

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 06 1992  
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OHP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property Honigsberger Store

historic name: Honigsberger Store

other name/site number: Calaveras Copper Mining Company Warehouse

2. Location

street & number: 665 Main Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Copperopolis

vicinity: N/A

state: CA county: Calaveras code: 009

zip code: 95228

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>  1  </u> | _____           | buildings  |
| _____        | _____           | sites      |
| _____        | _____           | structures |
| _____        | _____           | objects    |
| <u>  1  </u> | <u>  0  </u>    | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:   0  

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this   x   nomination        request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property   x   meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria.        See continuation sheet.

Steady R. Craig 2/25/92  
Signature of certifying official Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property        meets        does not meet the National Register criteria.        See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

**Entered in the  
National Register**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register        See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register        See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

Steady R. Craig 4/2/92

               
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

FEB 19 1992

OHP

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: COMMERCE/department store  
COMMERCE/business

Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

Current : COMMERCE/business

Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification: MID-19TH CENTURY/

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation stone                      roof metal  
                  walls        brick                      other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.   X   See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: at the state and local level.

Applicable National Register Criteria: a, c

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: COMMERCE  
INDUSTRY  
ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1865 - 1867, 1909 - 1929

Significant Dates : 1865 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): NA \_\_\_\_\_  
NA \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: NA \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: NA \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

|   |           |               |                |   |       |       |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|-------|-------|
| A | <u>10</u> | <u>707700</u> | <u>4205600</u> | B | _____ | _____ |
| C | _____     | _____         | _____          | D | _____ | _____ |

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Judith Marvin

Organization: Foothill Resource Associates    Date: July 1991

Street & Number: P. O. Box 2040    Telephone: 209/728-1408

City or Town: Murphys    State: CA    ZIP: 95247

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

(Honigsberger Store) Page #6

SUMMARY

The Honigsberger Store is located in Copperopolis, in the southeastern corner of Calaveras County, 35 miles east of Stockton and 12 miles west of Angels Camp, on State Highway 4. It is one of four buildings remaining in the town which were built in the boom years following the discovery of copper in 1860. It is located on Main Street, on the "Plaza" which was the original center of town, and is the northernmost of three buildings built during the same time period. Empty lots north and east of the building are marked with the basement depressions of buildings destroyed when the town burned in 1867. The building was purchased by the Union Copper Mining Company in 1905 and converted to use as a warehouse. Recently restored to its appearance during the period 1865-1905, including the ca. 1909 corrugated metal office, the building reflects a period in the history of Copperopolis when the town was centered around the copper mining industry. The Honigsberger Store was built in a simple brick commercial classical style popular in the California Mother Lode in the late 1850s and early 1860s and, together with the adjoining Reed's Store and the Armory of the Calaveras Light Guards, conveys a strong sense of the time and place of the last copper boom in the Mother Lode.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Honigsberger Store is a simple one-story, rectangular, brick building with a false front. The brick is laid in a common bond pattern with a corbel table and dentils as a frieze near the top of the front facade. The original low-pitched metal gable roof was replaced with one that was more steeply pitched sometime before 1905. The front and rear porches, missing since ca. 1905, have recently been replaced and are hung from the original metal brackets. They have slanted roofs and are supported by square posts. The two front doors have relieving arches and iron shutters over glass and panel double doors. There are two iron-barred windows flanking a single door in the rear of the building. There are no openings on the sides of the building. The original windows were six-pane sash, double hung. Beneath the building is a slate-floored basement, reached by two doors below street level. These entrances were almost completely covered over when a scale was installed at the front of the building ca. 1910, but recent restoration has removed the scale and cleared the entrances. The foundation is of stone, and original.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

(Honigsberger Store) Page #7

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The interior of the store consists of one large room with vertical tongue and groove wall coverings. The wooden floor, which was rotted and missing in places, has been replaced with like flooring.

A small room, clad in corrugated metal, was added to the south side of the building ca. 1909. The room has a shed roof, stepped parapet on the side, a five-panel front door, and three windows with six-over-six pane sash. It has a concrete floor. The original corrugated metal siding and the sash windows were replaced during the recent restoration.

The Honigsberger Store appears to have retained its original appearance to a remarkable degree, based upon historic photographs taken in 1867 and 1905. The only pre-1905 alteration to the building was the replacement of the original low-pitched gable roof with one that was more steeply-pitched; a replacement that was common to this type of roof, as it often leaked. The building appears to have undergone no alterations since ca. 1909 when the office was added to the south side, except for recent restorations which have been true to the original fabric of the building. These restorations included a new corrugated metal roof, new wooden flooring, paint, replacement porches, and reproduction doors and hardware. The Honigsberger Store retains its historic integrity, evocative of the period of its economic height in the years 1865-1867 and 1909-1929. The northernmost in a row of three historic brick buildings, all constructed in the early 1860s and renovated in the period 1905-1910, the Honigsberger Store is an integral part of what remains of the historic core of this once booming copper town.

