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National Regi	ster of Histor	ic Plac	ces				ER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Registration					4	NATION	VAL PARK SERVICE
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1. Name of Property							
historic name Henry	Piper House						
other names/site numbe	Parcel No. 001-082	2-07					
2. Location							
street & number 58 Nor	th B Street						not for publication
city or town Virginia C	ity					V	icinity
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3. State/Federal Agend			-)				
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(Expires 5/31/2012)

Henry Piper House	Storey, NV
Name of Property	County and State
5. Classification	

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within (Do not include previously listed resou	rces in the count.)
X private public - Local public - State public - Federal Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	X building(s) district site structure object	Contributing Noncontrib	buildings sites structures objects Total
N/A		N/A	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	
Domestic, Single Dwelling		Bed and Breakfast Inn	
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)	
		And the standard sector of the sector of the	
Italianate		foundation: <u>modern concrete</u> walls: <u>wood</u>	8
		roof: composition	
		other:	

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Henry Piper House Name of Property (Expires 5/31/2012)

Storey, NV County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The historic Henry Piper home is located at 58 North B Street in Virginia City, Nevada. The large "row" house has undergone a recent restoration in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior guidelines on historic restoration. Finished in 1875, the wood frame home is on the west side of B Street between Sutton and Union streets, facing east. It sits immediately on the street with no front yard or other set back. A large five-sided bay window dominates the front façade. The Henry Piper House is a rare example of a mid-range dwelling of Virginia City, a community that has lost many of these types of structures due to over a century of attrition (Photo 2). As the home of an affluent business owner and local politician, it contributes to the broad patterns of history in terms of our understanding of Virginia City and the American West during the mining boom era.

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheet.

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Henry Piper House Name of Property Storey County, Nevada County and State

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DESCRIPTION

Completed in 1875 immediately after the "Great Fire", the Henry Piper House at 58 North B Street in Virginia City, Nevada is situated on the west side of B Street between Union and Sutton streets, facing east. The large row-style house has recently been rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The Henry Piper House (Photos 10, 11 and 12) is an excellent example of mid-range domestic architecture of Virginia City, a community where many row style homes have been lost due to over a century of attrition. Originally, a similar house stood immediately to the south of the Henry Piper House (See Photo 1). The Henry Piper House is a modestly decorated Italianate Victorian house. As the residence of an affluent immigrant businessman and politician, the Henry Piper House contributes to the broad patterns of history in terms of understanding Virginia City and the American West during the mining boom era.

During the restoration in 2005, the home was moved four feet to the north, parallel to B Street in order to improve access to the south side. The home was placed on a new, continuous cement foundation. Despite this move, the home retains its location and setting on B Street. The home is sited adjacent to the street with no front yard or set back. Original foundation details around the bay window, missing but evident in historic photographs (see Photo 1) have been recreated with native stone and hand-turned spindle work. The back yard slopes and has been terraced for accessibility. An 80 year-old cottonwood tree stands on the north side of the property.

The Henry Piper House is a simple rectangle, about three times deeper than wide, aligned east to west on the property. The one and one-half story structure is of wood frame construction with rough cut 4 x 6-inch studs covered by 1 x 8-inch diagonals, waterproofing tar paper and is finished in horizontal shiplap siding. The structure encloses approximately 2,340-square-feet of living space. The exterior is newly painted in a period-appropriate color scheme. The house has a steeply-pitched front-gabled roof with a modern composition roof in estate grey.

The asymmetrical front façade, facing east, features a covered entrance door recessed in a vestibule on the far left (south side), a large five-sided bay window on the right (toward the north), and a smaller, central window in the gable under the eaves. Corbels, drops, spindles and other decorative elements adorn the front façade. Wide eaves and cornice brackets highlight the roof line. Unlike the highly decorated east façade, the remaining exterior lacks purely decorative adornment. Simple drip molds crown the 2-over-2 double-hung windows on the north and west facades. The south facade lacks fenestration due to its original proximity to the once extant south house.

The dominant feature of the home is the single-story, five-sided bay window with 1-over-1 9-foot tall arched windows. The bay window is topped by a pointed half-dome of overlapping terne-steel plates. The bay window sashes and frames are intact and appear to be original, as is the smaller upper floor window on the front. All other windows were replaced during the recent restoration with hand-made, 2-over-2 wood-frames replicating the original design, thus restoring the original appearance. None of the window glass appears to be original. In the interior, transom windows are present over all but one of the first floor doors, with two of them featuring what appears to be the original etched glass.

The entrance to the home is accessed by a short flight of stairs leading to a vestibule. Sidelights and an arched transom surround the single front door which also includes a large glass pane. The door opens onto a long hallway with a narrow stairway on the south side, half way down, leading upstairs. The narrow stairs are original, ending in a newel post at the bottom, and curving 90 degrees up to the second floor.

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Beyond the front door, the first doorway to the north leads to the parlor, with its bay window. From the parlor, 10-foot tall pocket doors lead to the second parlor, now used as library, with its single 6-foot tall window. Both of these rooms featured silver-plated hardware for selected window latches and door hardware. From the library, a passageway originally led to the dining room. This passageway created a secondary path from the parlors to the dining room. Adjacent to this passageway, is a small and narrow room, likely the butler's pantry, which was converted to a bathroom decades past. This area has been retained as bathroom / laundry room and contains one 6-foot tall window.

The next room to the west is a large, wainscoted room, spanning the width of the house, likely used as the original dining room. This room contains two 6-foot tall windows to the north. A 4 x 4-foot opening in the ceiling argues for an original elevator, which could have allowed occupants to avoid the narrow and steep stairway. No remnants of a mechanical elevator were present during the restoration and the opening was subsequently closed. A wall was established running east to west as a continuation of the main north hallway wall.

Situated in the northwest corner of the house is the kitchen, which contains two 6-foot tall windows, facing north and west, respectively. A door to the north exits the kitchen. A half-round table is attached to the north wall between the window and the door. The patent date on the table hardware indicates manufacture after 1890. The house likely was remodeled in the 1890s as wainscoting in the original dining room was placed over wallpaper, which appeared to be original. Wainscoting was found in the dining room, kitchen and hallway behind the stairs.

To the southwest is a small bedroom or storage room containing one 6-foot tall window to the west. This bedroom completes the floor plan of the first floor.

The entire first floor features 12-foot ceilings. Originally, the first floor was plumbed for gas lighting in the ceiling and for a gas stove in the library. A large plaster medallion on the ceiling of the parlor has been re-painted and re-installed in its original location. Period and reproduction chandeliers and light fixtures have been chosen as no original light fixtures were present. With the exception of the original dining room floor, which has 3 ¹/₂-inch wide boards, all downstairs floors have 5-inch wide tongue-and-grove floors.

On the second floor, the gabled east and west ends of the house contain similar 6-foot tall windows, slightly offset from the centerline. Only the east window had been equipped with counter weights. The easterly room retains the original walls, which create an 11-foot wide room with a 9-foot tall ceiling. Other walls were previously removed, rendering it nearly impossible to determine the original configuration of the rooms. Currently, the second floor contains three bedrooms, each with a private bath. At the top of the stairway, a short hallway running east to west on the south side provides access to the bedrooms and completes the floor plan of the second floor.

Integrity

The Henry Piper House retains its original appearance and design, both internally and externally. Although the home was moved four feet to the north, it maintains its location and setting within the residential context of B Street. Materials and processes used in the rehabilitation compliment the original materials. The woodwork has been completed by hand to reflect the original workmanship. The original floors have been repaired and refinished and the original faux wood treatment evidenced on doors and trim pieces has been restored. Details and decorations convey the feeling of the original interior. Parlor walls feature an exact reproduction of the original wall paper, and period-appropriate wallpapers hang throughout the remainder of the home. Historic and

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reproduction light fixtures have been installed in the absence of the original lighting. The recent rehabilitation of the Henry Piper House highlights the property's association to the famed mining boom in Virginia City.

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Henry Piper House Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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Storey, NV County and State

	ement of Significance	
Mark "x"	able National Register Criteria 'in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property nal Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) Commerce
A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Commerce
(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	Period of Significance
	individual distinction.	1875-1894
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
		1875
	a Considerations 'in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person
roper	ty is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Henry Piper
в	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
c	a birthplace or grave.	
D	a cemetery.	
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
F	a commemorative property.	N/A
G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.	

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance corresponds to Henry Piper's association with the property.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Henry Piper House Name of Property Storey, NV County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The subject property is significant for its association with immigrant businessman and politician Henry Piper. Henry lived in Virginia City from about 1860 until 1894 and partnered with his brother John on the management of Piper's Opera House. Henry ran the Piper's Corner Saloon on B and Union streets, at times as partner and owner, and became involved with local politics. His political career included City Alderman, City Treasurer and State Assemblyman. He maintained many fraternal organization memberships and served on the Republican Central Committee.

Henry Piper stole amalgam from the Carson City Mint while employed there, causing him to be fired. He became part of a subsequent trial that gained statewide notoriety in the 1890s. The subject house is of local significance for its association with Henry Piper. In addition, it has significance for Henry Piper's association with Piper's Opera House and the businesses the Piper family developed. The Henry Piper House is the last surviving, intact residence of this important family.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

See Continuation Sheet.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The subject property is significant under Criterion B because of its association with Henry Piper. Moving to Virginia City in 1860 with his older brother John Piper, best known for his ownership of Piper's Opera House, Henry played important roles in business and local politics. The Piper brothers first established a long-running saloon on the corner of B and Union Streets where Henry worked as business owner and partner to his brothers from the early 1860s until the early 1880s. In 1867, John purchased Maguire's Opera House on D Street which lasted at that location until the Great Fire of 1875. Henry partnered in the running of the Opera House which brought in nationally known celebrities and top-quality entertainment to the mining town. Piper's Opera House became the most famous Victorian era theater in Nevada. The Piper brothers established a theater circuit including Carson City and Reno in which the same show could play to audiences in all three locations.

