

Acreage: Less than one acre 125' x 105'  
Location: 1594 Esmeralda Avenue  
City: Minden State: Nevada County: Douglas County

Current Owner: R & A Incorporated  
Address: P.O. Box 368, Minden, Nevada 89423

Date Prepared by: Douglas County Planning Department Date: 1981  
Address: Minden, Nevada

Property Information

Original Use: Minden Inn  
Condition: Good  
Architect: Frederick J. DeLongchamps  
Builder: unknown  
Construction/Modification Dates: 1912-16  
Building Type: Commercial  
Style: Neo-Classical

Physical Description

The Minden Inn is a three-story, Neo-Classical style building constructed between 1912-16 by the Dangberg family as the major hotel for the town of Minden and the Carson Valley. The building was designed by Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps and is one of four major buildings commissioned by the Dangberg family in Minden. The structure retains its overall architectural integrity despite alterations to the first floor, principal elevation (N). The building has remained in continuous use as a hotel since its construction.

The Minden Inn is located at the corner of Esmeralda Avenue and Fourth Streets in Minden. The building occupies a prominent site in the Minden commercial district and is the largest building in the area. Adjoining the building to the east is a fenced, patio-pool area.

The Minden Inn is a rectangular masonry building supported by a raised brick foundation and terminating in a flat composition roof. The symmetrical building is faced in locally fired, beige brick on the north, east and west elevations. The rear (south) elevation is red brick. The corners of the principal elevation (north) incorporate stylized brick quoins which rise to an ornate projecting cornice accented by brackets. This cornice spans the north and west elevations. Building windows are single pane, plate glass on the first story and one-light-over-one light, sash on the upper stories. All windows are enframed by simple, wooden surrounds. Upper story units are supported by brick lug sills. First and second stories on the principal elevations are divided by a slightly projecting wooden cornice. The principal entrance to the building is recessed in the central bay of the north elevation. This entrance and the flanking two

bays were altered with the addition of plate glass windows and plate glass and aluminum door units c. 1960.

A plastic and metal signing reading "Minden Inn" is anchored to the northwest corner of the building.

Statement of Significance (Criteria A, C)

The Minden Inn is architecturally and historically significant to the development of the town of Minden. Constructed between 1912 and 1916, according to plans by prominent Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps, the building is one of four commercial structures commissioned by the Dangberg family, founders and principal promoters of the town. The largest commercial building in the community, the Minden Inn along with the remaining DeLongchamps buildings establishes the architectural character of the commercial district. For a more detailed discussion of DeLongchamps work see the nomination cover form.

The Dangbergs were among the first settlers in the Carson Valley. H. F. Dangberg, senior arrived in the area in 1856 and founded the region's largest cattle ranch. By the early twentieth century, the Dangberg Land and Livestock Company encompassed 48,000 acres and included related meat packing and food processing ventures. In 1905, H.F. Dangberg, junior donated land to the Virginia and Truckee Railroad for the construction of a rail terminal for the Carson Valley. Dangberg established the town of Minden adjoining the railhead and retained the services of noted Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps to design four buildings to house the Dangberg businesses.

The Minden Inn is one of these four buildings. The Inn was the center of social activity in the Carson Valley for the first decades of the twentieth century and earned a reputation as one of the best hotels between Reno and San Francisco.

Bibliography

Dangberg, Grace, Carson Valley Historical Sketches of Nevada's First Settlement, (Reno, Nevada: The Carson Valley Historical Society, 1972).

Miluck, Nancy, ed, Genoa-Carson Valley Book: Where Nevada Began. (Genoa: Dragon Enterprises, 1981).

Sanborn Maps, Minden, Nevada

Boundary Description

Site known as 1594 Esmeralda Avenue, Minden. Parcel is located on northeast corner of Esmeralda Avenue and Fourth Street, Township 13N, Range 20E, Section 32. Douglas County Assessor's Map BK 25-200-55 (PARCEL).

See accompanying map of Minden.

Location of Legal Description: Dougals County Courthouse, 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada

Representation in Existing Surveys: The Architectural Heritage of Carson Valley, 1981, Local survey deposited with the Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology, Carson City, NV

UTM References: Zone 11 E 260620 N 4315000.