JAN 29 1992

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

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United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

(Honigsberger Store) Page #8

SUMMARY

The Honigsberger Store is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c. Under a, the building served as an important commercial enterprise in Copperopolis in the 1860s copper boom years, when its mines were the second most productive in the nation and provided copper for shell casings and munitions for the Union side in the Civil War. Later, from 1905 to 1929, it was the main warehouse for the Union and Calaveras Copper Companies, encompassing the period 1909-1929 when the reorganized company attempted to again bring mining in Copperopolis to an important scale. This effort was assisted by the need for copper for another war, this time for the United States in World War I. Built by L. Honigsberger, it replaced a frame store building constructed by Honigsberger in 1861. It was used as a general merchandise store and operated as such by a succession of lessors until 1905 when it was purchased by the Union Copper Company. It is one of three remaining brick structures in what was the original center of the community, fronting on the "Plaza," and is located north of the Armory of the Copperopolis Light Guard and Reed's Store, both brick buildings constructed in the early 1860s. Other than the 1866 brick Gothic Revival Congregational Church, there are no other buildings remaining of the more than sixty which were constructed during the initial copper boom. The building is also eligible under criteria c because it embodies a distinctive Neoclassical brick commercial architectural style, popular in the California Mother Lode during the late 1850s and early 1860s. The use of brick, with simple dentil cornicing, relieving arches over the windows and doors, multi-paned sash windows, and glass and panel double doors with iron shutters reflect a period in history when simple well-constructed brick commercial buildings lined the main streets of America.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

From its first beginnings in 1860, to the end of World War II, Copperopolis has been directly related to and effected by the extraction and production of copper ore. Copper was first discovered just west of Copperopolis in May, 1860, and shortly thereafter by W. K. Reed and Thomas McCarty in the Copper Canon Mining District on the Union Copper Claim. Within a short time a second strike was made on the Keystone Claim, as well as on several other smaller claims. A year later the town that had rapidly developed at the strike was named Copperopolis, and was second only to the Lake Superior area in copper production during the 1860s. The strike came



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

(Honigsberger Store) Page #9

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at an opportune time, when the Mother Lode gold mines were almost dormant and the Civil War had begun and copper was sorely needed for shell casings and munitions. Since both Copperopolis and Lake Superior were "northern" states, a virtual monopoly on copper production was assured the Union. Although the copper excitement promised more than it ultimately delivered, for seven years copper was "king" in Calaveras County (Copperopolis Courier, July 7, 1866).

A disastrous fire in September, 1867, destroyed half of the town and over thirty businesses (San Andreas Register, August 28, 1867). Coinciding with the falling world prices of copper, due mainly to the ending of the Civil War, the high cost of transportation, and the fact that most of the readily accessible ore was mined out, the town was virtually deserted overnight. There was another modest boom in the late 1880s, when the Ames family of Massachusetts purchased the Union mine, dewatered it and constructed a new smelter, operating until 1892. In 1899 a newly-formed company, the Union Copper Mining Company, purchased the original claims and most of the properties in town. These operations were curtailed in 1902 and it wasn't until 1909, when the Union and Keystone Companies reorganized as the Calaveras Copper Company and commenced operations in earnest, that prosperity again abounded (Stone 1991:15).

The mine was dewatered again, a new smelter constructed, and a long period of almost continuous operation began. By this time Copperopolis was no longer the leading producer in California, having been superseded by mines in the Shasta area and the Penn Mine near Campo Seco, but did continue as the second or third largest producer in California throughout the year 1929. During this period copper prices fluctuated up and down but the company operated their own store, boarding houses, electric plant, stables, and provided company housing for their workers. These operations, though on a rather small scale compared to other copper mining districts in Utah, Montana, and Arizona, nevertheless provided an important economic base to the local economy, especially as the gold mines had been shut down and employment was unavailable elsewhere. Mining commenced again briefly during World War II at the Keystone mine, but as the mill had been burned, the nearby Mountain King gold mill was used for crushing operations. The Keystone mine shut down in 1945 and the mines have been idle since (Clark and Lydon 1962:24).

HONIGSBERGER STORE

By the fall of 1861 L. Honigsberger, a native of Germany, was listed as one of several stores doing business in Copperopolis (Lewis 1968:6).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 (Honigsberger Store) Page #10

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This original store was located in a frame building, adjoining Reed's Store. Evidently Honigsberger was successful in his initial endeavor, for in 1865 he built a new brick store at the same location. Advertisements for the years 1865-67 mention that he was in partnership with S. Hahn of San Francisco and D. Block of San Rafael doing business under the name of Hahn, Block & Co.

