main block. The north elevation remains intact as an original expression of the architectural design. The south elevation, a 1949 addition, contains a first story door with flanking windows. Equally spaced windows of differing sizes break the second story wall. This 1949 addition preserved the original south wall cutting into it only for interior door openings. This two-story addition contains a kitchen and bathroom on the first floor and a kitchen and breakfast room upstairs. A one-story wood room measuring 13' 2" x 11' 8" and an enlarged room measuring 2' 8" x 15' 9" with a sliding glass door were added to the house in 1963 at the back west and south side, respectively. A brick chimney with corbeled top sits slightly off center from the hipped roof peak (south elevation). A reconstructed porch, designed in the manner of the original with square cut posts and hipped roof covers a portion of the facade and extends around the northeast side. The reconstructed porch posts do not duplicate the beveled top and bottom blocks represented in an early photo (see photograph #7; 1934).

The decorative elements of the design consist of the paired brackets and the penciled cement. The window and door openings are slightly recessed and contain no decorative moldings. The front door screen enriched with decorative mill work, which appears in an early photograph (see photograph #7), is no longer a part of the building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET one

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

- Although the original design of the Falkenstein House has been altered, the overall nature of the Italianate block remains visible. The original rectangular design measured 17 ft. 8 x 33-1/3'; this may have initially been a one-story design as the change in construction materials from rough-cast cement to brick and as the differing proportions of first and second story windows would suggest. In 1873, a one-story concrete rear addition measuring 29' 10" x 33' 4" was constructed of coarse gravel mixed with lime and coated with cement. At this time, a porch measuring 8' 9" x 11' 6" was added. In 1942, the front porch was removed and replaced with a stoop. Such numerous additions illustrate the natural evolution of a residence to meet expanded living needs.

Although the residence grounds contained extensive landscape gardens at one time, these no longer remain in their original condition. There is one out-building, a garage, located at the northwest end of the Falkenstein House. Measuring approximately 12' x 20', the garage is a detached wood-frame, gable roofed building with an attached carport. It is believed the carport and garage were built in 1949.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES original building date 1855 alterations 1873-1979 (porch under construction) BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Falkenstein House, located at 401 South Gold Street, Yreka, California, is a rare western example of an Andrew Jackson Downing inspired "suburban cottage in the Italian style",¹ which dates to 1855. The significance of this residence does not rest solely on the original style but also on an 1873 addition which employed a historically significant method of construction, the gravel wall, popularized by phrenologist Orson Squire Fowler in the 1850's.

While there have been many additions to the rear of this house, the original rectangular core of the 1860's structure still survives intact. As stated in the physical description #7, when additions occurred the original walls and construction materials remained. The Italianate style was popularized in the United States through the publications of a landscape architect, Andrew Jackson Downing. The style which was popular in the 1840's and 1850's was featured in Downing's Country Houses (1850). It is characterized by wide eaves with prominent brackets (often paired), low pitched roofs and verandas or large porches. Design VIII, Fig. 33 of Country Houses² presents a design for a "suburban cottage in the Italian style" which bears an extremely close resemblance to the Falkenstein House.³ The sources of the style were traveller's and architect's drawings and descriptions of the vernacular buildings of eighteenth century Italy. The style became popular in England after 1800 and generally displayed asymmetrical masses with a prominent tower based upon Italian Romanesque bell towers. The designs of Downing and our example of the Falkenstein House show the adaptation of such a style to regularly shaped buildings of more modest size.

Downing's description of the type of house discussed above is as follows: "This design is an attempt to redeem from the entire baldness of some examples and the frippery ornament of other, a class of cottages very general in the neighborhood of our larger country towns."⁴

Although Downing generally recommended that a cottage should be built of brick and stucco, the 1873 addition of the Falkenstein House displays another construction method which Downing discussed in Country Houses as one "generally so little understood in this country"⁵ that he hesitated to recommend it. This method was a rough-cast cement which Downing found "well adapted to plainer rural cottages."⁶ Downing also discussed a stucco coating to be used over the rough-cast cement. The real popularizer of this method of

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.31

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 5,2,9 8,0,0 4,6 1,9 6,5,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A portion of Lot 5 of Block 47 of the original Yreka townsite, said townsite being Lot 39 within Township 45 North, Range 7 West, as per the U.S. General Land Office surveys approved December 3rd, 1872.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Fred J. Meamber

Office of Historic Preservation

Staff Revisions: Carol Branan

January 26, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Siskiyou County Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

507 North Street

TELEPHONE

(916) 842-3804

CITY OR TOWN

Yreka

STATE

California 96097

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Kenneth M. Ellen

TITLE

DATE

6/14/79

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol D. Shall

DATE

12-31-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/26/79

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construction was Orson Squire Fowler who introduced the "gravel wall" method of construction in A Home for All; or a New Cheap, Convenient, and Superior Mode of Building (1853). According to Fowler, this "gravel wall" construction or poured concrete could use any type of aggregate available and then an exterior stucco coating could be applied and the surface could be scored to resemble large blocks of stone. The Falkenstein House provides a fine example of this technique.

