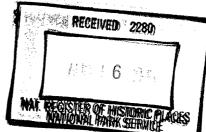
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires Jan. 2005)

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 any 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 <u>Robison House</u> other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number _	409 13 th Street	not for publication	
city or town	Sparks	vicinity	
state <u>Nevada</u>	code <u>NV</u> county	Washoe code 031 zip cod	e <u>89431</u>

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

8-15-06 na

Signature of certifying official

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	Set Savage
determined eligible for the	V
National Register	
See continuation sheet.	
determined not eligible for the	
National Register	
removed from the National Regis	ster
other (explain):	
4	9/29/06

ignature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- <u>X</u> private
- ____ public-local
- ____ public-State
- ____ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- \underline{X} building(s)
- ____ district
- ____ site
- ____ structure
- ____ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
5	buildings
	sites
	<u>1</u> structures
	objects
5	<u> 1 </u>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register $\underline{0}$

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Cat: Domestic Sub: Residence

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: <u>Residence</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) <u>19th-20th Century Revival: Colonial Revival</u>

Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation <u>Stone (cement in Feat.'s 2-5)</u> roof <u>Copper (shingles on Feat.'s 2-5)</u> walls <u>Ext-Wood (Feat. 2-stucco; Feat. 3-wood; Feat. 4-wood; Feat. 5-asbestos)</u> <u>Interior-plaster, wood paneling (Feat. 1-5)</u> other <u>Brick, glass</u>

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)

<u>X</u> 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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- _____B removed from its original location.
- ____ C a birthplace or a 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)

Community Planning and Development

Settlement Commerce/Social History

Period of Significance <u>1904 - 1942</u>

Significant Dates 1904

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation <u>N/A</u>

Architect/Builder <u>Unknown</u>

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- <u>X</u> State Historic Preservation Office
- X___Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- ____ University
- X Other

Name of repository: Nevada Historical Society, Reno; Sparks Heritage Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.32 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 <u>11 262930 4379810</u> 3 _____

2 _____ 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 <u>Terri McBride</u>, <u>National/State Register Coordinator</u>

organization State Historic Preservation Office date May 18, 2006

street & number 100 N. Stewart Street telephone 775-684-3445

city or town <u>Carson City</u> state <u>NV</u> zip code <u>89701</u>

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 the SHPO or FPO)

name <u>Jerald and Edna Burt</u>

Street & number <u>409 13th Street</u> telephone <u>N/A</u>

city or town <u>Sparks</u> state <u>NV</u> zip code <u>89431</u>

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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _7_	Page <u>1</u>	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
		name of property	county and State

Section 7: Narrative Description

The Robison Tract House is located in Sparks' Robison Addition on a 0.32-acre corner lot, on the northwest corner of 13th and D Streets. The residence, at 409 13th Street, was built in or around 1904 (Washoe County Assessor's Office 2006), and is a two-story, wood frame, asymmetrical Colonial Revival style residence with a modified rectangular floor plan (Feature 1). Bays accentuate the floor plan, with a two-story feature on the left of the front (east) façade, and two toward the rear of the residence. The main entry porch has massive, square posts and a hipped roof with boxed cornice and frieze. The area under this frieze is ornamented with Tudor and Moorish arches. A similar porch is found on the south façade, facing D Street. The exterior of the residence is clapboard with an encircling sill board. A wide encircling belt course separates the first and second stories. The foundation and porch piers are of stone masonry; the chimney is constructed of brick. A few steps lead from the yards to the entry porches.

A copper-tiled, hipped roof with pedimented gables over the slanting bays are finished with a modillioned, boxed cornice with frieze. Incised, curved brackets with drop pendants highlight the roofline of the slanted window bay. A kingpost-truss motif ornaments the gable pediment.

Windows vary in type and size. Most on the ground floor have been replaced by aluminum-framed windows and covered by iron security bars. Original windows retained on the second floor, are multi-over-one light, double hung sash in single, paired, and triple arrangements, and small fixed, multi-light windows. All window openings have a molded lintel and plain surrounds. A large, slanted bay protrudes from the south façade. The large bay window of the second-story bedroom at the front (east side) of the house has six over one double-hung wooden sash, in each of the three sashes. On the second story above the main porch is a paladian-style window, with three sashes arranged side by side, the center the tallest (35 inches). All three windows are diamond-pattern panes with wood detailing. There is a similar diamond-pattered double panel of windows between the first and second floors over the staircase inside the home, and one on the main porch to the right of the off-center main entry. There are small triangular windows in the attic on the front and rear façades of the house; they also have diamond-patterned wood detailing.