When the town was burned on September 25, 1867, a newspaper account noted that "the fire destroyed all the buildings on the north side of Union (Main) Street from Cardinell's Hall to Armory Hall, excepting Honigsberger's store and Reed's building" (San Andreas Register, October 5, 1867). Although the building was saved, the town was doomed and the Honigsbergers carried on in a reduced capacity, operating it themselves and leasing it out to others.

In 1905 the family sold the store to the Union Copper Mining Company, who, in 1909, reorganized as the Calaveras Copper Mining Company. During the tenure of the copper companies the store was used as a warehouse, with the store shelves stocked with equipment for the mines and mills. A small frame office, covered with corrugated metal, was attached to the south side of the building.

The years 1909-1929 saw another small boom period for Copperopolis, due to attempts by the Ames family to again produce copper on an important scale and an increased demand for copper shell casings during World War I. Honigsberger's store became the main warehouse for the Calaveras Copper Company, where equipment, replacement parts, and supplies were stored and dispensed for the expanding mining and milling operations.

The Honigsberger Store was built in a simple brick commercial Neoclassical style, ubiquitous in the California Mother Lode in the late 1850s and early 1860s. It is the only such building remaining in Copperopolis of the many that once lined its main street.

The Honigsberger Store is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of a simple Neoclassical brick commercial building, reflecting a period when many such were constructed along the main streets of the small towns of California. Of the over 60 commercial establishments constructed in Copperopolis during the early 1860s boom years, only five were built of brick, and only two of those are in existence today. The Honigsberger Store, as well as the A. Fontana Store, were one-story rectangular buildings with cornicing on the front facades, while Reed's Store was two stories high. The front of the Raffo Bros. Store was of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

(Honigsberger Store) Page #11

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brick in the same Neoclassical style, but the rear and side walls were of schist. Both the Raffo Bros. Store and the Fontana Store were torn down in the 1950s. The Dougherty Saloon, also built of brick, disappeared before the turn of the century and its design is unknown. The remaining two brick buildings were the Copperopolis Armory and the Congregational Church, both extant.

The store is typical of the other brick commercial buildings in Copperopolis, built in a simple Neoclassical style with brick cornicing as the only decorative element in an otherwise unadorned facade. The buildings had double glass and panel doors in each bay, sometimes protected with iron shutters. The windows were of six-over-six pane sash. Utilitarian in design, they reflect a period in California history when establishments were erected almost overnight in response to gold and copper mining booms and their attendant commercial requirements. The design and workmanship of the building is in keeping with others in the community, as well as in the entire Mother Lode region as well.

Recently restored, the Honigsberger Store retains a remarkable degree of integrity, reflecting the periods 1865-1867 and 1909-1929 when Copperopolis boomed and the building played an integral role in the commercial and industrial history of the community.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   8   (Honigsberger Store)

Page 11a

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Both state and local significance are being claimed for the Honigsberger Store. The store is significant, at the state level, under Criterion A in the area of commerce and industry as a general merchandise store during the booming 1860s when local copper mines were second only to the Lake Superior area, providing copper for shell casings and munitions for the Union side in the Civil War. Copperopolis boomed a second time during World War I when demand for copper shell casings was again great. During this time, the Honigsberger Store was a main warehouse where equipment, replacement parts, and supplies were stored and dispensed for the expanding mining and milling operations. The Honigsberger Store is also significant, at the local level, under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a local example of early brick building practices in rural California.

On August 11, 1988, the National Park Service certified this property preliminarily as meeting National Register Criteria A and C for Evaluation. On November 14, 1990, the completed rehabilitation was certified as meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. OHP Restoration Architect, Steade Craigo, stated in his review, "This has been a difficult project, but the final result is very good. The owner should be commended for his dedication....This category of buildings in California is difficult to preserve."

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9

(Honigsberger Store) Page #12

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References

Calaveras County Official Records  
Deed Books  
Tax Assessment Rolls

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 (Honigsberger Store) Page #13  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 (Honigsberger Store) Page #14  
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Verbal Boundary Description: Reed's Store is located on Calaveras County Assessor's Parcel Map No. 54-009-10, listed as Lot 7, Block 2 on the 1873 Copperopolis Townsite Map.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