During the boom years, the Piper family enjoyed financial success from the saloon and Opera House businesses, as well as other investments. With economic success, Henry pursued a career in local politics becoming City treasurer by election, and serving two terms. He finished a term of office for a City Board of Alderman position and in 1870 was elected to the Nevada State Assembly. Henry maintained many fraternal organization memberships including the Masons and National Guard, and he participated in various volunteer fire fighting groups and German cultural events. A strong Republican, Henry served on the Republican Central Committee where he attained internal positions of power. In 1874 Henry purchased a small house on the subject lot in which he had planned to live with his prospective bride, Fredericka Martins. When the Great Fire of 1875 destroyed their home, the subject house replaced the lost smaller structure. Constructed at the height of the mining boom, the large home reflects the affluent lifestyle that Henry Piper had attained.

The Comstock Lode borrasca years took their toll on Henry's finances as he sought employment at the Carson City Mint in the 1880s. Henry stole amalgam from the Mint while employed there, causing him to be fired. He was part of a subsequent trial which was one of the most publicized and well-known in the American West during the 1890s. The Henry Piper family left Virginia City in 1894 to reside in California for the remainder of their lives.

The subject house is of local significance under Criterion B for its association with businessman and politician Henry Piper.

Criterion B

John Henry Piper, "Henry Piper" (Photos 7 and 8), was born Johann Hinrich Peper in Fischerhude, Ottersberg, Germany on August 4, 1840. He was the eighth child of Joachim and Gesche (Schlohen) Peper (Evangelische Kirche, Fischerhude, Kirchenbuch, 1715-1852: 1840). Henry, along with two of his older brothers, John (born Johann, May 20, 1830) and Joseph (born Joachim, December 27, 1835), immigrated to San Francisco sometime during the mid-1850s. The 1910 census recorded Henry as immigrating in 1859, although his brothers appear as early as 1856 in San Francisco business directories (U.S. Federal Census, 1910; Colville: 173, 176; see also Beebe and Clegg: 147). Henry Piper's son, Charles Piper, was quoted as saying the Piper brothers "were due to be called up for the German army and they wanted nothing of soldiering, so they slipped aboard an America bound ship" (Johnson, Berkeley Daily Gazette: February 2, 1942, 6:7).

	Henry Piper House
	Name of Property
1	Storey County, Neva
	County and State

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Early San Francisco business directories place a J. Piper and a Joseph Peper in San Francisco as early as 1856, while both John and Joseph appear as grocer and fruit seller, respectively, as early as 1859 (Colville, 1856: 173, 176; Langley, 1859: 224; see also Langley, 1858: 226). More than ten years younger than brother John, Henry clerked in his older brother's grocery store in 1860 San Francisco (U.S. Federal Census, 1860; Langley, 1860: 254). Charles Piper recalled that the "Piper's Market" was located at New Montgomery and Stevenson streets in San Francisco (Johnson, <u>Berkeley Daily Gazette</u>: February 2, 1942, 6:7; see also Beebe and Clegg). Early directories place Joseph Piper's fruit store at either 130 or 132 Montgomery Street (Colville: 173; Langley, 1858: 226; Langley, 1859: 224; Langley, 1860: 254).

The 1860 San Francisco city directory listed John as selling liquors, as well as grocery products (Langley, 1860: 254). So the Piper Brothers, with experience selling liquor, went into the saloon business after relocating to booming Virginia City. Joseph Piper remained in San Francisco and continued the grocery/liquor business until about 1870, then he, too, moved to Virginia City (Langley, <u>Pacific Coast Directory</u>, 1867: 405, 415; Langley, 1869: 502; U.S. Federal Census, 1870; Langley, 1867, 410).

Henry Piper's Business Career

Henry, a mere 20 years old, moved with John to Virginia City in 1860-1 (Angel, ed.: 675 lists 1860 while early newspaper ads date to 1861. The earliest Storey County deed that could be attributed to John dates to September 1860, Storey County Deeds, Book V, pg 577). The Piper brothers were not among the first wave of pioneers to Virginia City, as the 1860 Federal Census taker found them in San Francisco. The census recording John, his wife Louisa, their three-month old baby, and Henry was taken on June 7 of that year. John's personal wealth was valued at \$2,000, so he had attained some degree of success in the grocery/fruit stand/liquor business (U.S. Federal Census, 1860).

Upon settling in Virginia City, John established a saloon at the southwest corner of B and Union streets. This is one of the longest continuously operating saloons of the nineteenth century in Virginia City. Advertisements in the <u>Territorial Enterprise</u> newspaper for the "Old Corner Saloon" date to as early as 1861, with John Piper listed as proprietor. (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: July 20, 1861, 3:3; November 17, 1861, 1:1).

In 1862, John and wife Louisa deeded the land on which the Old Corner Saloon stood to the Trustees of Virginia City. However, they reserved all right to remove all buildings and improvements standing upon the lot. As the property was bounded on the north by other lots owned by John and his wife, it seems probable that the saloon was physically moved north to its subsequent location on the northwest corner of B and Union. Perhaps this allowed for the continuation of Union Street to the west. The earliest business directory lists the Old Corner Saloon at the southwest corner of B and Union (Storey County Deeds, Book D: 255-6, as seen at UNR Special Collections; microfilmed Storey Co. deeds in the State Archives do not show this deed at this location. Perhaps the deed was never filed, although it bears a book and page number. During John Piper's bankruptcy proceedings, property descriptions give him ownership of 6 feet of land on the southwest corner of B and Union, which supports the interpretation that the original saloon was moved to the north allowing for the continuation of Union Street; Kelly, 1862: 156; Assessor's Book of Maps, Platt map, Storey County Recorder's Office).

By the early 1860s, John was listed as living over his saloon at 1 North B Street on the northwest corner of the intersection. The saloon was called the Old Corner Saloon in an 1863 business directory, but by 1864-5, one

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business directory showed John Piper to have the "Piper Saloon" at B and Union and Jno. Piper to be a saloon proprietor (Kelly, 1863: 268; Collins, 1864-5: 183; see also Langley, 1867, Pacific Coast Directory: 315). Similar to Henry serving as a clerk in older brother John's San Francisco grocery business, Henry may well have been a bartender or assistant "bar back" in the new Virginia City saloon business. The saloon is specifically mentioned in an article in the Eureka Daily Sentinel in May of 1877. The author portrayed the saloon as the local haunt of Samuel Clemens and other "Bohemians" during his sojourn with the Territorial Enterprise (Eureka Daily Sentinel May 8, 1877).

Collins' 1864-65 Virginia City Business Directory shows two saloons at the location of Maguire's Opera House on D street, which John Piper acquired in early 1867 (Collins, 1864-5: 234; Van Tilburg Clark, ed. <u>Doten</u> <u>Journals</u>, Vol. 2: 918). John finalized the purchase of Maguire's Opera House by March of 1867. Max Walter, a German immigrant and former melodeon operator, leased the Opera House for a few months (Miller: 243-244). The <u>Territorial Enterprise</u> newspaper noted in September of 1867 that John, the proprietor of the renamed Piper's Opera House, had assumed charge and that it would thereafter be run by John and his brother, Henry Piper (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: September 20, 1867, 3:3; see also Miller, PhD. Dissertation: 278-9, 287; Semenza: 22; Johnson, <u>Berkeley Daily Gazette</u>: February 2, 1942, 6:7; Territorial <u>Enterprise</u>: December 5, 1867, 2:8). The paper reported that "The Pipers have the capital to carry through whatever they undertake, and will have no difficulty in securing the very best artists now on the coast" (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: September 20, 1867, 3:3).

Newspaper articles document this partnership, and deeds of the early 1870s show that the Opera House property on D Street passed back and forth between John and Henry (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: December 5, 1867, 2:8; December 6, 1867, 3:1; December 12, 1867, 3:1; May 16, 1868, 3:3; <u>Nevada State Journal</u>: July 12, 1873, 3:2; Storey County Deeds, Book 30: 81, 147, 459; Book 33,452-3). John deeded the D Street Opera House to Henry in March of 1870 and Henry deeded it back to John in May of 1870 (Book 30, 81, 147). John then deeded the Opera House to Henry in January of 1871 for 2,500 dollars (Book 30, 459). Henry kept title to the Opera House until September of 1873 when he sold it back to John for 5,000 dollars (Book 33, 452-3). Thus, Henry held title to the Opera House for more than two years of its eight year run at that location. During the time that Henry was the titled owner, he purchased land on the south side of the Opera House, adding to the holdings at that location, while selling property on the north side of the Opera House for actors mentioned by David Belasco (Book 33, 152-3; Book 32, 387; Belasco, David "My Life's Story", June 1914, <u>Hearst Magazine</u>, 767-779). These changes in the ownership of the Opera House are probably reflective of the partnership between John and Henry, rather than a complete change in management of the business.

Advertisements for the Opera House in 1867 and 1868 noted the proprietors were both John and Henry Piper (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>, May 12, 1868, 2:6, June 11, 1868,2:5, January 10, 1868, 3:8; January 11, 3:7, January 14, 3:7; January 15, 1868, 3:7; <u>Gold Hill Daily News</u>, October 9, 1867, 2:5, October 10, 1867, 3:1; October 22, 1867, 3:1; October 30, 1867, 3:1; November 9, 1867, 3: 1, 2; November 16, 1867, 3;1; November 22, 1867, 3:5). Interestingly, an April 1871 newspaper advertisement for the Opera House lists John Piper as "sole proprietor", at a time when the deeded interest of the theatre belonged to Henry (<u>Virginia Evening Bulletin</u> April 18, 1871, 3:2). The same newspaper lists Henry running for city treasurer. This may reflect the fact that Henry and Joseph took over the saloon on B and Union in 1871, and then may have had some type of agreement with John as to his complete running of the Opera House, while the saloon was run by the other two brothers.