There are three small outbuildings between the main residence and the alley west of the lot line. Sanborn Insurance maps show two small structures at the rear of the property, constructed between 1907 and 1912 (replacing an outhouse and small shed shown on the 1907 map), the larger one noted with "T.C." for "tourist cabin." It also appears that small additions were made to the rear of the main house sometime before 1912. Between 1912 and 1925, the building in the northwest corner of the property was somehow re-configured, rotated ninety degrees on its axis, or completely replaced. In addition, a washroom was added and a small one-

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>7</u>	Page _2_	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
		name of property	county and State

Description, continued

story residence to the rear and north of the main house (no longer present). This contributing feature, Feature 2, was assigned an address by 1925, "409 ½ 13th Street." This small residential building is noted with "T.C." on the Sanborn map, indicating its use as a "tourist cabin." The small house is stuccoed, probably modified from its original exterior, with a small window near its entry and a hipped roof. An auto garage/carriage house (Feature 3) that opened to the alley (west) was constructed in the southwest corner of the lot between 1912 and 1925. After 1925, the garage was replaced by one that opened onto D Street (south). This building also contributes to the significance of the property, and is constructed of wood with double doors (barn-like) for the auto entry. Finally, between the last manual updates in 1942 to the 1925 Sparks Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and the original 1925 edition, a third residence was added near the center of the back property line. The notations on the Sanborn ("ASB EL," "T.C.") indicate that this was asbestos-sided originally, had electricity, and also functioned as a temporary residence or "tourist cabin." The front door of the small dwelling (Feature 4) faces D Street and was also assigned an address, 409 ¼ 13th Street, or 1320 D Street (both are noted). The walkway from Feature 4's front door goes to D Street along the right (east) side of the auto garage (Feature 3). The small residence (Feature 4) is sided with asbestos, has metal casement windows wrapping both corners of the front facade, and a hipped roof with a brick chimney. Feature 5 is what is currently named the "wash house," and is the structure in the northwest corner of the Robison House parcel; according to the Sanborn maps, this structure was re-configured between 1912 and 1925. It has modern siding, but the windows are small in size, similar to those on Feature 2 (small residence built about the same era), and its original brick chimney with stove pipe entries is at the center of the building. It is also contributing to the overall significance of the property, although the modern siding detracts somewhat from the original appearance, as well as a roof connecting the "wash house" Feature 5 and Feature 4, with a concrete pad between them. Since it is at the rear of the property, the modern materials do not substantially alter the overall Robison House property's appearance. Features 2-5, in addition to the main house (Feature 1) are considered to be contributing to the property's overall significance. A modern covered carport over the driveway, Feature 6, at the rear of the main residence (Feature 1), is a non-contributing feature. Still present in the backyard are two metal "T"-shaped clothesline posts with wire strung between them.

The Robison House is not typically Colonial Revival due to its off-center front entry (examples of Colonial Revival usually have centered main entries). The hipped roof is a Colonial Revival style element, in addition to the placement of multiple-pane upper sashes over a single pane in the lower sashes, columned porches and detailed exterior millwork (Grow 1978:116; McAlester and McAlester 1984:322). After the country's Centennial in 1879, Americans wanted to re-connect to their colonial roots, so the delicate and elaborate Queen Anne and Victorian Gothic residence styles fell out of favor in this country. However, "[t]he line between some late free classic Queen Anne houses and some early Colonial Revival examples is not a sharp one," (McAlester

OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _7,8	Page <u>3</u>	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
		name of property	county and State

Description, continued

and McAlester 1984:325, caption 3) and this asymmetrical Colonial Revival form can be perceived to graduate into the Queen Anne free classical style. The two-story bay on the front façade may give this house a Queen Anne look (in that it breaks up flat wall surfaces on the exterior), but other details emphasize a Colonial Revival design.

