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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name C.J. Prescott House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 12 Hickey Street not for publication

city or town Virginia City vicinity

state Nevada code NV county Storey code 029 zip code 89440

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. James SHPO 6/17/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 8/5/93

C.J. Prescott House
Name of Property

Storey County, Nevada
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
one		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
one		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Virginia City Historic District

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
one (contributing building)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation not visible
walls wood
roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Industry
- Architecture
- Archeology
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1864-1942

Significant Dates

1864

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

C.J. Prescott

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Comstock Historic District Commission

C.J. Prescott House
Name of Property

Storey County, Nevada
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately two acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title ~~Francke~~ Bernadette ~~Kranke~~ and Andria S. Daley
organization Comstock Historic District Commission date April 1993
street & number P.O. Box 128 telephone (702) 847-0281
city or town Virginia City state Nevada zip code 89440

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name J.J. and Carol Morgan Page
street & number 12 Hickey Street telephone
city or town Virginia City state Nevada zip code 89440

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet**

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The C.J. Prescott residence, located at #12 Hickey Street, is a vernacular Victorian home, one of the earliest to survive in Virginia City, Nevada. The residence is a contributing building to the Virginia City National Landmark Historic District. The structure was constructed by a prominent Virginia City businessman C.J. Prescott who owned one of the first lumber companies on the Comstock Lode; the owner embellished his home with architectural trim of the Civil War era. The house was completed as Nevada emerged into statehood in 1864, and is one of the few remaining examples of a wood-frame residence dating from Nevada's territorial days. Records indicated that the land for the structure was purchased as early as 1862. The Prescott home has always been used as a residence, and has survived in excellent condition.

Located on Block 206, Range D, the house rests on the western section of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, (according to the 1864 map created by Surveyor C.P. Johnson of the 3d and 4th Wards, and other Virginia City maps, circa 1880). The L-shaped house is set back from the road and faces north; a driveway is located to the west of the building. The outbuildings include a shed (circa 1860s) and a gazebo (1976). The picket fence is original. The neighborhood consists of modest vernacular houses as well as several large mine buildings and a railroad spur. The house's present location with gardens and gazebo offers a panoramic view of Virginia City, the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, and various 19th-century mine and mill ruins.

The one-and-one-half story, wood frame residence rests on a concrete foundation. The building has redwood shiplap siding and wood shingles on the gable roof with raked moldings. The main elevation is divided into three bays, with the entrance on the west and two windows to the east. Each opening is framed with label moldings; the door has a transom and side lights. The first floor level is several feet above ground level. A balustraded stairs lead to a porch which also possesses a balustrade in a popular, cut-out pattern. Delicate, paired chamfered posts with capitals support the porch roof. One, second-story window is located above the porch. Windows on the remaining elevations are asymmetrically placed and also possess label moldings; some are shuttered. The exterior colors are oxblood with trim in gold and green accents; research revealed that these were the original colors used when the structure was completed in 1864. The house has three chimneys.

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The floor plan is asymmetrical. The front door opens into a hallway which leads to the first floor rooms, and a boxed staircase leads from this hall to the upstairs bedrooms. To the left of the entrance is a reception room which opens onto a sitting area. A second parlour contains its original marble fireplace and plank flooring. The Glenbrook sugar pine wainscot used throughout the house would have been hauled to the Comstock by mule team at tremendous cost during the territorial days. The kitchen ceiling and walls retain the original tongue and groove wood. Several nineteenth-century furnishings remain, including the kitchen cabinets, flour bin, coal-burning cookstove, the conservatory's copper sink, the first floor bathroom tub, the Eastlake secretary in the second parlour, and the Renaissance Revival master bedroom suite.

The house has been carefully restored by its current owners, Joe and Carol Page, who have finished the interior with late Victorian wallpaper and furniture. The integrity of the building is very good. There were additions constructed to the rear of the house in the 1860s or 1870s which are compatible with the original structure.

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The C.J. Prescott House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, for its association with early mining on the Comstock, for criterion C, for its expression of vernacular Victorian architecture in the mining West, and for criterion D, for its potential to yield information about Virginia's City archeology.

The Prescott residence is the only documented residential survivor within the Comstock Mining District from the early 1860s not associated with a mine manager's office. The Comstock Mining District was founded after the silver and gold strikes of 1859. Development proceeded rapidly during the boom which was called the "Rush to Washoe." It was soon apparent that the hard-rock mining district was worth millions, and thousands of the people were attracted to the area to capitalize on the new opportunity. A depression ensued after 1864 lasting several years and curtailing development. Although the Comstock came to life again after 1870, the "Great Fire" of October 26, 1875 resulted in destruction of most of the building stock. The city was rebuilt during the following year creating the community that survives today as the Virginia City Landmark District (listed in 1961). Consequently, few places of residence survive from the early 1860s, a dynamic period that set the stage for future development. That the Prescott residence retains its integrity from this early period makes it all the more remarkable.

The Prescott residence is a good example of vernacular Victorian architecture. Several elements of popular revival styles from the nineteenth century, including Greek Revival, Gothic Revival and Italianate, are present in the building. Features which are of the Greek Revival include the side lights and transom and side lights around the front door, the pilaster corner boards, and the raking molding on the gables of the roof. The intersecting gable roof and entrance in the gable end of the building are reminiscent of the Gothic Revival. Finally, Italianate features include the label moldings over the windows and doors (label moldings are also a Gothic feature), the chamfered porch posts, and the tall, first-story windows. These various features are combined in an attractive, modest residence. The combination of styles is notable on the Comstock as almost all of the buildings, dating after 1873, exhibit a pure expression of the Italianate style and do not possess Greek or Gothic revival characteristics.

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The C. J. Prescott residence is also eligible under Criteria D. Limited ground disturbance has yielded artifacts indicating that the resources which remain, protected from further disturbance, have the potential to yield further information. An annotated chain-of-title is on file at the state preservation office; this information would be of assistance to future archeologists investigating this historic property.

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Bibliography & sources

Storey County Courthouse Records—County Recorder's office,
death book, deed books, County Assessor- maps.

Territorial Enterprise

Gold Hill Evening News

The Doten Journals

The Sam Davis History of Nevada (Davis, History of Nevada
Volume Two, page 1268)

Thompson's (1881) History of Nevada

The 1864 Prescott times capsule and other printed materials
found during restoration.

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Verbal boundary description

Legal parcel number 01-057-05.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the house.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000687

Date Listed: 8/5/93

Prescott, C. J., House
Property Name

Storey
County

NV
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

8/5/93
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The nomination is amended to delete **Criterion D** and **Archeology**. The archeological significance of this particular site is not sufficiently justified within the current nomination.

Materials:

Roof Material is amended to read **wood shingles**, as noted within the nomination narrative.

This information was confirmed with Ron James of the Nevada SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)