There is some evidence to suggest Henry worked in various capacities in the Opera House business. A November 1867 dispute between two Opera House performers resulted in a burlesque of the event being performed at the

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theatre. One actor took the part of Henry Piper. As the event happened in the saloon of the Opera House, Henry may have been presiding over the bar at the time of the dispute (Gold Hill Daily News, November 9, 1867, 3:1, 2). The Gold Hill Daily News reported that John and Henry Piper "have their mammoth yellow posters 'up' for their melodeon. They have secured a row of talent such as can't be overcome on this coast" (Gold Hill Daily News, October 7, 1867). In 1868, John and Henry looked at the possibility of opening a saloon and theatre in Reno, where they owned property. The Enterprise reported: "John and Henry Piper, proprietors of the Opera House, in this city, yesterday went over to Reno, where they own property, to take a look at things generally with a view to creating a large building for a saloon, with a large hall attached, suitable for a theatre" (Territorial Enterprise: May 16, 1868, 3:3).

Similarly, the <u>Nevada State Journal</u> of 1873 indicated that Henry announced that a minstrel show would play Reno in July of that year (<u>Nevada State Journal</u>, July 12, 1873, 3:2). This is the same time frame that business directories clearly show "Henry Piper and Company" or the "Piper Brothers" to be the B and Union Street saloon proprietors (Langley, 1871: 372; Storey Co. Dir., 1871:187; McKenney, 1872:547; Uhlhorn: 122-3; Bethel: 122; See also newspaper advertisements for the saloon that list both brothers at "Piper's Corner", <u>Gold Hill Daily</u> <u>News</u>: April 19, 1873; <u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: April 23, 1872, 2:5; <u>The Daily Independent</u>, Dec. 16,1:5; 18, 1:5; 23,1:5; 1874, Jan. 5, 1875,1:5). A possible explanation would be that there was a partnership between Henry and Joseph in the saloon operation, as well as a partnership between Henry and John in the Opera House business. Census records from the 1870s and 1880 show Henry to be a saloonkeeper (owner) (U.S. Federal Census, 1870; 1880; Nevada State Census, 1875, pg 111).

Alf Doten reported that as early as 1869 Piper brought theatrical productions to Carson City (Van Tilburg Clark; Vol. 2; 1067). In 1875, local newspapers reported that John Piper brought productions to both Carson City and Reno. John opened the Carson theatre on January 4, 1875 with Miss Gayton as star (<u>The Daily Independent</u>, January 5, 1875, 3:1). In Reno, he leased Dyer's Hall beginning in 1875 by playing the Piper's Opera House Company of stock players, and later leased the Reno Opera House, the Nevada Theater, and McKissick's Opera House at different times for various productions (<u>Daily Nevada State Journal</u>, October 1, 1875, 2:4; October 6 1875, 2:3; October 7, 1875, 2:4; October 8, 1875, 2:4; Nov. 12, 1875, 2:3; November 13 1875, 2:3; February 6, 1878, 2:5; <u>Reno Evening Gazette</u>, April 9, 1887, 2:4; July 11, 1888, 2:3; July 30, 1889, 2:5; September 19, 1890, 1:5; <u>Weekly Nevada State Journal</u>, October 1, 1877, 3:4). This expanded the one Opera House in Virginia City (Photo 9) to a circuit whereby the same performance could play in three cities on a "tour" of northern Nevada. It is easy to postulate that John received assistance from Henry in the running of these enterprises, and further research may illuminate the depth and nature of that relationship.

The saloon on B and Union was under the partnership of John and Henry at least by 1868 (Gillis: 43; Territorial <u>Enterprise</u> Feb. 9, 1868: 2:7). It probably became the business of Henry and Joseph with Joseph's move to Virginia City in 1870. By at least 1871, the saloon was in the hands of Henry and brother Joseph and was referred to as the "Henry Piper and Brother" saloon (See Photo 3, Gillis: 43, 58; <u>Storey County 1871 Directory</u>: 187). In 1872, Joseph and Henry were listed in an advertisement for the Piper's Corner Saloon on B and Union and the Piper's Branch Saloon, on C Street, at the location of the current Delta Saloon (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: April 23, 1872, 2:5). By August of that year, the Delta Saloon, under E. H. Manuel, had purchased the Piper's Branch saloon (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: August, 10, 1872,1:7; <u>Gold Hill Daily News</u>, January 4, 1873, 1:7). Advertisements continued into 1873, 1874 and 1875, with Henry and Joseph at "Piper's Corner" at B and Union streets (<u>Gold Hill Daily News</u>, January 4, 1873, 1:7; January 6, 7, 8, 1873, 1:7; March 19, 1873, 1:7; April 19, 1873, 1:7; <u>The Daily Independent</u>, Dec. 16, 1:5; 18, 1:5; 23,1:5; 1874, Jan. 5, 1875,1:5). Testimony from an 1878 lawsuit indicated Henry Piper to be the occupant of the saloon at the Opera House and that the saloon was rented

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for \$250 per month from John Piper who had partially secured his construction mortgages with rental receipts of the saloon (L. Byington v. John Piper, et al. Storey County District Court, #3372).

The busy Piper brothers also appear to have had other business interests in booming Virginia City. Advertisements from November 1870 and February 1871 show a John Piper as the proprietor of the Figaro Saloon on the corner of C and Union, and a later notice showed a John Piper to be running the Virginia Drugstore (Territorial Enterprise: November 23, 1870,2:4; February 4, 1871,1:4; October 12, 1872, 1:5).

Additional investments included what appear to be mining interests. John established the Northern Lights Gold and Silver Mining Company in the Gold Hill Mining District, with four other men on February 12, 1864. He deeded feet in that company to Henry four days later (Storey County Certificate of Incorporation, Book C: 99; Storey County Deeds, Book W: 45).

A certificate of incorporation lists a Henry Piper with four other men, in a partnership called the Blue Jacket Mining Company, which was established to carry on mining and milling activities in the Virginia District of Storey County, and was filed August 25, 1874. The amount of capital stock was \$5,400,000 with \$100 par value for a share of stock in the company. According to the 1870 census, the four other men, residents of Virginia City, were all single, white males between the ages of 28 and 30 who provided the professional occupations of lawyer, brewer, restaurant owner, and butcher to the census enumerator (Storey County Certificate of Incorporation, Book A: 592-3: U.S. Federal Census, 1870). Three years later the Blue Jacket was listed on Storey County tax assessment records as located on Cedar Hill (rising to the north of Virginia City) with a value of \$100 and \$100 value of improvements. The Blue Jacket paid \$4 in taxes for 1877 and \$2.40 in taxes for 1878 (Storey County Tax Assessment Records, 1877, pg 7; 1878, pg 6).

By the early 1870s it appears that the saloon operation at B and Union was under the proprietorship of Henry and Joseph, while the Opera House (then on D Street) was considered more the business of John. John's occupation is listed as the theatre business in the 1870 census while Henry and Joseph are both listed as saloon keepers (Federal Census, 1870). Directories of the 1870s clearly establish the location of the saloon at the northwest corner of B and Union, as well as the use of Henry Piper's name in association with the business. The location was at the downstairs south corner of the current Opera House building, corresponding to the northwest corner of the intersection of Union and B Streets. The location also appears to have been called Piper's Corner and Piper's Building at different times. It housed numerous attorneys and other business operations during the mid-1860s (McKenney, 1872: 547; Collins, 1864-5: 217-8).

That Henry Piper served as proprietor of the saloon at B and Union is well documented in the 1870s Virginia City business directories, however, the saloon changed names or was known by different names. Henry first appears in the 1868 directory listed with his brother, John, at the Corner Saloon (Gillis: 43). The Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1871-73 lists Henry Piper saloon and lodgings at 2 North B Street with John Piper proprietor of the Opera House on D Street (Langley, 1871: 372). The 1871-72 Storey County Directory lists Henry Piper and Brother saloon at the corner of B and Union with both Henry and Joseph Piper listed for the saloon business (Storey County Directory, 1871: 187). McKenney's 1872 Directory lists Henry Piper and Company saloon at Piper's Corner, North B Street (McKenney, 1872: 547). The 1873-4 V&T Railroad Directory lists the Piper Brother's saloon at the Northwest Corner of B and Union with Henry and Joseph offering wines and liquor (Uhlhorn: 122-3). Bethel's 1875 Directory lists the Henry Piper and Brother saloon at the corner of B and Union with

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Henry residing at the saloon location (Bethel: 122). An advertisement in the 1875 directory shows Henry and older brother Joseph in partnership at Piper's Corner, B and Union Streets (See Photo 4, Bethel, n.p. ad attached). McKenney's 1877 directory shows "Piper and Bros." to have the saloon at B and Union (McKenney, 1877; 137). Henry Piper's saloon at the corner of B and Union was specifically mentioned by name at the time of the building of the Opera House at B and Union. Henry's saloon was retrofitted, overhauled and incorporated into the new Opera House at that time changing both the interior and exterior of the business (Territorial Enterprise, January 25, 1878, 3:3).