The Robison House retains a high level of integrity regarding the aspects of location, design, workmanship, feeling and association. The original roof materials (shingle) have been replaced in recent years by copper tiling, and a modern wrought-iron fence has been installed around the perimeter of the residential lot, as well as a seven-foot wooden fence on the northern side of the yard, separating the front from the rear yard. The ground-floor windows have also been relatively recently replaced, and bars erected over some. But overall, the replaced and added materials do not predominate the overall appearance of the property. The integrity of setting has been compromised by a large multi-plex cinema across D Street from the Robison House; however, the surrounding neighborhood on the other sides of the property maintains a historic character that harkens back to the early settlement of Sparks.

Section 8: Statement of Significance

It appears that the home was built ca. 1904 for George A. Robison, within the "Robison's Addition" developed by his father George W. Robison. The Robison House is significant in the area of Community Planning and Development, the Settlement of Sparks, and Commerce, on a local level. Images of the mansion-like residence were used to advertise lots in Robison's Addition, one of the first neighborhoods to be subdivided and settled in Sparks after Central Pacific moved its shops to the former agricultural area. *Buildings of Nevada* notes, "The image of the two-story, wood-frame dwelling with its pedimented gables and bracketed eaves no doubt lent an air of respectability to Robison's speculative enterprise" (Nicoletta 2000: 85). In addition, the property owners at 409 13th Street constructed small secondary residences for rental income up to the present. During the late 1920s and the 1930s, these residences' addresses and 409 13th Street, Sparks, appear in court documents relating to "quickie" divorces (Mella Rothwell Harmon personal communication April 2006) for which Reno became renowned, requiring only 6 weeks of residency for divorce seekers coming to the area from all over the country. The sort of entrepreneurships that flourished in response to the modified state divorce laws in Reno have become known as the "Divorce Trade" (see below).

George W. Robison was not listed as a resident at 409 13th Street (or Jefferson) in the 1906, 1911, 1915, 1917, or later Reno/Sparks city directories. Nor was his son George A., although G.A. was listed as a business owner of Robison Mercantile Co. at 10th and B Streets with his brother Roy L., as early as 1906. By the printing of the

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>8</u>	Page <u>4</u>	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
		name of property	county and State

Significance, continued

1911-1912 Reno/Sparks city directory, G.A. was not listed as real estate agent (but see Figure 1); however in the 1915 and 1917 editions, "G.A. Robison" was listed as an employee of the SP. A search at the Washoe County Recorder's Office showed the following owners through time, since the current owners. Present owners Jerald and Edna Burt have owned the home since 1976 and have resided there since 1999. They purchased the property from A.B. Moberg's estate, which had title to the house since 1948. A.B. Moberg received the home as a gift from Emma Nevada Moberg in 1939. Emma C. Walstrom, Sparks' Chief of Police (1923-1927) Lee W. Walstrom's widow, received a down payment toward the property from her daughter Emma Nevada Moberg in 1928, the same year as L.W. Moberg's death. According to Washoe County Recorders' documents, Mr. and Mrs. Judson Dakin (listed in the city directory as an engineer) sold the home in 1921 to the Walstroms, having owned it since 1918. At this point, the Recorder's documents showing the history of ownership goes somewhat cold. According to city directories however, Henry Kimmel, an SP engineer, was residing at 409 13th Street in 1915 and 1917; H.W. Fiege, a druggist was residing there in 1911 (Reno City Directory Publishing Co.: 1911). The question of who resided there or owned the residence between construction in 1904 and 1911 should be researched further. At this point we cannot know with certainty that any Robison family member resided at 409 13th Street, but it is historically associated with the Robisons at the local level and it does remind us of the early development of Sparks, the time during which G.W. and G.A. were instrumental in community development.

