

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received JAN 23 1980  
date entered MAR 26 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Rainier Brewing Company Bottling Plant

and/or common Ice House Antiques

**2. Location**

street & number 310 Spokane St. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Reno \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Nevada-at-large

state Nevada code 32 county Washoe code 031

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                 | Status  | Present Use                                    |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture           | <input type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private          | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both             | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational           | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                 | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment         | <input type="checkbox"/> religious         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government            | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial            | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation    |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military              | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Nevada National Ice and Coal Storage Company

street & number *2/11/80*  
*Mr. Warren B Richardson - 701 Marsh Ave*

city, town Reno \_\_\_ vicinity of state Nevada *89507*

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washoe County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Reno state Nevada

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nevada Historic Engineering Site has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
Inventory

date 8/29/79 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech University

city, town Lubbock state Texas

## 7. Description

|   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                              |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered              | <input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rainier Bottling Works was built in 1905 on Spokane Street in Reno north of the Southern Pacific Railroad main line. The building is brick, graduated in height from a two-story front section to a low storage shed at the rear. The main section of the building is rectangular, approximately 35 by 70 feet.

The two-story section forms the front half of the building. This portion was originally used for offices and cold storage. The upper floor was used as living quarters, originally for the manager and later for a night watchmen. The building is brick, laid in running bond with a soldier-course. Segmental arches span the window and door openings. There is a stringcourse beneath the windows on each floor. This detail is repeated several times on the second floor, producing a banded effect. The flat roof is edged with a low parapet accented with corbeling. There is a two-story brick chimney on the north side of the structure.

The one story back half of the main structure is built of the same brick with a metal roof. This area was originally used for bottling and later for a warehouse and storage area. The windows and door openings are styled like those of the front section except for two small square windows on the north side which were added in a later alteration. Attached to the rear of the main structure is a small flat roofed storage shed.

On both the north and south sides of the building are concrete loading platforms. The one on the north side has been partially enclosed and is covered by a shed roof. The south platform was used for loading and unloading from railroad cars parked on the spur line which appeared on maps as early as 1906 and still exists.

The brick is presently covered in old, worn paint. It is not known if this is original, as no early pictures of the structure have been found. It is known, however, that paint was often used to seal porous brick early in the century, so it is possible that the building was painted very early.

There have apparently been no significant alterations to the structure since it was built, although it has served as an ice house, coal company, oil and burner supply company, and an antique store since the brewery ceased operations in 1919. External evidence of these varied functions is limited to the large round National Oil and Burner Co. sign attached to the front of the building, and the Ice House Antiques sign painted around the top of the building. The present tenant has also added a new front door which is in harmony with the style and character of the building.

# 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

**Specific dates** 1905 **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Rainier Brewing Co. Bottling works is the last vestige of a significant "turn of the century" brewing industry in Reno. The only other extant brewing property was not built until 1940. Small breweries, including Reno Brewing Co. near the Rainier Plant, were important economically and socially to Reno up until Prohibition. This brick bottling plant stands as a reminder of those days.

In May 1905, an announcement appeared in the Reno Evening Gazette that the Rainier Brewing Co. of Seattle was planning to build a bottling plant in the Morrill-Smith addition, which was the heart of the industrial section then as now. The plant began operation later that year.

There is no hard evidence that tells where the works obtained the beer it bottled. A spur track was built that ended at Rainier's plant, so beer probably was shipped in kegs from a brewery in Washington. Beer was bottled on the site until 1919 when the passage of the 18th amendment and the Volstead Act brought an end to operations.

Beginning in the early 1920's, a number of operations owned the site and building. These included the Nevada National Ice and Cold Storage Company, whose vault remains in the building, National Coal Co., National Ice Co., and National Oil and Burner Co., whose sign still adorns the building.

National Oil and Burner Co. moved to another location in 1970, and the building stood vacant until 1976. At that time the present tenant, Ice House Antiques, took possession of the building. This business is an excellent example of adaptive use of a structure.

The Rainier Brewing Co. Bottling Works is significant because of its place in Reno's Industrial History, and because it is the last real vestige of the once-significant brewing industry in Reno.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Reno Evening Gazette May 9, 1905 p. 8.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1906, 1918, 1933, 1949. Nevada Historic Society. Correspondence with Guy Louis Rocha, Curator of Manuscripts, Nevada Historical Society, August 27, 1979.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 0.5

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Reno

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of this nomination extend 10 feet out from the external walls of the structure.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sally Abbe, Research Assistant

organization History of Engineering Program date 9/13/79

street & number P. O. Box 4089, Texas Tech University telephone 742-3591

city or town Lubbock state Texas

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Yojimi Redden*

title *SNPO* date *December 20 1979*

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*W. Ray Luce*  
Keeper of the National Register date *3-26-80*

Attest: *[Signature]* date *3-17-80*  
Chief of Registration