The Piper Brothers business was taxed in 1876 and "Piper and Co., Henry" was taxed in 1877 by the County (Storey County Tax Assessment Records, 1876, pg 163; 1877, pg 156). In 1878, Henry and Joseph were sued by a local wine and liquor importation company for unpaid merchandise. The suit lists the defendants as Henry and Joseph Piper doing business under the name of Henry Piper and Company, thus explaining the frequency with which his name is used in local directories (Storey County First District Court, Taylor, Mrs. Thomas, et al. v. Henry Piper, et al., Trespass newspaper, October 11, 1867,1:2, shows a large ad for Thomas Taylor as a liquor importer Calif, Hist, Soc.). The saloon partnership of Henry and Joseph which started in 1870-1 apparently lasted until 1879 when Joseph took over the saloon operation (Daily Stage: August 26, 1879, 1:1). Joseph later had another saloon a short distance north of the post-fire 1878 Opera House on B Street (Territorial Enterprise: March 14, 1883, 3:2; Galloway, 18).

The Virginia City "Great Fire" of 1875 devastated the Piper brothers' businesses burning the D Street Opera House and John Piper's dwelling and 13 tenement houses at a \$65,000 loss, as well as the B and Union Street saloon of Henry and Joseph, valued at \$6,000. In contrast, the paper listed John Rosenbrock's loss on "saloon building and stock" as \$12,000 (Territorial Enterprise: October 30, 1875, 1:5; November 2, 1875, 1:5). The offices constituting what was previously called Piper's Building (at 3, 5 and 7 N. B Street) were listed under individual owners with varying amounts of loss after the Great Fire (Territorial Enterprise: October 31, 1875, 1:4).

The Enterprise noted the rapidity with which the Piper brothers' saloon was rebuilt, in part because of the ability to re-use the brick walls of the original Piper building that housed the saloon (Territorial Enterprise: October 31, 1875, 1:5; November 2, 1875, 1:5). On January 4, 1876, the Gold Hill Daily News reported that the Piper's Corner saloon at B and Union streets was entirely renovated and reconstructed and again ready to serve patrons (Gold Hill Daily News: January 4, 1876, 3:3; see also advertisements stating the Piper Brothers were "Back Home Again" on the corner of B and Union; January 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17 and March 4, 1876, 1:6). John Piper's "tenements" were back in business by 1877; however, the Opera House would not re-open until January 1878, when it was re-built at the corner of B and Union streets incorporating the saloon at that location (Territorial Enterprise: January 25, 1878, 3:3; January 29, 1878, 2:7; February 22, 3:3 and 28, 3:1 1877).

Historian William Miller credits John Piper's Opera House success to several factors including his ability to buy out the competition, as well as his programming that offered something for everyone, and the best performers and most popular plays in the country at the time. Piper added gas lights, large heating stoves, building improvements and weather boarding to the original Maguire's theatre on D Street to make it more comfortable for patrons (Miller: 242, 243, 261, 283, 289). Varied shows included comedy, male-themed shows starring shapely women, "ladies night", and, matinee shows suitable for women and families also added to the theatre's success. The programming appealed to popular fads such as interest in the "can-can" in the early 1870s, celebrities, and the use of state-of-the-art set design and theatrical props (See Miller, 1947).

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Similarly, the saloon business at the corner of B and Union streets may have flourished due to several factors. One factor may be tied to the employment of relatives as bartenders. Assuming the Piper brothers ran a cash-only business, the use of relatives would seemingly reduce pilfering by bartenders (Eureka Daily Sentinel, May 8, 1877,1:1). A nephew of Henry's, J. H., worked as "barkeep" and also lived with the family in 1880 (U.S. Federal Census, 1880). This is probably the same person listed as John H. Piper in an 1878 business directory; a bartender at the Piper Brothers' saloon (Bishop, 1878: 203).

Other relatives or close friends who tended bar at the Piper's Corner saloon included August Piper, John Rosenbrock, and Dick Berman. Both August and John Rosenbrock were affiliated with the Magnolia Saloon in Virginia City at different times (Van Tilburg Clark, ed., <u>Doten Journals</u> Vol. 3: 2029; U.S. Federal Census, 1880; <u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: April 29, 1899, 4:1; Uhlhorn: 122; Gillis, 1868: 61). Jerry Piper, who may have been the same person as August Piper with a more American sounding nickname, "Jerry", was identified as a cousin, and an old barkeep at the time of his death (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: April 29, 1899, 4:1). Berman, a native of Germany, was also associated with the Alhambra theatre (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>, October 13, 1868, 3:2; Federal census, 1870; Goldman, 61, 105).

A notation in the October 13, 1868, <u>Territorial Enterprise</u> discussed Henry Piper and John Rosenbrock substituting for the regular bartender at Piper's Saloon (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: October 13, 1868, 3:2). A few years later, Henry Piper was appointed the assignee for the bankruptcy case of saloon owners John and Henry Rosenbrock (U.S. District Court, NV. Rosenbrock bankruptcy case, 284, Sept. 1, 1877). John Rosenbrock, also believed to be from Fischerhude, Germany, was a bartender at the Piper's Saloon in the 1860s and later ran the Magnolia Saloon on C Street (Evangelische Kirche, Fischerhude, Kirchenbuch, 1715-1852: 1842; Gillis, 1868: 61; McKenney, 1882: 670; <u>The Daily Independent</u>, Dec. 18, 23, 1874, 1:5; Jan. 5, 1875, 1:5; see also Frederick Trautman, "Nevada Through a German's Eye in 1876," <u>Nevada Historical Society Quarterly</u>, 26:3 (1983) 196-206 who described the Magnolia Saloon at some length in 1876.) Perhaps related to the Piper family, the Rosenbrocks appear to have been closely tied to the family as a Johann Rosenbrock served as one of John Piper's godparents at the time of his baptism. This may have been the same Johann Rosenbrock who was John Rosenbrock's father (Evangelische Kirche, Fischerhude, Kirchenbuch, 1715-1852: 1830; 1842). John Rosenbrock's father (Evangelische Kirche, Fischerhude, Kirchenbuch, 1715-1852: 1830; 1842). John

Although the 1878 Virginia City business directory found Joseph Piper in San Francisco, he appears to have taken over the duties of running the corner bar at the current B and Union streets Opera House location by at least 1879, according to the <u>Daily Stage</u> newspaper (Bishop: 203; <u>Daily Stage</u>: August 26, 1879, 1:1). The <u>Daily Stage</u> (or <u>Stage</u>) newspaper was a publication of John Piper's, according to historian Edwin Semenza (Semenza: 53; Semenza interviewed John and Joseph's daughters for his thesis and perhaps this information came from them. Lingenfelter and Gash, 266, do not support the claim of Piper's backing or ownership of the paper). The only advertisement, in this edition of the paper, for the bar at the Opera House bar location (B and Union streets) was Joseph's ad which offered special liquor and wine tasting (<u>Daily Stage</u>: August 26, 1879, 1:1). Joseph's ad for "Piper's Old Corner Opera House Sample Rooms" makes a joke of the "same old brand of cigars" available. Perhaps this was a comment about his brother Henry, a chain cigar smoker (<u>Daily Stage</u>: August 26, 1879, 1:1; Johnson, <u>Berkeley Daily Gazette</u>: February 2, 1942: 6:7). The August 26, 1879 edition of the <u>Daily Stage</u> was discovered in the wall between the kitchen and dining room during the Henry Piper house restoration.

By 1880, the ads for the Corner Bar at the Opera House appearing in the <u>Daily Stage</u> listed John Piper as proprietor and stated the bar had operated at that location for twenty years. (<u>Daily Stage</u>, September 22, 1880,

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1:3; Sept. 23, 1880, 1,3; Sept. 24, 1880; Sept. 27, 1880 1:3; Sept. 28, 1880 1:3; Sept. 29, 30, 1880 1:3; Oct. 1, 1880, 1:3; Oct. 2, 1880, 1;3; Oct. 4, 1880, 1;3; Oct. 5, 1880, 1;3; Oct. 6, 1880, 1;3; Oct. 7, 1880, 1:3; Oct. 8, 9, 1880, 1;3; October 11, 12, 1880, 1:4; October 15, 1880, 1;3; Oct. 16, 22, 23, 28, 1880, 1:4; November 3, 4, 5, 1880; 4:5). There is no reason to doubt that the bar did exist there for twenty years (1860-80), as John Piper stated, however, it had operated under various names, and under various Piper brothers' proprietorships. By 1880, a Henry Piper was listed in local directories with a saloon at 10 South C Street (McKenney, 1880-1: 204). He maintained that saloon until at least 1882, where he is again listed with liquors at 10 S. C Street (McKenney, 1882: 670). By 1884, Henry is not listed in the gazetteer and business directory covering northern Nevada, probably indicating he was not a business owner at that time. (Similarly the 1886 directory does not mention Henry Piper. McKenney's 1886 Pacific Coast Directory). Directories from 1884 and 1886 showed John Piper to have the theatre and saloon at 1 N. B Street indicating a re-built corner saloon at that location after the 1883 fire. (Polk and Danser: 520; McKenney's 1886 Pacific Coast Directory: 895; see also Sanborn Insurance map, 1890) Joseph Piper had a saloon at 5 North B Street, which probably reflects an error in the address, as the <u>Daily Stage</u> ads list Joseph's Snug saloon at 5 North B Street (<u>Daily Stage</u>, September 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 1880, 1:1; Oct. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 1880, 1:1; Polk and Danser: 520).