Settlement of Sparks

In 1844, Euroamericans first passed through the Sparks-Reno vicinity, known as the Truckee Meadows due to the welcomed grazing opportunities there as they followed the Truckee River corridor on their way west to California. The Central Pacific Railroad passed through the Truckee Meadows-Reno-Sparks area since 1869, at which time Reno was established as a railhead and supply center for the booming gold and silver mines of the Comstock Lode. The closest division point and repair facility was Wadsworth, thirty miles east of Reno. The Southern Pacific Railroad (SP) took over the Central Pacific in 1885, but it was not until New York capitalist Edward H. Harriman acquired the SP in 1900 that changes to the route through the Truckee Meadows were made. The re-route eliminated dangerous curves and excessive grades, avoided floodplains, and shortened the line, bypassing Wadsworth. Truckee, California was considered for the new division point, but railroad officials ultimately settled on a location in the Truckee Meadows east of Reno (Rainshadow Associates 1993). This was the beginning of Sparks.

The railroad acquired the Mary Wall Ranch and the properties of William Thomas near the community of Glendale, immediately east of Reno. Real estate speculators gobbled up the ranch lands surrounding the

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>8</u>	Page <u>5</u>	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
	-	name of property	county and State

Significance, continued

railroad's holdings, and quickly platted and marketed housing tracts. Between 1903 and 1904, the Newton Tract, the O'Sullivan Tract, Robison's Addition, and the Lincoln Park Addition were established. Over the summer of 1904, dwellings in Wadsworth were torn down or moved in sections to the new division point, known as "East Reno" at this time. About seventy homes were relocated to "the Reserve," a neighborhood developed by the SP specifically for the long-term employees, while others filled lots in the other housing tracts. This gave Sparks the distinction of having much of its original building stock "migrated" from another community. The Reserve was limited to residential buildings, so the new business district was established at the southern end of the Robison Tract along its boundary with the Reserve.

The railroad yards were laid out in early 1905, with miles of sidetracks, hundreds of switches, a roundhouse with forty stalls, and largest turntable in the world. The repair shops were the most extensive and advanced of the time (Rainshadow Associates 1993).

The Southern Pacific shops at Sparks are among the most important on that line. They are the same size and capacity as the Ogden shops, and furnish employment to between five and six hundred men. The general repair work of the Salt Lake division of the Southern Pacific is done at Sparks, and it is estimated that the grounds and improvements at the Sparks shops cost the Southern Pacific \$1,500,000. They have all the latest improvements, including electric cranes and are up-to-date in all details. The round-house is fitted with all the latest appliances and has forty [sic] stalls. Sparks boasts of a population of 2,500 people, and is a modern railroad town. The monthly pay-roll is from \$100,000 to \$125,000, and it an important factor to the Reno merchant. The excellent car-service between Sparks and Reno affords the people of Sparks an opportunity to shop in Reno.

(Davis 1984:1039)

The new community was first known as East Reno, and then some consideration was given to names such as New Wadsworth and Glendale. In April 1904 the town was officially named Sparks, after Nevada's popular Governor John Sparks. Sparks incorporated in March 1905, and the new community of 1,2000 souls quickly elected a mayor and city council. City government immediately faced challenges from the lack of adequate sanitary facilities to the need for a volunteer fire department (Rainshadow Associates 1993). The Sparks school district was established in 1904 with classes being held at the two churches in town (Robison sold the land used for the Emmanuel Baptist Church).

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>8</u>	Page <u>6</u>	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
	-	name of property	county and State

Significance, continued

Table 1: Population Estimates for Sparks Since Incorporation		
1904	1,200	
1915	2,000	
1917	3,500	
1921	4,000	
1930	4,300	
1940	5,300	
1950	8,200	

In addition to comfortable working-class residential neighborhoods, Sparks offered a full range of commercial services including its own financial institution, the Bank of Sparks, and a wide selection of retail businesses. An electric trolley system operated between Reno and Sparks from 1904 to 1927. In Sparks, railroad union officials succeeded in keeping gambling halls, saloons and brothels to a minimum, unlike Reno where these activities were major factors in the local economy. In essence, Sparks functioned as a company town from its inception until the shops were closed in 1956 (Rainshadow Associates 1993). Voter registration slanted Democratic, reflecting the pro-labor majority of the railroad employees in Sparks.

During the Depression, the City of Sparks allowed limited gambling in its downtown core after the passage of a state-wide gambling law in 1931. The tax receipts from these six gambling enterprises helped the City through the tough years of 1931-1932.

