

NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

PROPERTY NAME:

<i>Historic</i> Nye County Courthouse
<i>Common</i>

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-123
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> McCulloch Street	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Board of County Commissioner, Nye County		
<i>Street Address</i> Nye County Courthouse		
<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> Governmental offices and jail	
<i>Current Use</i> Government offices and jail	<i>Acreage</i> less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i> J.C. Robertson architect, E.E. Burdick mason	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1905, addition 1907, c1968	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July 1980
<i>View</i> Oblique, looking east	

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The present Nye County Courthouse is a large stone and concrete block structure constructed at three different intervals. The original courthouse (1905) is a two story coursed ashlar stone building of symmetrical plan and massing. It measures 50' across by 60' deep. It is covered by a moderately pitched pyramidal roof surmounted by a central dome. The eaves are classically detailed with moulded cornices and denticulation. Both levels of the courthouse are penetrated by independently placed, symmetrical window openings; round arched on the first floor and segmental arched on the second. At the northwest, or main facade, the entrance is articulated by a large compound arched portal with moulded archivolts. An addition built in 1907, extends the length of the rear facade and an additional 25' further to the southwest. This rectangular mass is also built of coursed ashlar with a hipped roof and detailing similar to the original building. Three one story contemporary additions occur along both side walls and the rear of the building are built of concrete block and detailed in a similar manner with flat roofs and vertical, grouped window openings. The interior detailing of the original courthouse has been modified although the basic spatial arrangement remains the same.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nye County Courthouse is significant for its historic association with the role of government and politics in Tonopah and Nye County during the twentieth century mining boom. It is also noteworthy as the largest stone structure built in Tonopah. During the height of mining and economic development in Nye County, not only financial power but also political power had its center in Tonopah. In 1905 prominent mining businessman and State Senator for Nye County, Tasker L. Oddie, introduced a bill in the Nevada legislature, changing the county seat from Belmont to Tonopah. The bill passed easily with support from others such as Ormsby County Senator, Wilse Brougher, who also had significant financial interests in Tonopah. By the spring of 1905, the plans for a new courthouse prepared by California architect, J.C. Robertson were accepted. The structure was to be built on Gold Hill (on land donated by the Tonopah Mining Company) prominently situated between upper Main and Florence Avenue. The impressive two story stone structure, designed in a Neo-Colonial format, was built by the Continental Construction Company and the stonework executed by local craftsman E.E. Burdick. It was completed in the fall of 1905 and by 1907 a two story jail addition, also designed by Robertson, had been built. The building has continued to serve as the center of county government with substantial single story additions to the sides and rear of the building added ca 1968. Despite these additions and modifications to the interior, the architectural qualities of this well crafted stone structure still remain.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Elliott, Russell R., Nevada's Twentieth Century Mining Boom, U of N Press, Reno 1966. Tonopah Bonanza 1905, 1906, 1909

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Portions of the Good Enough and McCulloch Patent Lode mining claims north of upper Main Street and east of McCulloch Street.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

Photo By

Unknown

View

Looking east

Date

c1907