The significance of Fowler's gravel wall was that he was not merely promoting the typical mid-nineteenth century architectural pattern book; Fowler was discussing a new concept of living which revolved around houses that provided for healthy living through their design or construction method. The benefit of the gravel wall was that it was both cheap to make and that it would remain dry, creating a healthy living environment. Fowler believed that every man could be his own architect and that gravel wall construction methods could be adapted to many diverse local situations. The Falkenstein House is certainly an excellent example of these principles.

The Falkenstein House is an unusual example of the transference of a pattern book design and a pattern book method of construction to an actual building. While examples of similar houses exist in New York close to the area of popularity of both Downing and Fowler, such a direct transference to a far distant rural setting is quite rare. Shortly after the 1873 addition to the Falkenstein House a newspaper article noted the construction method was unusual for the Yreka area:

The new building of H.B. Warren on Gold Street is now enclosed, and is built of walls made of coarse gravel mixed with lime, which makes a durable cement substance as hard as stone when dry. Outside of this is to be another coating of cement made of mortar, which can be colored and marked to imitate stone..."⁷

The original design of the Falkenstein House, based upon Downing, can still be read and the 1873 gravel wall method of construction remains intact. The numerous additions and alterations appear to be part of the changing needs of the residents and span a period of time from 1873 to 1979. These factors suggest that integrity has not been so compromised as to destroy the rarity of this building for the town of Yreka, California.

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CONTINUATION SHEET three

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PAGE 2

Footnotes:

1. Andrew Jackson Downing, The Architecture of Country Houses, New York, 1850, p. 109.
2. Ibid.
3. Op. Cit.
4. Op. Cit.
5. Ibid., p. 64.
6. Op. Cit., p. 65.
7. "Yreka Journal", October 15, 1873.

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In addition to being architecturally important to the local community an an example of an unique construction technique, the Falkenstein house is also historically significant. The stone house is one of the earliest permanent-type residences in Yreka. It is now one of about twelve houses, built in the 1850's, still standing. The complete original structure remains, although some alterations and additions have occurred. Nestled in a quiet section of the town and surrounded by old houses, the house is a point of local interest. The house is associated with minor local figures, who played roles in the development of the town.

The house has had a number of owners, which have included some of Yreka's pioneers. Its builder, Lewis Falkenstein, was a brick layer by trade. He helped to build many of the brick business buildings of the 1850's on Miner Street; most of these buildings are still standing. A native of Germany, he came to Yreka at an early age and took an active part in the early Indian troubles. Falkenstein sold the house in 1855 for \$1,500, a surprising price even for a well-built stone structure. (Early newspaper accounts of the town are vague. A number of sheriff's sales involved the property subsequent to Falkenstein's ownership. No reasons for the sales were given in the newspapers.) Another early owner of the house was a merchant in the stoves, tinware, and saloon business. Of the owners, the Warren family was the most important. Several members owned the house. L. R. Warren was noted as "having kept one of the finest flower gardens of Northern California". He raised a large vegetable garden and a large orchard on land he acquired adjoining the house. In 1863, someone stole into the garden and destroyed many of the trees; the newspaper noted that Mr. Warren had apple, apricot, pear and 40-50 peach trees, as well as many evergreens. (The gardens also contained lilacs, which during the 1930's and 1940's, were purchased by the Podesta-Baldocchi firm for resale in San Francisco. The gardens no longer remain on the property.) Another Warren, Homer, was a partner in the law firm of Warren & Taylor; he was always referred to as "Squire Warren". He enlarged the house in 1873 to accomodate his parents, his growing family, and his law practice. Homer Warren was a Justice of the Peace, a sergeant in the state militia, a county clerk, and a member of various local committees and organizations, such as the Siskiyou County Agricultural Society and the commission to separate Modoc County from Siskiyou County. The house was sold in 1903 to the Sarter family. Members of this family enlarged the house in 1949 and in 1963 for economic reasons. The female owners wished to increase their source of income and converted the house into apartments.

Although the owners of the house have not been of extreme importance to the history of the community, they have been active, loyal community members. The house and its owners are representative of a small California community as it has evolved into a city.

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The following deeds in Recorder's Office at Court House:

Book 3, Page 534 - July 20, 1855
Book 6, Pages 63, 138 and 139 - December 28, 1857 and February 1, 1858
Book 8, Pages 183 and 184 - February 15, 1861
Book 9, Page 22 - December 9, 1862

The following newspapers in Clerk's Office at Court House:

Yreka Union, May 2, 1863
Yreka Journal, July 18, 1863
Yreka Journal, November 3, 1865
Yreka Journal, April 6, 1866
Yreka Journal, August 14, 1872
Yreka Journal, October 15, 1873
Yreka Union, June 26, 1875
Yreka Union, January 29, 1876
Yreka Journal, March 16, 1892
Siskiyou News, January 2, 1902
Yreka Journal, January 24, 1902

Letter from Jack Podesta of firm of Podesta-Baldocchi, February 24, 1978.

