

NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

PROPERTY NAME:

<i>Historic</i> Uri B. Curtis House
<i>Common</i>

LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> 169 Booker Street	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Allen Douglass		
<i>Street Address</i> P.O. Box 992		
<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> Residential	
<i>Current Use</i> Residential	<i>Acreage</i> Less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i>	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1906	

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-111
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July, 1980
<i>View</i> Looking north at main facade	

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Uri B. Curtis House is a single story stone structure of symmetrical massing over a roughly "U" shaped plan. Built on a sloping site fronting on Booker Avenue, the breadth of the front facade measures 75' and the two opposing wings each extend approximately 30' to the rear. The Booker Street facade is distinguished by a deep central portico supported by classical columns and resting on a high stone basement wall. A low frame wall separates the columns and the remainder has been infilled with pairs of nine light casement windows. Entrance is gained from a wooden side stair. The house, almost symmetrical at the Booker Street facade is covered with an intersecting hip roof with a central hipped dormer. Two additional dormers exist on the roof of both wings. A bay window at the south wing breaks the symmetry. Broad eaves at the roof line are classically detailed with a plain board frieze and exposed rafter elements representing modillions. The stone walls of the main body of the house are random ashlar with window sills also constructed of stone. The building is well maintained with only minor damage due to weathering.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The house at 169 Booker Street is significant for its historic associations with early Tonopah businessman and mining capitalist, Uri B. Curtis. It is also noteworthy as one of the best preserved large stone dwellings in Tonopah. Uri B. Curtis arrived in Nevada in the fall of 1901 to investigate the mining opportunities of Tonopah. He secured an option on the Fraction Claim originally located by Cal Brougner and W.C. Gayhart, and together with eastern investors he formed the Tonopah Fraction Company. The company became one of the most successful producers of Silver ore during Tonopah's boom. Curtis served as general manager but also invested in other mining property in the area. He was president of the Acenith Mining Company with F.J. Siebert, T.L. Oddie and C.B. Zabriskie, also holding interests in the company. The greatest impact Curtis had on the development of Tonopah however, was the formation of the Crystal Water Company, the first organized effort to pipe fresh water to the community. A prominent businessman by 1906, Curtis had this large stone residence constructed in "University Heights" on Brougner Hill. Its classically influenced construction breaks with the rectangular, symmetrical tradition of its style by employing splayed facades over a "U" shaped plan. The house's unique design and method of construction together with its association with Curtis merits recognition.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Nye County Assessors Records
Travers, James W., Tonopah Past, Present and Future, n.p. 1902

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lots 8 and 9, Block 15 Richardson's Survey 1907

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

Photo By

Jim Woodward

View

Entrance Portico

Date

July, 1980