Rebuilt at the current B and Union streets location after the Great Fire of 1875, the Opera House opened in January 1878 with John Piper as Proprietor and Manager (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: January 29, 1878, 2:7). John Piper filed for bankruptcy in mid-1878, which was complicated by a homestead on the property. The parcel numbers listed on the bankruptcy papers include the saloon at the southwest corner of the building (U.S. District Court, NV, John Piper bankruptcy, case 325). In spite of the homestead on the Opera House, the Federal Court allowed the continuation of the Storey County District Court case against John. Deeded ownership of the Opera House passed to claimants of the Byington v. John Piper, et. al. lawsuit, until George Piper purchased the Opera House from the estate of Thomas Freehill in 1887 (Book 49, pg 341) The ownership of the Opera House and of the Henry Piper home was in the name of George Piper, John Piper's son, beginning in 1884 according to the Tax Assessment Records, although the deed dates to 1887(Storey County Tax Assessment Papers, 1884, pg. 44; Storey County Deeds Book 49, pg 341).

After the resolution of the bankruptcy, John was listed as Manager of the Opera House in advertisements and on letterhead, and an 1881 advertisement for the Opera House even listed a Charles E. Locke as manager (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>, May 31, 1881, 3:3 at Calif. Hist. Soc.; John Piper Business papers, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, MSS p-g 212, Box 1, Folder 7). The <u>Chronicle</u> mentions Manager Piper attending a meeting with Haverly's Minstrels prior to booking them in 1885 (<u>Virginia Chronicle</u> October 8, 1885, 3:3 at California Historical Society, Nevada newspapers). The listing of John Piper as manager, and not proprietor, as previously listed, may have been a purposeful obfuscation of his real role, after the purchase of the Opera House by his son, George Piper.

Piper's Opera House, built at B and Union streets in 1878, would again burn on March 14, 1883 (<u>Territorial</u> <u>Enterprise</u>: March 14, 1883, 2:1; see also Crawford: 43). Henry Piper's son Charles recalled this event from his childhood as follows: "A woman came to the house and called his mother out, saying: 'Your opera house is all burned down.' Charlie recalls that his father wasn't a bit upset when he awoke long after sun up and heard the bad news. 'Guess we'll have to build it up again,' he said. He did, and that is the present Piper's Opera House that is still standing..." (Johnson, <u>Berkeley Daily Gazette:</u> February 2, 1942, 6:7).

The reason Henry seems to be lost in the records of the Opera House from the demise of the saloon in 1879 may be tied to his own bankruptcy. Henry Piper and Co. apparently filed for bankruptcy sometime in 1878-9.

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Bradstreet's reports on Virginia City businesses' financial solvency noted that "Piper. Henry and Co. saloon" was in bankruptcy. It also gave Joseph Piper's saloon a rating of "in justice to all concerned, subscribers should avail themselves of the reports in the office", a warning that the company may be in financial trouble (Bradstreet: 28; Key, ii). Henry Piper's bankruptcy papers have not been located.

The Comstock mining boom was effectively over by 1880, and the changes in ownership and licensing to John Piper's son George Piper may have reflected legal posturing by the Piper brothers after suffering financial setbacks during these borrasca times. Miriam Michelson's Comstock history mentions Manager John Piper, but implies that John Mackay, a silent partner in the Opera house operation was the significant owner (Michelson: 334). Charles Piper substantiated Mackay's financial help to keep the Opera House running, which he said was in return for the permanent use of a box seat by Mackay. Charles recalled the Pipers figured the loss of money on the box seat to be more than they had received from Mackay for support of the Opera House (Johnson, Berkeley Daily Gazette, February 2, 1942, 6:7).

By 1874 Henry owned three pieces of property in Virginia City, including the location of the Henry Piper house (Storey County Tax Assessment Records, 1874, pg. 41). Henry Piper had purchased the home location in 1870 and again in 1874 and property in Virginia City in range "L" in 1871 (Storey County Deeds, Book 30: 375; Book 31: 338). The third piece of property was in a residential area of Virginia City on B Street between Carson and North Streets. (Assessment records, 1874; 41; Britton and Rey, Official Map of VC)

Thus, Henry Piper prospered as a land owner, a saloon keeper and a partner/assistant to his brother John in the Opera House business. He joined fraternal organizations, and even attained a degree of notoriety from a political career in the State, and his attempted theft of amalgam from the Carson City mint.

Henry Piper's Political Career

Henry Piper rose to some degree of prominence and wealth during his early years in Virginia City. Henry Piper appears in Virginia City in the 1870 federal census with a wealth in real estate of \$2,000 and a personal wealth of \$6,000. (U.S. Federal Census, 1870).

Contemporary newspaperman Alf Doten recorded that Henry Piper was a "behind the scenes" figure looking for early election returns in November 1866, subsequent to his brother John's election as Virginia City mayor. Similarly, a ball was thrown for Henry in 1869 upon the news that he would vacation in his German homeland, again suggesting that Henry had attained a degree of notoriety in the mining city (Van Tilburg Clark, ed., Doten Journals, Vol. 2: 902, 1060).

Many wealthy Virginia City citizens, particularly those desiring a political career, maintained social ties through fraternal organizations. Henry did also. He was a member of the Free Masons, Virginia Lodge number 3 (Angel, ed.: 237). He was a member of the invitation committee for the second annual ball for the Washoe Engine Company number four, a volunteer fire fighting company (Territorial Enterprise: December 6, 1867, 2:8), and also on the invitation committee for the Knickerbocker Engine Company number 5 Second Annual Ball on Thanksgiving, 1867 (Gold Hill Daily News, November 18, 1867,3:5). Henry was a member of the reception committee for the Second Annual Ball of the Virginia Athletic Club (Gold Hill Daily News, December 21, 1867). Similarly, the German May Festival, held at Fort Homestead in Gold Hill, included Henry as a member of the committee of invitation (Territorial Enterprise, May 10, 1868, 3:8).

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Other fraternal memberships and political associations include the National Guard Hall and the Republican Central Committee. Henry appears to have served in a leadership role in the National Guard Hall organization (Territorial Enterprise: February 22, 1876). The National Guard in Virginia City was organized in November of 1863 and had 86 members by 1864 (Collins, 1864-5: 33). Henry was one of five men representing Storey County to the Republican State Central Committee in 1876 and 1878, and was elected secretary of that group in 1877 (Reno Evening Gazette: October 18, 4:3, 26, 4:3, Nov. 1,4:3, and 7, 4:3, 1876; October 9, 1877, 2:2; Daily Nevada State Journal, May 16, 1878, 3:3). In 1883, he appears to have also become a member of the Virginia City Knights Templar (Daily Nevada State Journal, March 21, 1883, 2:3).

Henry served in city government in two capacities. Henry was Virginia City, City Treasurer, from his election on May 3, 1870 through 1872, serving two one-year terms and completing a term of office as City Alderman in 1872 (Nevada Historical Society, Political Directory, n.p., n.d.; <u>Territorial Enterprise</u> May 4, 1870, 3:1; Graham, Revised Ordinances of the City of Virginia, iv, v; see also <u>Territorial Enterprise</u> notice, July 17, 1870; Storey County Record, Minutes of the Board of Alderman, Virginia City record, January 1, 1867 to March 20, 1876, County Clerk's office). Henry was endorsed by the <u>Nevada State Journal</u> in Reno for re-election as city treasurer in 1872 (<u>Nevada State Journal</u> September 7, 1872, 2:1). Henry ran for the Republican nomination for city treasurer unopposed and garnered 889 votes, more than any other candidate seeking a Republican endorsement (Territorial Enterprise, April 18, 1871, 3:2). Late in 1872, Henry Piper succeeded J.W. Wilson as Alderman of the Second Ward after Wilson resigned on December 31 (Revised Ordinances 1878, vi). Henry apparently completed the term of office and did not run for election to the position thereafter. The Second Ward was north of Taylor Street and South of Sutton, so his residence in the Second Ward is consistent with Henry living over the saloon on the corner of B and Union.

Henry served one term as a State Assemblyman representing Storey County in the fifth session of the legislature from 1871-2 (Heller: 161; <u>Nevada State Journal</u>, January 7, 1871: 2:2; see also <u>Nevada State Journal of the Assembly Fifth Session</u>). Henry apparently attained the highest number of votes from a large number of candidates. Storey County sent twelve representatives to the State Assembly for the fifth session (Storey County Commission Minutes, Nov. 23, 1866-Nov. 7, 1871: 373).

Henry regularly attended the fifth Assembly session and voted with the majority on most measures. A Republican, he announced he would present legislation on the disincorporation of Virginia City to become part of Storey County, a process that was completed, for economic reasons, in 1881 (Journal of the Assembly, 1871: 30; Kinnersley: 269). Henry served on the following committees: Committee on Elections, Committee on Claims, Committee on Mines and Mining Interests (Journal of the Assembly, 1871: 9, 11, 18).

Henry made one resolution concerning the assembly chamber, which was adopted; and made three motions during the session, two of them for recess (Journal of the Assembly, 1871: 96,106,146,247). Henry's resolution involved the use of the Assembly chamber. He suggested the chamber be made available to the "Third House," a reference to the mock legislative body by that name. It was resolved by "Mr. Piper... that the use of this Chamber is hereby tendered to the Third House, for its deliberations, on such evenings as this Assembly is not in session" (Journal of the Assembly, 1871: 96). Edgar Branch, et al. described the "Third House" as a group of men who met informally "in saloons, public buildings and the legislative chambers" in "burlesque deliberations and law making" (Branch, et al.: 272-273). Perhaps most noteworthy of the "Third House" was its association with Mark Twain who had been elected president of that body on December 11, 1863, during his time in Virginia City (Branch, et al.: 273).