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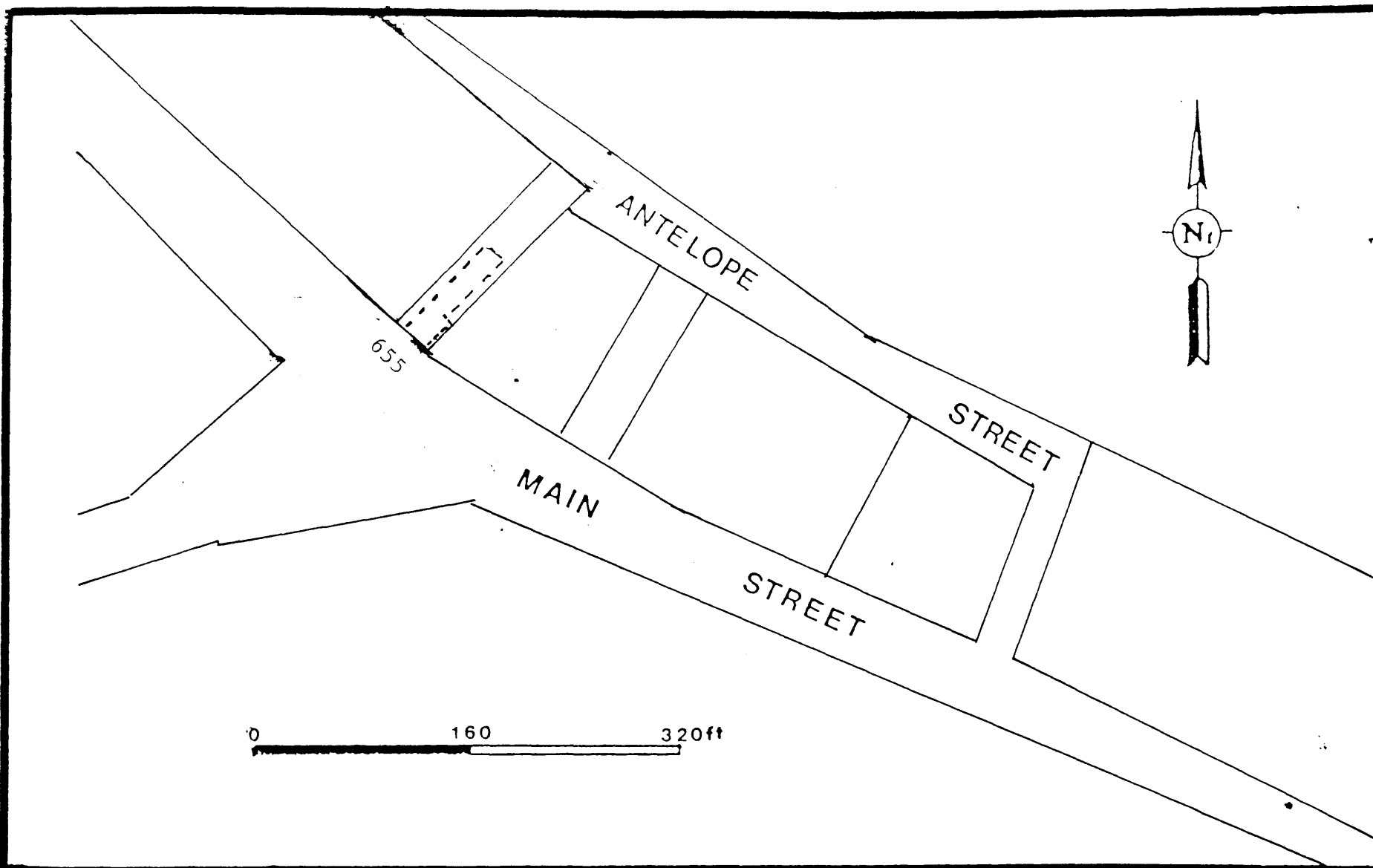
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section "photographs"

(Honigsberger Store) Page #15  
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1. Honigsberger Store  
Copperopolis, California  
Fred Dole, photographer  
2599 Stagecoach, Copperopolis, CA 95228  
June 1991  
Negative on file with photographer  
View northeast
2. Honigsberger Store  
Copperopolis, California  
Fred Dole, photographer  
2599 Stagecoach, Copperopolis, CA 95228  
June 1991  
Negative on file with photographer  
View northwest
3. Honigsberger Store  
Copperopolis, California  
Fred Dole, photographer  
2599 Stagecoach, Copperopolis, CA 95228  
June 1991  
Negative on file with photographer  
View northeast
4. Honigsberger Store  
Copperopolis, California  
photographer unknown  
ca. 1905  
Negative on file with Paul Moeller  
6242 Fullen Road, Avery, CA 95224  
View northeast, Honigsberger and Reed's Stores
5. Honigsberger Store  
Copperopolis, California  
photographer unknown  
ca. 1867  
Negative on file with Paul Moeller  
6242 Fullen Road, Avery, CA 95224  
View north, before fire of September 1867





HONIGSBERGER STORE

(From 1873 Townsite Map)

*655 Main Street  
Copperopolis, CA  
Calaveras County*