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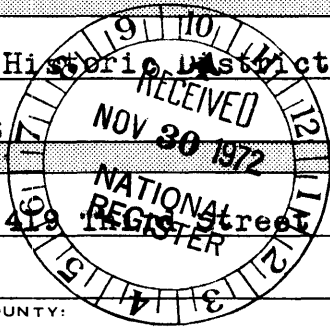
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>California</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Siskiyou</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>DEC 11 1972</b>	



#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
**West Miner Street-Third Street Historic District**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Miner Street-Third Street**

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**102 - 402 W. Miner Street; 122 - 418 Miner Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Yreka**

STATE <b>California</b>	CODE <b>96097</b>	COUNTY: <b>Siskiyou</b>	CODE <b>093</b>
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#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Siskiyou County Courthouse - Recorder's Office; Assessor's Office**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**311 Fourth Street**

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE  
**Yreka California 96097 06**

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **California**

COUNTY: **Siskiyou**

ENTRY NUMBER: **DEC 11 1972**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Historic District is comprised of three blocks on West Miner Street (commercial district) and four blocks on Third Street (residential), which adjoins Miner Street.

The District is typical of western 19th Century towns.

The particular common architectural characteristics of Miner Street are: row buildings with common bearing walls, Italianate style, brick structure, and false fronts squared off above roof line. The buildings date from 1854 to 1900, with one exception (Masonic Hall built in 1926, but with architecture blending with adjoining old Franco-American (Hotel Yreka) building. Many of the buildings on the south side of Miner Street were partially destroyed by the fire of 1871, and have been rebuilt.

The particular common architectural characteristics of Third Street are: Victorian-style houses with varying amounts of gingerbread ornamentation; balloon frame construction; and good examples of Rural Gothic cottages.

Miner Street buildings of unusual quality:

1. Stimmell Hardware, 400-402 W. Miner (now Metzger's Barber shop and Bohmann's Hi-Fi). Built in 1856. Escaped fire of 1871. Awning removed. Brick, stuccoed over. Marion Ross from University of Oregon School of Architecture said, "One of the best of the commercial buildings in Yreka."
2. Bee Hive, 332 W. Miner (now Elks Lodge). Brick partially covered with stucco and cedar siding. Built in 1897. It is, according to Mr. Ross, a reflection of the kind of commercial architecture they had in Chicago in the 80's.
3. Siskiyou County Bank, 216 W. Miner (now Montgomery Ward's). Italianate in style. Built in 1900. Entrance changed from corner to front.
4. Franco-American Hotel, 306-312 W. Miner (now Yreka Hotel housing four small businesses). Built in 1855 and remodeled and enlarged in 1867. Balcony removed. brick.

Third Street buildings of unusual quality:

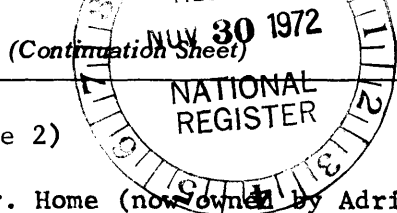
1. Judge Rosborough Home (now owned by Sam Gibson), Built between 1861-1865, is best example of Rural Gothic in Yreka. Board and batten siding; five gables (originally six). Exterior alterations minimum.

(Continued on separate sheet)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM



STATE	California	
COUNTY	Siskiyou	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
DEC 11	1972	

(Number all entries)

#7. Description: (Page 2)

2. Robert Nixon, Jr. Home (now ~~owned~~ by Adrian De Rose), 325 Third. Built in 1867. Rural Gothic, and changed very little on exterior.
3. Charles Fry Home (now "James' Place," a store handling handcrafted and antique items), 216 Third. Built in 1899. Victorian, well-preserved.

Third Street has more old houses than any other in Yreka. Most were built in the 1890's. They have all kinds of patterned shingles, barge boards, stick work, turned posts, brackets, leaded glass windows, etc.

Alterations that have taken place on Miner Street: elliptical arches on brick piers; most have been altered by replacing the piers with beams with plate glass windows on the lower floors. The front balconies and awnings have been removed in most cases. On some structures, second stories have been added.

Alterations that have taken place on Third Street: few alterations have been made to the exteriors, with one exception. All ornamental fences removed. Bright colored paint used on some houses. Others white.

Local cultural history elements are tied together in these two streets by the fact that most of the Third Street residents had their offices or business establishments on Miner Street. Third Street adjoins Miner in the middle of its second (or middle) block, so the streets have a close proximity.

Two very prominent residents with homes on Third and offices on Miner were Judge A.M. Rosborough and Robert Nixon, Jr. Others included three lawyers - J.F. Farragher, J.D. Fairchild and Judge H.B. Gillis; a dentist - Dr. W.H. Parr; a pharmacist - F.S. Ackerman; merchants James Vance, Charles Tunker, and L.J. Wetzel; hotel proprietor John Rohrer, and many others.

Restoration planning is being carried out by two planners with degrees in Architecture who are working toward their licenses. They will be in Yreka a year drawing plans for the restoration of the Historic District, in three phases.

Physical changes are already underway, with the store owners on Miner Street beginning to remove the stucco from the brick facades; and painting is being done on both Miner and Third Streets. It is the plan to restore facades as closely as possible to the original. Modern store signs are being taken down, also.