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Henry Piper's Home; 58 North B Street

The original address of the Henry Piper house was 29 North B Street, and this address is found in documents prior to the 1970s. The Henry Piper house, now at 58 North B Street on the western side of the street between Union and Sutton, was built immediately after the "Great Fire" of 1875. The early 1860s directories show Virginia City's B Street between Union and Sutton, the site of the Henry Piper home, to have been a commercial corridor; home to many varied businesses including a bath house, restaurants, stores, and saloons (Kelley; reprint, 1962; Kelly, 1863). Historian Paul Fatout described B Street between Union and Sutton, during the 1860s, to be a shooting "range" due to the number of shoot outs in the saloons and along the street (Fatout, 1964: 87).

It is highly probable that the subject location was part of both the 1863 and 1866 fires reported in Virginia City. The earlier fire dates to August 29, 1863 and was described as extending from Taylor Street to Sutton and from A Street to B and partly to C Street, encompassing the commercial district of the City at that time (Angel, 598). In 1866 a large fire consumed most of B Street between Union and Sutton and ranged both up the hill to A Street and as far down the hill as D Street. The devastation included the site of the subject property. It was the largest fire to date in Alf Doten's experience in Virginia City (Territorial Enterprise, June 19, 1866, 3:1; Van Tilburg Clark, ed. Doten Journals, Vol. 2: 889-890).

The 1866 fire began at the Fountain Head Restaurant (previously Winn's Restaurant) about halfway between Union and Sutton on the west side of the street. The newspaper noted the following buildings consumed: the gymnasium, the Fountain Head Restaurant, a small building occupied by Dr. Watts, Engine House Number 1, the Virginia Hotel, and the City Bakery, all located on the western side of the street between Union and Sutton (Territorial Enterprise: June 19, 1866, 3:1). The Fountain Head Restaurant opened in March 1863 at 30 N. B Street under the proprietorship of L. Hines (The Virginia Daily Union, March 22, 1863,4:4 (Calif. Hist. Soc)) By July 1863, the Pony Saloon's summer retreat was in the basement of the Fountain Head restaurant (Virginia Evening Bulletin, July 6, 1863, 1:6) Although the newspaper description of the 1866 fire does not contain physical addresses, the devastation and locations discussed imply the site of the Henry Piper house to have been part of the conflagration. (Caution must be used in looking at numbered addresses, as they changed through time and are not always consistent with modern street markings which show odd and even on different sides of the street. At some point, the Virginia City one-half numbers were changed to full numbers, adding to the confusion.)

Edward Janin had purchased the subject property in 1864 from Abraham Meyer and E. Ruhling in two deeds. Janin paid Meyer \$1,340 for the property and by separate deed paid Ruhling \$100. The deeds contain the information that the property was north of Sam Paster's saloon and south of Winn's restaurant and saloon, and did not contain a building at that time. The owner previous to Meyer, Mr. Duprey, had sold the property through the local sheriff and his attorney in fact, E. Ruhling. Previous to 1864, the property had been occupied by a frame building housing Battle and Company. (Storey County Deeds, Book W: 636-638). If Janin had erected a building during his six year ownership of the property, it is highly likely that the building burned in the 1866 fire.

On April 18, 1870, the Storey County Treasurer sold the property which would become the site of the Henry Piper home to Henry for \$54.62 in back taxes (Storey Co deeds; Book 30, 105-6). Later in the year, on November 1, 1870, Henry Piper purchased the same parcel description, for one-hundred dollars, from Edward Janin of San Francisco. The deed describes the property as being located immediately north of the lot formerly occupied by Sam Paster's Saloon and south of the lot formerly occupied by Winn's Saloon. The deed does not specifically describe a building on the lot (Storey County Deeds, Book 30: 375). The <u>Virginia Daily Union</u> noted that in

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March, 1863, Paster's Saloon moved from "No. 24 B Street" to the corner of C and Sutton. (<u>The Virginia Daily</u> <u>Union</u>: March 22, 1863, 1:5 Calif. Hist. Soc. Nevada newspapers, Virginia City Folder) So the subject lot location was between 24 N. B Street and 30 N. B Street, later to become numbered as 29 N. B Street.

In 1871, Henry deeded the property to Theodore Wolff for \$1,000 (Storey County Deeds, Book 30: 586-7). Theodore Wolff was listed as a merchant/tailor originally from Germany in the 1870 census. In 1873, Wolff and his wife deeded the property to Louis P. Dresler for \$3,000. This deed contained the information that all the household and kitchen furniture now in the dwelling went with the deeded property (Book 32: 558). On January 2, 1874 Henry purchased the property from Dresler for \$3,000. (Storey County Deeds, Book 35, 89-90) The description includes the south half of the west half of lot 6 which gave Piper a twelve and a half foot frontage on A Street, as well as the 25 foot frontage on B Street, where the subject house is located.

Henry and future wife Fredericka apparently planned to live in the house on the site, previously occupied by Theodore Wolff and his family, then briefly by Louis Dresler. The house was destroyed in the 1875 fire. The recent restoration showed this previous structure to have been 17 feet shorter (measured from the west) than the current structure. This size is consistent with the lot description found in the 1870 deed. The original lot measured 25 by 60 feet (Storey County Deeds, Book 30: 375).

When Henry re-built the home, he enlarged it, perhaps also making it more ornate or finer. The newspaper reported Henry's loss in the Great Fire as follows: "Henry Piper, house, etc., B Street – loss \$3,000; insurance \$2,500" (Territorial Enterprise, October 30, 1875, 1:4). The Territorial Enterprise reported that:

By a notice under the usual heading it will be seen that Henry Piper, an old and well-known resident of the city was married on last Sunday. The lady now Mrs. John Henry Piper was formerly Miss Fredericke [sic] Martins, a native of the same German village as her husband, and the daughter of her husband's old tutor. This pair will make this city their home. The wedding was to have taken place some time ago, but the fire destroyed the house in which the young couple were to live. Undismayed, however, they have built another dwelling, and we may hope that in it their grandchildren may hear the story of the great fire that swept away their first house. (Territorial Enterprise: December 2, 1875, 3:2; see also Daily Nevada State Journal, December 4, 1875, 2:3, for a notice of the marriage).

Although the article does not specifically say the house was completed, it is implied in the statement that they "have built another dwelling," and in the fact that they finally married. This then gives a completion date of December 1875 for the Henry Piper house. Henry Piper (listed as John Henry in the church records, and J. H. in the County records) married Fredericka Martins on November 23, 1875, roughly a month after the Great Fire (Storey County Marriage Records, Vol. A: 334; St. Paul's Episcopal Church Marriage Book, Vol. 2: 308; Territorial Enterprise: December 2, 1875, 3:2).

The <u>Virginia Evening Chronicle</u> newspaper reported that during the months immediately following the Great Fire many buildings in Virginia City were re-built in a relatively short period of time. The November 23, 1875 paper noted that nearly three hundred houses were being re-built in Virginia City, some buildings to be finished in as little as a week. The paper noted that: "The above are but a few of the new buildings which are going up, but they form a good criterion for judging of the substantial and business-like aspect which Virginia will bear in less than two months' time from the fire, which occurred a month ago today" (Virginia Evening Chronicle, November 23, 1875, 3:2).

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Interestingly, the Henry Piper house itself, gives a date before which the house was completed: February 22, 1876. In restoring the home, a ticket to a ball at the National Guard Hall, dated February 22, 1876, was discovered used as a shim in the lock of the library/hallway door (Photo 6). As this piece of ephemera would have been thrown away shortly after the event, is it postulated that the door lock provided the opportunity to use a current, available piece of heavy paper for a shim. The house was completed prior to the date of the ticket in February 1876. The <u>Territorial Enterprise</u> advertisement for the National Guard ball included the information that H. Piper was a sergeant on the Managing Committee of the ball (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: Feb. 22, 1876, 1:4). Held on a comparatively warm night, the ball attracted from 200 to 1,000 of the most substantial Virginia citizens, and was "a credit to the military company by whom it was given" (<u>Territorial Enterprise</u>: February 23, 1876, 3:1).

The 1880 federal census lists the Henry Piper family, which by then had grown to two children and an Irish maid, Margaret Leddy, at the B Street house location. A Comstock status symbol, an Irish maid indicated the attainment of affluent status for the Henry Piper family (James and Raymond: 253). Henry and Fredericka's two children were born while the family was living in the house; Charles on October 21, 1876 and Clara in 1879 (Johnson, <u>Berkeley Daily Gazette, 2-2-42 6:7</u>; California Death Index; U.S. Federal Census, 1880).

On July 13, 1882 Henry and Fredericka deeded the B Street house property to Joseph Hayton for \$1600 although the house ownership passed to George Piper, John Piper's son, by 1884, according to the assessment records. A recorded deed shows Hayton selling the property to George Piper on October 25, 1887 for \$500. (The property description is confusing, describing the property by parcel number, but providing only 81 feet of depth as measured from A Street. (Book 49, pg 210-1). George remained liable on the Tax Assessment Lists for the property into the late 1890s (Storey County Deeds, Book 47, pg. 43; Storey County Tax Assessment records, 1884:44; Territorial Enterprise: February 8, 1896, 4:5). In 1876, Storey County valued the land and house at \$3250, but by 1888 the value had dropped to \$160, a testament to the depression the town suffered with the drop in mining production (Storey County Tax Assessment Records, 1876, pg. 58, 1888:35). One can only surmise the change in ownership to George Piper reflected the bankruptcy issues that Henry underwent in the 1870s. The Henry Piper family probably lived in the home until 1894. Charles Piper recalled the family leaving Nevada for Berkeley, California, in the same year as Senator James Fair's death, 1894 (Johnson, <u>Berkeley Daily Gazette</u>, February 2, 1942, 6:7). This time frame is consistent with Henry's employment at the Carson City Mint.