In the early part of the twentieth century, Reno began to establish itself as a "divorce colony" due to the short residency requirement for divorce and socially liberal laws. In 1927, the laws were even more liberalized, requiring only three months of residency in order to obtain a divorce. Then in 1931, with the Great Depression looming (probably affecting marital relations all over the country), as an economic incentive, the State Legislature shortened the residency period for divorce to a mere six weeks. This resulted in countless people heading "to Reno for the Cure," giving Reno the "Divorce Mecca" title. These divorce seekers who became temporary residences supplemented the local economy through the roughest times of the Depression (Rothwell Harmon 1998). Many Reno residents began renting rooms, cottages, and even their homes along with a service verifying "residency" on a daily basis to make extra income. Although the SP frowned on social vices within their close-knit community of Sparks, some residents did participate in the commerce related to divorce-seekers' lodging, legal, and other needs. It appears that the small residences behind the Robison main house were used for extra income; indeed, a former Police Chief's widow as a matron of sorts would have added at least a little respectability to her renters seeking divorces (if indeed that was their situation) in the railroad-controlled town.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>8</u>	Page _7_	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
		name of property	county and State

Significance, continued

A quick search for residents at the address 409 ½ 13th Street (Feature 2), shows different names in every edition of the Reno/Sparks directories during the years 1930-1937. Further, several furnished rooms for rent were advertised and available in the Robison's Addition neighborhood during the same period (Polk 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1937). This type of entrepreneurship was typical of the local response to the liberal state laws dealing with divorce, and became part of the development of local commerce, economies, and even architectural history of the greater Reno area.

Robison's Addition

A Civil War veteran, G.W. Robison moved to Sparks from Lyon County, Nevada in 1890, buying an eighty-acre ranch at that time (see Figure 2). In 1903, when Central Pacific Railroad announced it would be re-locating their Wadsworth, Nevada shops (thirty miles east) at the Sparks location, Robison subdivided his ranch into residential and commercial lots, making \$100,000 in the real estate venture ("The Story of Sparks" 1985; NHS 1926:341). G.W. Robison revealed in a 1908 interview that he had some "insider information" provided in about 1900 or historical accounts do not distinguish between G.W. Robison and G.A. Robison in the telling of the 1901 by a friend who worked for Central Pacific. The friend told him Central Pacific would be re-routing some track and the division point would be near Robison's eighty-acre ranch (NSJ 15 April 1908). A careful look at the contemporary advertisement for lots and a copy of a letter to a land buyer suggests G.A. Robison was his father's real estate agent (Figure 1), thus integral to the making of his father's notorious fortune. Robison's Addition included all the blocks between 15th (formerly Washington) and 4th (formerly Hamilton) streets, and B (formerly Harriman) and F (formerly Marsh) streets, and the southern half-blocks between 15th and 4th Street. What made the addition more than desirable was its prime location (next to Sparks largest employer) and zoning: it was adjacent to the railroad shops along its southern boundary-good for commercial enterprisesand railroad company housing on its northern limit (NSJ 15 April 1908). The mix of commercial and residential zoning made Sparks' earliest commercial enterprises possible. In addition, the Robisons were considered early Sparks benefactors in a way, donating a lot for the Lion's Club in a central location. However, even the Sparks Dispatch confused the two George Robisons: the article begins with "Mr. G.W. [emphasis added] Robison has again come to the front and shown the great interest and pride he is taking in the welfare of the fast growing city ... " and the article concludes: "It is such spirited and patriotic citizens as G.A. [emphasis added] Robison that will make Sparks one of the most beautiful cities . . ." Hence the confusion over who built the house. The conclusion here is that G.W. Robison owned the land in Robison's Addition, and his son G.A. Robison acted as the real estate agent, using the stately home to advertise lots in the neighborhood.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _	8	Page	_7	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
		•		name of property	county and State

A search through the title deeds from 1902 to 1912 for Washoe County shows that G.A. Robison and G.W. Robison were finished selling empty lots by 1911. Robison's Addition was newly subdivided into parcels in August 1903, so in eight years, thirty or so city blocks of parcels were sold by the Robisons. By his death in 1921, G.W. Robison was considered by some to be the "Father of Sparks" (*NSJ* 15 April 1908). His mercantile at 10th and B streets in Sparks, known as Robison Hall, was an early landmark in Sparks (it burned in 1905, only to be re-constructed by Robison at the same site), and functioned as a community hall, with a dance hall on the second floor (*Sparks Tribune* 10 Oct 1921; *NSJ* 7 Apr 1907; Scrugham 1935:215).