A city ordinance is being passed to insure the preservation of the buildings in this District; the ordinance provides for a Review Board to make recommendations and control changes in accordance with the Historic zone.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

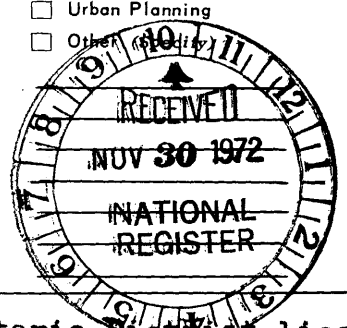
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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) **Miner St. 1854-1900 (plus 1 1926 Bldg.)**  
**Third St. 1861-1900 (plus 8 later Bldgs.)**

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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy                                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural significance of the Historic District lies in the examples of Italianate architecture on Miner Street and Victorian Gothic on Third. Miner Street contains several outstanding buildings, but the major impact of the street is brought about by the interaction of the entire set of buildings. Third Street contains Victorian-style houses with good examples of Rural Gothic cottages.

The town of Yreka sprang up in March, 1851 when gold was discovered on the "Flats" west of town. (The site is now in the center of a new residential area.) Before this date the only white men to pass through the region were Hudson's Bay trappers on their way to the rich beaver streams of Scott Valley in the 1830's.

With the decline of gold mining, Yreka became increasingly important as a commercial and political center. It was an important stopping place for the California Stage Company (later California-Oregon Stage Company), and has always been the county seat. After the Southern Pacific Railroad came in 1887 through the county, Yreka built a narrow gauge line to connect with it 6 miles to the east, and this line is still in operation. Interstate 5 traverses the east side of town.

- Yreka has had many residents of state-wide prominence.
- (1) William Irwin, Governor of California from 1875-80, came to the vicinity of Yreka in 1854. He was living in Yreka when elected to the State Assembly in 1861 and the State Senate in 1869. At the time he was elected Governor, he was editor of the Yreka Union newspaper, with offices on Miner Street.
  - (2) David Colton came to Yreka soon after gold was discovered in 1851 and helped form the city and county governments, serving as the second sheriff of Siskiyou County and in many other capacities. His office was on Miner Street, and a theater on Miner was named after him. He left Yreka in 1858 and achieved fame in his association with California's Big Four.
  - (3) Joaquin Miller spent a great deal of time in Yreka as a

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

Yreka Journal. Editions from 1862 to 1900.

Yreka Union. Editions from 1862 to 1900.

Siskiyou County Recorder's Office. Book of Deeds.  
Index to Book of Deeds.

(Continued on separate sheet)

**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	41°	44'	18"	122°	38'	10"			
NE	41°	44'	15"	122°	37'	58"			
SE	41°	43'	58"	122°	38'	05"			
SW	41°	44'	00"	122°	38'	16"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **16.4 Acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Fred J. Meamber (County Liaison to California Department  
ORGANIZATION: Fred J. Meamber of Parks and Recreation DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Siskiyou County Historical Society  
STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
507 North Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Yreka STATE: California 96097 CODE: 013

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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:

National  State  Local

Name [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date NDV 8 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/11/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12/10/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
10/530200/4620-200  
10/530200/4619-250  
10/530450/4621-00  
F. 28-72  
10/530450/4619-00

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY Siskiyou	
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ENTRY NUMBER DEC 11 1972	DATE

(Number all entries)

#8. Significance: (Page 2)

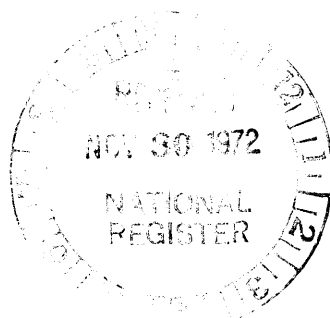
young man when he worked as a cook in nearby Humbug (where he is said to have written his first poem).

(4) Lotta Crabtree spent a few months in Yreka in the 1850's with her mother, while her father mined in towns nearby. She was a very young girl and used to sing and dance at the Arcade Saloon where miners threw gold nuggets at her feet. (This building on Miner Street burned and has been replaced by the Redman's Hall and the Morrison and Lash Building on the south side of Miner.)

(5) John C. Heenan (the Benicia Boy) started his career as a fighter here in 1854, and fought in the Arcade Saloon.

(6) Hon. A. M. Rosborough, in 1851, was assistant editor of the San Francisco Evening Picayune, the first evening newspaper published in San Francisco. In 1852, he gave the town of Crescent City its name. From 1852-1855 he served as Special Indian Agent here in Yreka and became a trusted friend of the Indians. He then served as District (Superior) Judge here for many years.

(7) Robert Nixon, Jr. came to Yreka in 1855, and became editor of the Yreka Journal in 1861. In the forty-seven years he held this post he accurately reported the town's and county's events, thus becoming the county's first historian. His newspaper was the first Republican paper north of Marysville. Mr. Nixon, whose newspaper office was on two different locations on Miner Street, had his home on Third, and referred to it as the "Journal residence". He was prominent in all civic affairs of Yreka.



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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

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#9. Major Bibliographical References: (Page 2)

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Siskiyou County Recorder's Office. Index to Recorder's Official Records of Siskiyou County.

Siskiyou County Assessor's Office. Property Records to 1880's.

Siskiyou County Assessor's Office. Fire Map (1927 Rev.)

Siskiyou County Museum. Fire Map 1901.

Siskiyou County Museum. Fire Map 1908.

Rosborough, Alexander J. Out West with the Pioneers. Unpublished Manuscript.