In 1893, Henry was fired from the Mint after the discovery of amalgam in his lunch box. Henry was arrested in Berkeley, California in 1895. Henry was charged with the crime of "unlawfully taking, stealing and carrying away from the United States mint at Carson City, on June 5, 1893, gold and silver metal, commonly called crude bullion of the value of fifty dollars. Same being the property of the United States." Other court papers value the bullion at \$100. (U.S. District Court, NV. V. Henry Piper, Docket number 821). The jury found Henry guilty on the fourth ballot, but recommended him to the mercy of the court (U.S. District Court, NV. V. Henry Piper, docket 821). Although indicted and found guilty, Henry was charged with only a \$300 fine, and escaped serving a jail sentence (Hickson: 89). Alf Doten noted that John Piper paid Henry's fine, and the court (Van Tilburg Clark, ed. Doten Journals, Vol. 3: 1915; U.S. District Court, NV v. Henry Piper, Docket 821). A Reno's newspaper reprint of a San Francisco Examiner article indicated that Henry had been "for many years... a helper" at the Mint (Nevada State Journal, April 11, 1895, 3:2).

The Carson City Morning Appeal took exception to the entire proceeding against Henry stating:

Piper was arrested with other alleged thieves. It was shown that he only attempted to take

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eight or ten ounces of crude silver bullion, valued at a few dollars, but he was indicted with the big thieves who took \$75,000 and substituted bogus bars for stolen gold. His trial occupied but a few hours. He had no money to bribe witnesses or get them out of the way. There was no army of legal talent to defend him. No experts were brought from San Francisco to show that thousands of dollars in gold escaped in solution through the sewers and that there was a bonanza in a potato patch at the mouth of the sewer. There were no "misfit" jurors, and he was promptly found guilty as charged in the indictment, but, to its credit let it be said, the jury recommended him to the mercy of the Court.

There is a lesson to this mint business which those who engage in robbery should heed. The person who succeeds in stealing \$20,000 or more runs much less risk of going to the penitentiary than the pilferer of a few dollars. Attorneys do not object to honest men serving as jurors and there is no incentive for a jury to disagree or to find a verdict contrary to the law and the evidence when the defendant has no money (Morning Appeal: March 28, 1896, 2:1).

Early 1896 must have been a tough time for Henry Piper, as he faced the trial on the heels of his brother Joseph's death on February 7 (Weekly Nevada State Journal: February 8, 1896, 6:1).

The 1900 Federal Census found the Henry Piper family living in Berkeley, California with Henry's occupation listed as a machinist (U.S. Federal Census, 1900). In the 1910 census, Henry was renting a house in San Francisco and employed at odd jobs (U.S. Federal Census, 1910). Henry died in Sacramento in 1912. Fredericka lived with her daughter in Sacramento in 1920 and died there in 1926 (U.S. Federal Census, 1920; California Death Index).

It is important to note that the Comstock History Center <u>Inventory of Buildings</u> provides information on the house's use during the twentieth century. Beginning in 1908, it was used as a boarding house by Irene Cooper who leased the house until 1912 from owner Robert Rauhut, a barber. (Ron Machado, personal communication. A monograph on the life of Robert Rauhut, titled <u>Robert Rauhut Virginia City Barber</u> by his great nephew Will Snyder, 1993, is available at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City.) It is believed the house had no known association with either renters or owners of local significance with the exception of Charles Myron Clegg, the partner of Lucius Beebe, who owned the home briefly in the late 1960s, according the <u>Inventory</u>. It is believed not to have been occupied by Clegg.

Because of the local importance of Henry Piper, his residence on B Street has local significance under Criterion B.

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	iper House					Storey, NV
Name of P	Property					County and State
9. Majo	r Bibliographical	References				
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See Cor	ntinuation Sheet.					
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property lies between B and A Streets in Virginia City. The subject home faces the east and is about halfway between Union and Sutton Streets. The boundary coincides with property lines associated with the house

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary coincides with property lines historically associated with the house.

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NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Henry Piper House Name of Property (Expires 5/31/2012)

Storey, NV County and State

11. Form Prepared By

 name/title
 Christof and Carolyn Eichin, owners

 organization
 date
 July 14, 2010

 street & number
 58 North B Street
 telephone
 775-847-7231

 city or town
 Virginia City
 state
 NV
 zip code
 89440

 e-mail
 Innkeepers@BStreetHouse.com
 Innkeepers@BStreetHouse.com
 Innkeepers@BStreetHouse.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- 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. Key all
 photographs to this map.
- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See Continuation Sheet

Property	/ Owner:		
(Complete t	his item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)		
name	Christof and Carolyn Eichin		
street & number 58 North B Street PO Box 1027		telephone 775	-847-7231
city or toy	vn Virginia City	state NV	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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Henry Piper House

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 1

Name of Property:	Henry Piper House
City or Vicinity:	Virginia City
County:	Storey
State:	NV
Photographer:	Unknown; Photo courtesy of Ron Machado, Carson City
Date Photographed:	ca. 1908
Number:	1 of 12
Description:	Henry Piper House Virginia City, about 1908. Figures in the photo include then-owner Robert Rauhut; Irene Cooper, Amy Cooper, Loretta Cooper, Christopher Columbus Cooper and seven miners who rented rooms from the Coopers.
Name of Property:	Henry Piper House
City or Vicinity:	Virginia City
County:	Storey
State:	NV
Photographer:	Carlton Watkins stereopticon. (Courtesy of the California State Library, Sacramento.)
Date Photographed:	ca. 1878
Number:	2 of 12
Description:	This photo shows Howard Street in Virginia City in 1878. These densely built "row" houses were common in Virginia City in the late 1870s. The houses shown are very similar to the subject Henry Piper house.
Name of Property:	Henry Piper House
City or Vicinity:	Virginia City
County:	Storey
State:	NV
Photographer:	Image from book
Date Photographed:	n/a
Number:	3 of 12
Description:	Advertisement in Gillis, William, Nevada Directory for 1868-69.
Name of Property:	Henry Piper House
City or Vicinity:	Virginia City
County:	Storey
State:	NV L
Photographer:	Image from book
Date Photographed: Number:	n/a 4 of 12
Description:	Advertisement in Bethel, John and co., General Business and Mining Directory, 1875.
a source and a sou	The reasonant in Doulor, com and cor, Constan Dasiness and training Directory, 1075.

Name of Property Storey County, NV County and State

(Expires 5-31-2012)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Henry Piper House Name of Property Storey County, NV County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 2

Name of Property: City or Vicinity: County: State: Photographer: Date Photographed: Number: Description:	Henry Piper House Virginia City Storey NV John Piper Business Papers, Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley Unknown 5 of 12 1889 liquor receipt from the John Piper Business Papers in the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.
Name of Property: City or Vicinity: County: State: Photographer: Date Photographed: Number: Description:	Henry Piper House Virginia City Storey NV Christof D. Eichin 2007 6 of 12 1876 ticket to the National Guard ball in Virginia City found folded in a door catch in the Henry Piper house.
Name of Property: City or Vicinity: County: State: Photographer: Date Photographed: Number: Description:	Henry Piper House Virginia City Storey NV Wm. Shew ca. 1867 7 of 12 J. Henry Piper; University of Nevada Reno Special Collections, P-182; Alf Doten Collection.
Name of Property: City or Vicinity: County: State: Photographer: Date Photographed: Number: Description:	Henry Piper House Virginia City Storey NV Wm. Shew ; ca. 1867 8 of 12 Reverse side of photo 7 of 12, J. Henry Piper; University of Nevada Reno Special Collections, P-182; Alf Doten Collection.

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(Expires 5-31-2012)

Henry Piper House		
Name of Property		
Storey County, NV		
County and State		

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 3

Name of Property:	Henry Piper House
City or Vicinity:	Virginia City
County:	Storey
State:	NV
Photographer:	Carleton Watkins (Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley. Original stereopticon photo in California State Library, Sacramento)
Date Photographed:	1878
Number:	9 of 12
Description:	Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, NV; Piper's Corner Saloon is shown in center of photo, door open.
Name of Property:	Henry Piper House
City or Vicinity:	Virginia City
County:	Storey
State:	NV
Photographer:	Christof D. Eichin
Date Photographed:	2009
Number:	10 of 12
Description:	East side of Henry Piper House, fronting B Street, Virginia City, NV
Name of Property:	Henry Piper House
City or Vicinity:	Virginia City
County:	Storey
State:	NV
Photographer:	Christof D. Eichin
Date Photographed:	2010
Number:	11 of 12
Description:	East and south side of Henry Piper House, Virginia City, NV; the south façade does not have any door and window openings as it was immediately adjacent to another row house.
Name of Property:	Henry Piper House
City or Vicinity:	Virginia City
County:	Storey
State:	NV
Photographer:	Christof D. Eichin
Date Photographed:	2010
Number:	12 of 12
Description:	East and north side of Henry Piper House, Virginia City, NV

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Piper, Henry, House NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEVADA, Storey

DATE RECEIVED: 3/23/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/14/11 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/29/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/08/11 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000254

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:NDATA PROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESS THAN 50 YEARS:NOTHER:NPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:YSAMPLE:NSLR DRAFT:YNATIONAL:N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN

5.4.11 DATE REJEC'

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in The National Register of Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA		
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE	
TELEPHONE	DATE	