In conclusion, the Robison House retains a high level of integrity regarding the aspects of location, design, workmanship, feeling and association.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9	Page <u>8</u>	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
		name of property	county and State

Section 9: Bibliography

Davis, Sam P. (editor) 1984 [1913] *History of Nevada* vol. II. Las Vegas: Nevada Publications.

Grow, Lawrence

1978 Old House Plans. New York: Universe Books.

McAlester Virginia, and Lee McAlester

1990 A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Nevada Historical Society

1926 Nevada State Historical Society Papers, vol. 5, 1925-1926. Nevada Historical Society, Reno.

Nevada State Journal [NSJ]

1908 "Pioneer Talks About Sparks Early Days."15 April:5. Reno, Nevada.

Nicoletta, Julie

2000 Buildings of Nevada. New York: Oxford University Press.

Polk, R.L. and Company

var *Polk's Reno City Directory, including Washoe County and Carson City.* 1915-1944. San Francisco: R.L. Polk and Co.

Rainshadow Associates

1993 *Historical Architectural Survey Report for Interstate 80-Pyramid Way Interchange, Sparks, Nevada.* On file at the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office.

Reno City Directory Publishing Co.

var Directory of Reno and Sparks. 1906-1913. Reno, Nevada.

Reno Evening Gazette (REG)

1903 "Robison's Addition." 26 August: 5. Reno, Nevada.

Rothwell Harmon, Mella

1998 National Register Nomination of the Frey Ranch (Washoe County). On file at the State Historic Preservation Office, Carson City.

OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _	9, 10	Page	9	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
				name of property	county and State

Bibliography (continued)

Scrugham, James G.

1935 Nevada: A Narrative of Conquest of a Frontier Land. Washington D.C.: American Historical Society.

Sparks Dispatch1905 "G.W. Robison Proves Himself a Friend to Sparks." 29 March:1. Sparks, Nevada.

Sparks Tribune [ST]

1921 "Geo. W. Robison Dies After Long Illness." 10 October:1. Sparks, Nevada.

Sparks, City of

1985 The Story of Sparks. With assistance with the Nevada State Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, Carson City.

Washoe County Assessor's Office 2006 Real Property Assessment Data. Reno.

Section 10: Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The National Register of Historic Places boundaries of the Robison House include all the land within the parcel identified as Washoe County Assessor's Parcel Number 032-086-06.

Boundary Justification

Resource boundaries include all land historically associated with the lot identified as Washoe County, Nevada APN 032-086-06, Lots 1-4, Block 20, Robison's Addition, Sparks.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Robison House	Washoe County, NV
name of property	county and State

List of Figures and Photo Log

Figure 1. Letterhead from G.A. Robison to land buyer, 1904. Courtesy of Sparks Heritage Museum.

Figure 2. Robison family photo, ca. 1885. From left: Roy, Edna, Leon, Mrs. Martha Robison, Mr. George W. Robison, George A. Original at Sparks Heritage Museum.

Figure 3. Contemporary Advertisement for Robison's Addition (undated). Courtesy of Sparks Heritage Museum.

Photo Log: Robison House, 409 13th Street, Sparks Nevada (Washoe County) Digital images on file at the NV State Historic Preservation Office

Photo Number	Description	Date/Photographer
1	Exterior, eastern elevation; frontal view from 13 th Street.	November 17, 2005/T. McBride
2	Exterior, southern elevation from D Street. Facing north.	November 17, 2005/T. McBride
3	View from 13 th Street, facing south/southwest. Note roofs of Features 2 and 4 in backyard.	November 17, 2005/T. McBride
4	Interior, front entry, showing textured and colored "hammered" glass	November 17, 2005/T. McBride
5	Attic Interior, showing triangular transom window (west wall).	November 17, 2005/T. McBride
6	Exterior of Feature 2, earliest "tourist cabin" built on lot, pre-1925 (facing northeast).	November 17, 2005/T. McBride
7	Features 3 (garage) and 4 (residence in rear), from D Street, facing north. Features 3 and 4 built ca. 1925- 1942.	November 17, 2005/T. McBride
8	Rear yard, facing northwest. Feature 5 ("wash house") in center, front corner of Feat. 2 on right, rear corner of Feat. 4 on left.	November 17, 2005/T. McBride
9	Front façade of Feature 4, showing casement windows and asbestos siding. Facing north/northwest.	November 17, 2005/T. McBride

