

PH 0085936

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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:	Nevada
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
NATIONAL HOTEL

AND/OR HISTORIC:
NATIONAL EXCHANGE HOTEL; ^{was called} originally called "Bicknell's Block".

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
211 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Nevada City

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Nevada	CODE 057
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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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Hotel & Dining Room</u> <u>Shops & business offices</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr and Mrs Richard Worth

STREET AND NUMBER:
211 Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Nevada City

STATE:
California

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Nevada County Assessor's Office - Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Nevada City

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

DATE OF SURVEY: **May-September 1970** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Commission files - 529 E. Broad Street, Nevada City, California

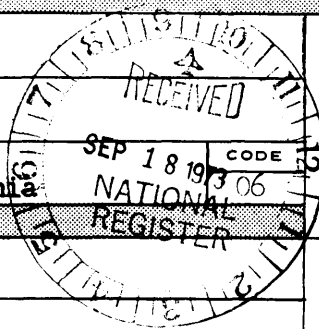
STREET AND NUMBER:
Duplicate files - Nevada City Library (Historical Section)

CITY OR TOWN:
North Pine St., Nevada City

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: California

COUNTY: Nevada

ENTRY NUMBER: 061 25 1973

DATE: OCT 25 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Essentially Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is the most imposing building in the business district of Nevada City. Three stories tall, extending about 100 feet along the main street, it possesses dignity, charm and an elegance which must have satisfied yearnings for "civilization" in the old days. The brick walls are painted/dark green which contrasts strongly with the white painted window frames and the many elaborate ornamental features. A handsome wood portico extends along the street front, supported by bellied wood columns at the curb and cast iron engaged columns at the building. Above this portico heavy brick pilasters run through the second and third stories, dividing the tiers of windows in a design nostalgically classic. The pilaster capitals are formed with brick dentils, the brick cornice is playfully modelled with metopes; all features being brought out with the white paint. The length of the front is curiously divided into four sections, alternately wide and narrow; the wide ones emphasized by ornamental cast iron railings at the third floor level. Offices and shops occupy the entire street floor level, except for entrances to the hotel dining room the bar and to a stairway leading to the hotel proper and the second and third floors. The hotel lobby is at second floor level. At the rear of the building, the ground is at the second floor level and from the side, the hotel is entered through a charming garden. The rooms, shops and all interiors are high ceiled, well proportioned and fitted with good doors, windows and wood work of the period.

Francis E. Lloyd, A.I.A.
P.O.Box 177
Cedar Ridge, California 95924

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) **Completed April 1856; hotel opened August 20, 1856**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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 | <u>Telegraph service</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>important to mining;</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>stage stop handling much</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | <u>freight</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History: This complex was built for Dr Bicknell, a dentist, by a Mr Todd who planned it and supervised the construction. According to an announcement in the Nevada Journal, April 25, 1856 Bicknell's Brick Building on Broad Street was completed." In both design and perfection of work it is the finest brick structure in the mountains and reflects great credit upon Mr Todd who planned and finished it." Bounded on either side by other buildings (Z.P.Davis's shooting gallery and Thomas/Young grocery) the Bicknell buildings came through the July 19, 1856 fire practically unscathed. Less fortunate was the U.S. Hotel -located on the corner of Pine and Broad - which burned to the ground. The owners of that hotel promptly leased the "Bicknell Block" and on August 20, 1856 opened for business as the National Exchange Hotel.

Historical Significance: It is one of the seven oldest structures extant in the city's business district. It is the only building, in this early group, that has been used for the same purpose which continues today. The National Exchange Hotel in operation since August 20, 1856 is one of the longest continuing hotels in the state.

Community Significance: The hotel offered much impact to the business community and local economy in its telegraph service and in its freight and passenger services. Its hotel facilities benefitted all travelers both commercial and pleasure. It has been the hub of Nevada City's commercial and social life for more than a century.

Architectural Significance: In its exterior the building offers an example of an original building designed in 1856. The interior, though essentially original as to structural walls has undergone certain rearrangement. The present dining room and bar occupy space once used by the telegraph office, the passenger and freight service and the original dining room. The hotel lobby was relocated on the second floor and the original ground floor lobby converted to offices. The hotel annex built in the 1890 period connected to the hotel at second story level by a glass encased passage way. The annex and hotel proper separated by a narrow bricked driveway known as " hotel alley". The annex was torn down in 1968 and though less than historical its demolition has rendered great loss to the visual effect of the hotel and its adjoining property.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Doris Foley's Gold Cities (Howell-North, 1966)
 Nevada Journal 1854-1860 editions, Bancroft Library
 Study of The Seven Oldest Buildings in Nevada City
 by Doris Foley -July 1968 edition Grass Valley UNION

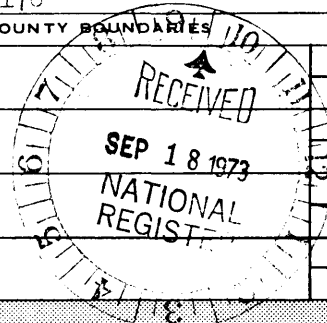
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		39°	15'	46" 43"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		121°	01'	10" 02"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: City lot, 114' x 178'

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



217M
 10/67109C
 434756
 CD
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs Leland S. Lewis, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: **Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission** DATE: **September 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
529 E. Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Nevada City** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> State Historic Preservation Officer Title _____ Date <u>July 17, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Ernest A. Connolly</i></u> Associate Director, Professional Service Date <u>OCT 25 1973</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Keeper of The National Register Date <u>10-18-73</u></p>
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