

NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

PROPERTY NAME:

<i>Historic</i> Frank Golden Block
<i>Common</i>

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-131
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> N.W. Corner Brougher and Main	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Tonopah Lodge #28 F & AM		
<i>Street Address</i> P.O. Box 802		
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>State</i> NV	<i>Zip</i> 89049

FORM PREPARED BY:

<i>Name</i> Janus Associates	<i>Date</i> Sept. 1980
<i>Street Address</i> 2121 S. Priest Suite 127	<i>Phone</i> 967-7117
<i>City</i> Tempe	<i>State</i> Arizona
	<i>Zip</i> 85282

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

<i>Historic Use</i> Commercial	
<i>Current Use</i> Commercial	<i>Acreage</i> less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i> George E. Holesworth, Architect and Builder	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1902, Modified 1917	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July 1980
<i>View</i> Looking northwest	

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Golden Block is a two story commercial structure, constructed of stone and measuring 30 feet wide by 100 feet deep. Built on the corner of Main and Brougher Avenues, the building features a splayed corner with a first floor entryway. The historic appearance of the building featured independently situated window or door openings on both levels. All of these original fenestrations remain intact except a doorway and two windows on the Main Street facade which have been modified with plate glass store fronts. The structure originally featured a flat parapet wall with a pair of cut stone band courses extending the length of both street facades. That detailing was removed along with the inscription "Golden Block 1902", in 1912 when the local lodge of F & AM extended the height of the original roof and parapet to provide for a larger lodge hall. Original window and doors feature concrete lintels and sills and fireproof steel shutters. The site also includes the first concrete sidewalk constructed in Tonopah. The Golden Block retains its historic architectural integrity and is in sound condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Frank Golden Block is one of the most significant historic resources in Tonopah. It is noteworthy as the first substantial stone commercial buildings erected in town; for its historic association with Frank Golden; early Tonopah businesses and banking in the community; and for its architectural qualities. Frank Golden, a jeweler and businessman from Reno, came to Tonopah in February 1901 and had made a fortune in one of the rich leases in the district. In May 1902, four months after the leasing period ended, Golden purchased a lot on the corner of Main and Brougner Avenue and by June had begun the erection of the first substantial commercial building in Tonopah. The architect and contractor was George E. Holesworth of Reno, who was to become one of the prominent architects and builders in the Tonopah and Goldfield areas. The building is unique for a large stone commercial structure as it lacks the application of any formal stylistic treatment. The absence of cut and dressed stonework or trim also suggests the lack of readily available stone craftsmen in Tonopah at the time of its construction. In December 1902, when the building was completed, the first bank founded in Tonopah—the Nye County Bank—took offices in the building. Its officers included such noteables as T.L. Oddie, George S. Nixon, and John S. Cook. Frank Golden's jewelry store occupied a Main Street store front and the law offices of Key Pittman, Hugh H. Brown and others occupied the second floor. The Golden Block symbolizes the historic transition of Tonopah from "boom" camp to permanent city and is worthy of preservation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Tonopah Bonanza, 1901, 1902, 1903
 Traver, James W., Tonopah, Past Present and Future n.p. 1902

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lot 1, Block A, Richardson Survey, 1907

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

Photo By
 Unknown

View
 Looking Northwest

Date
 1903