Interviews with the following:

Ray Quigley, who lived in house 17 years - Jan. 29, 1978, Jan. 23, 1979
Estelle Greene, present co-owner - several interviews in fall and winter of 1978
Larry Bacon, Yreka City Attorney - Jan. 24, 1979
Leroy Manley, Yreka City street supt. - Jan. 20, 21, 1979
Eric James, Yreka architect - Jan. 20, 1979
Eugene French, contractor who worked on 1942 alteration - Jan. 25, 1979
Harold McNames, former carpenter who worked on 1949 alteration - Jan. 25, 1978
Gene Brown, empl. Sisk. Co. Abstract Co. (survey records) - Jan. 22, 1979
Julia Greene, who lived in an apartment in house 1931-34 - Jan. 30, 1978
Don Carey, County Assessor - Jan. 22, 1979

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CONTINUATION SHEET five

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Bibliography continued:

Downing, Andrew Jackson. The Architecture of Country Houses: Containing
Designs for Cottages, Farm Houses, and Villas, New York, 1850.

Fowler, Orson Squire and Wells. A Home for All, or the Gravel Wall
and Octagon Mode of Building, 1853, reprinted as The Octagon House
A Home for All, with an introduction by Madeleine B. Stern, Dover
Publication, Inc., New York, 1973.

Wells, H.L. History of Siskiyou County, California. Oakland.
D.J. Stewart and Company, 1881.

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PARCEL I

All that real property situate in the County of Siskiyou, State of California, described as follows:

All that portion of Lot 5 in Block 47 of the Town of Yreka City described as BEGINNING at a point on the East line of said Lot, 255 feet Northerly from the Southeast corner thereof; thence Westerly and parallel with the South line of said lot a distance of 120 feet; thence, Northerly and parallel with said East line to a point 30 feet Southerly from the North line of said lot; thence, Westerly and parallel with said South line a distance of 38 feet; thence Northerly and parallel with the West line of said lot 30 feet to said North line; thence, Easterly on said North line a distance of 158 feet to the Northeast corner of said lot; thence, Southerly on said East line to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

PARCEL II

All that real property situate in the County of Siskiyou, State of California, described as follows:

All that portion of Lot 5, Block 47 in the Town of Yreka City, described as follows:

Beginning at a point which bears South 25°00' West 86.7 feet and North 74°15' West 120 feet from the Northeast corner of said Lot 5, said point being the Northwest corner of that parcel described in that certain Deed from LEE A. SARTER and JOSEPHINE SARTER, his wife; MARTHA GREENE and ROBERT GREENE, her husband; and EFFIE HAMILTON to JULIA R. GREENE, dated June 14, 1937 and recorded on July 7, 1937 in Book 72 Official Records, page 251, Siskiyou County Records; thence North 74°15' West 38 feet to the West line of that parcel described in that certain Grant Deed from EFFIE HAMILTON, a feme sole to JAMES F. QUIGLEY dated June 27, 1950 and recorded on June 29, 1950 in Book 261 Official Records, Page 291, Siskiyou County Records; thence North 25°00' East 56.7 feet to the Northwest corner of the above referred to QUIGLEY Parcel; thence South 74°15' East 38 feet to the Northeast corner of said Quigley Parcel; thence South 25°00' West 56.7 feet to the Point of Beginning.

LOT 6

LOT 2

LOT 3

LOT 4

BLOCK 47

158'

GARAGE

PORCH

Original

1963

1873

1963

1949

56.7'

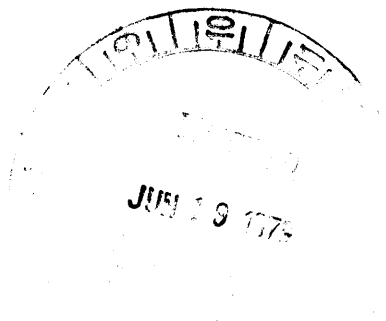
158'

LOT 5

SOUTH GOLD STREET

NATIONAL REGISTER SKETCH MAP FOR
LEWIS FALKENSTEIN
HOUSE

TOWN OF YREKA
SISKIYOU COUNTY
JUNE 1979



REDACTED **REDACTED**

JUN 9 1979

(PAGE
08)

BLOCK 35

STREET

BLOCK 2

ARNELL SUB.

L SUB.
 FALKENSTEIN HOUSE, YREKA CALIFORNIA
 Parcel II

(PAGE
14

BLOCK 3

PARNELL
BLOCK 3 SUB.

STREET
BLOCK 43

**GOLD
BLOCK**

48

~~Beginning
Point
of Parcel
I~~

FALKENSTEIN HOUSE, YREKA
Parcel I

CALIFORNIA