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

tachments, Page 11	Robison House Washoe County, NV name of property county and State
P-	RENO, NEV. Jan. 14th. 1904.
Wadsworth, Nevada. Dear Sir:-	gether with check for one hundred
dollars at hand, please find enclosed a	receipt for same.
The lots you mentioned in your le	
that we looked at the day you warehere	•
until you come up and are satisfied th Thanking you I remain,	hey are the lots you want.
	Yours respectfully,
	Geo CI. C. Pokina

Figure 1. Letterhead from G.A. Robison to land buyer, 1904

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Attachments, Page 12	Robison House	Washoe County, NV
	name of property	county and State

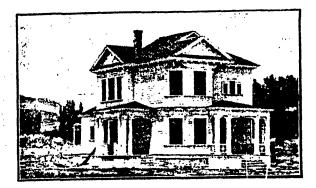


Figure 1. G.W. Robison Family, ca. 1885. From left: Roy, Edna, Leon, Mrs. Martha Robison, Mr. George W. Robison, George A.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Attachments, Page 13

tachments, Page 13	Robison HouseWashoe County, Nname of propertycounty and State	
Robison's	Addi	tion



West of the Smoke Line; High and Dry; Natural Drainage; Site of Public School and Churches to be Built; Opposite the Ground Apportioned by the Railroad to its Employes; Contains the Most Desirable Building Lots in Sparks

G. A. Robison, Agent

Room 13, Sunderland Building, 6728

RENO, NEVADA

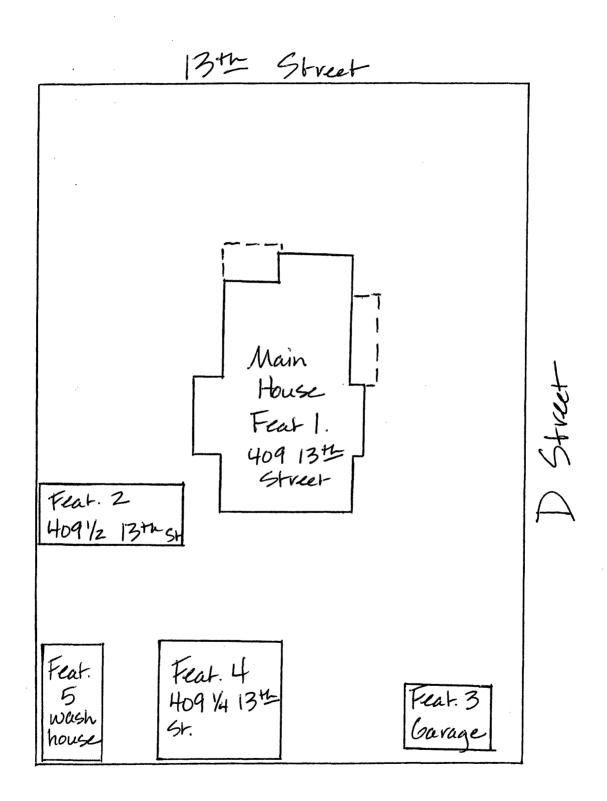
GETAHOMEIN SPARKS

I The wonderful new railroad town of Nevada. I Fortunes have been made in Real Estate and the prices are still low. I Acre villa sites in the Beautiful Prater Tract at the price of town lots in other additions. I Also one hundred fine 50 and 40 foot lots at low prices. I Bargains in all



THE SPARKS REALTY COMPANY

SOLE AGENTS FOR THE PRATER TRACT AND RELIABLE DEALERS IN REAL ESTATE



Site Map, Robison House, Sparks, Nevada (Washoe County). Adapted from 1925 (revised through 1942) Sanborn Insurance Map.