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



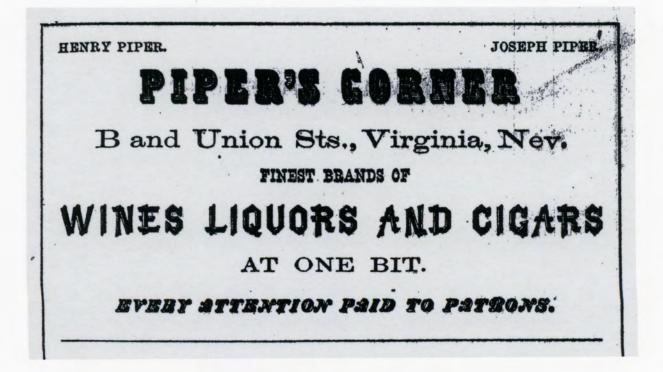


PIPER'S LIQUOR STORE AND SALOON, Corner B and Union Streets,

VIRGINIA, NEVADA.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

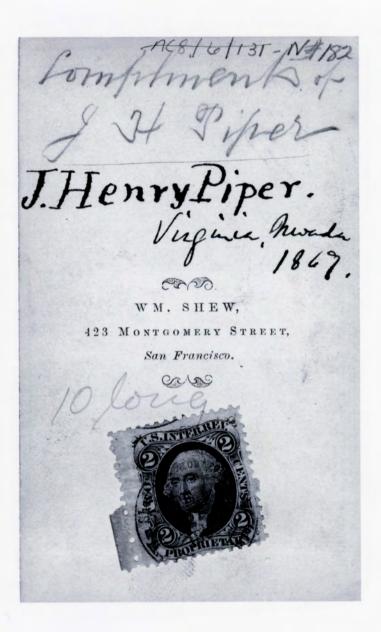
167 The public will please take notice that we have thoroughly refitted and refurnished our Saloon, at the Corner of Union and B streets, at the old stand, where can be found constantly on hand the best quality of Wines, Liquors and Cigars. **JOHN & HENRY PIPER.**



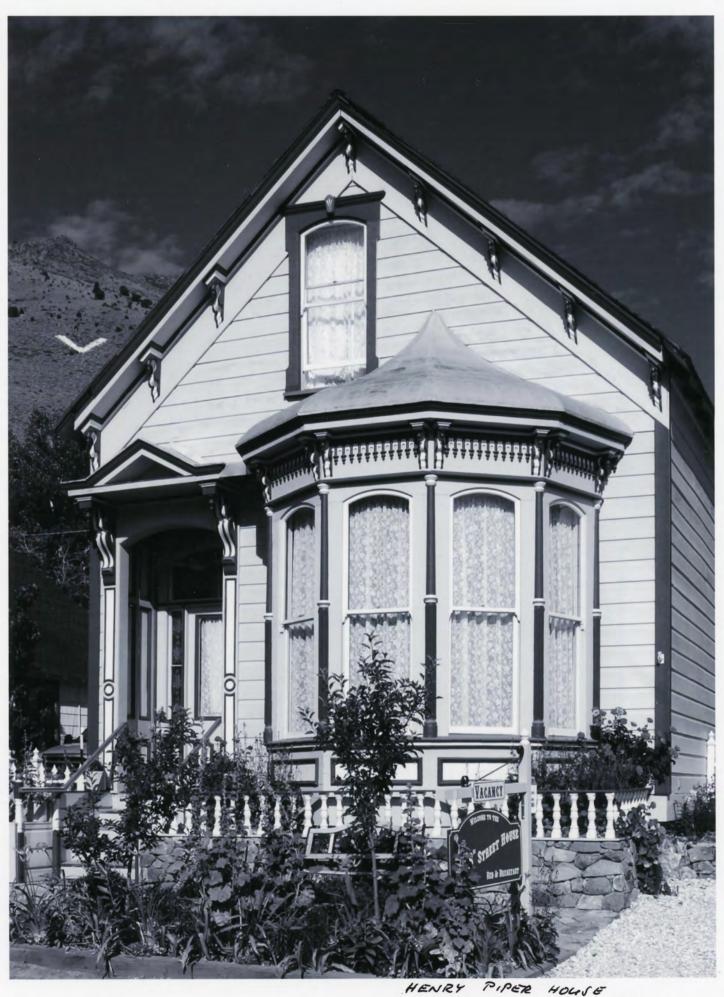
6.18 Pror listors of ST OFFICE OF The Castle Distilling Co. MPORTERS OF 128, STATES 520 - 522 Washington St. Thet Montgomery & Sansome. winder Sole Agents for the Celebrated 5 GRAPPE D'OR COGNAC 500 DIRECT FROM COGNAC, FRANCE. Also Sole Consignees for the Pacific Coast of the following Celebrard Brands of Rourbon Muhisk TURS and Mices CASTLE D K, PALACE, BECQUET, D. ROHRER & CO. R 9 CASTLE A A; LOCHMARIA. CASTLE A, D. RUHRER & CO. BOURBON, EMMETT, BOURBON. ROYAL MILLER, CASTLE, The CASTLE WHISKEY is sold in cases (of bottles and flasks) as well as in barrels. For delicacy of flavor and age, it is second to no Wbiskey in this Market, as is attested by the constant demand for it and the general favor with which it is received. Sole Agents for Chevalier's Ginger Brandy and Crown Bitters. San Francisco. the Bancrott Library Mr. Dear Sir, Enclosed find receipt for the sum of Thanking you for the remittance, and soliciting a continuance al your esteemed patronage, we are, Yours very truly, F. Chevalier He. act PIPER HOUSE HENRY PHOTO 5 STOREY







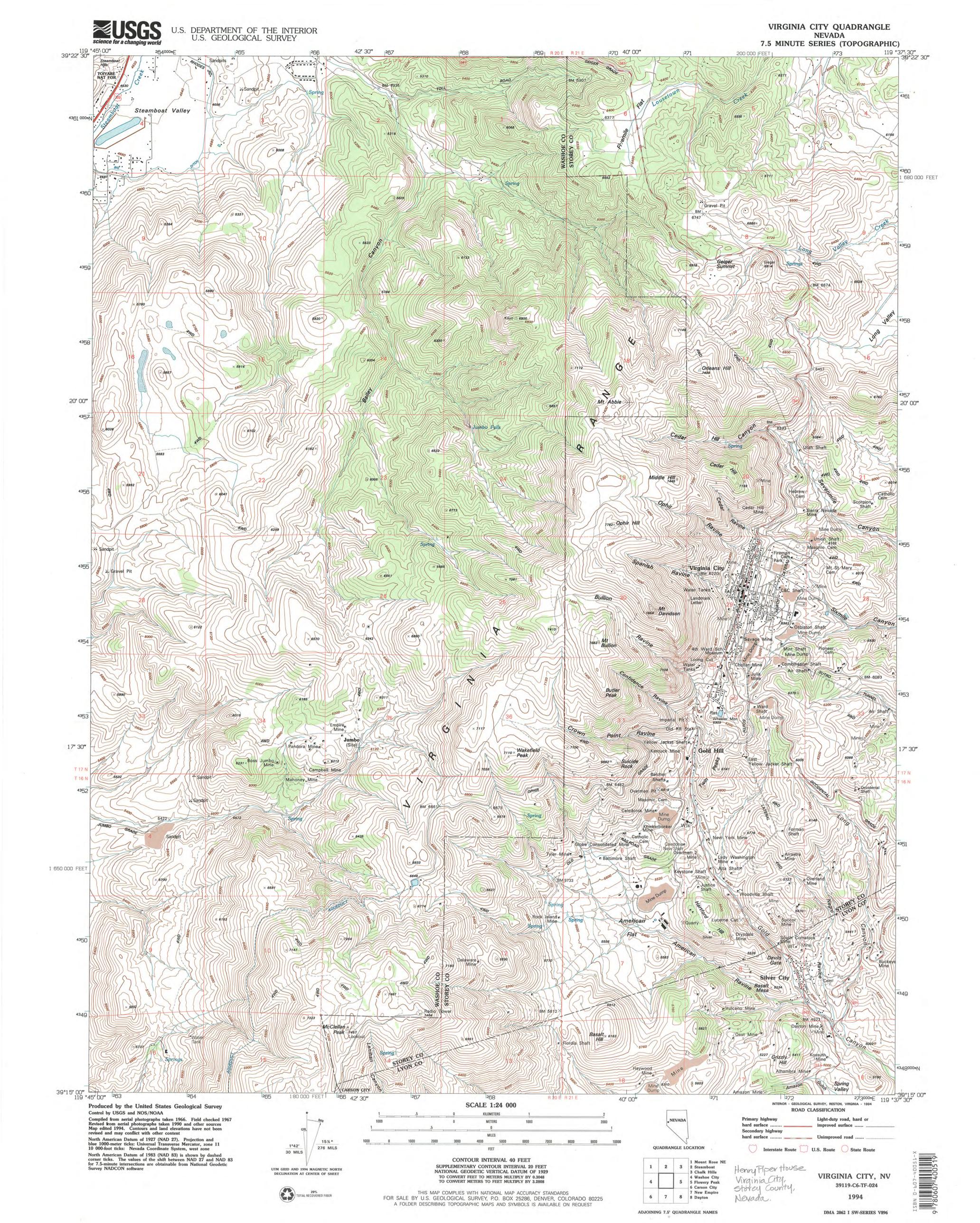




STOREY, NV









MICHAEL E. FISCHER Department Director STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS State Historic Preservation Office 100 N. Stewart Street Carson City, Nevada 89701 (775) 684-3448 • Fax (775) 684-3442 www.nvshpo.org



RONALD M. JAMES State Historic Preservation Officer

March 21, 2011

Paul Loether, National Register Chief National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places 1201 Eye Street, NW (2280) Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether,

Enclosed please find the following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places:

Galena Creek Schoolhouse, Reno, Washoe County, Nevada Henry Piper House, Virginia City, Storey County, Nevada

The Nevada Board of Museums and History approved the nominations at their quarterly meeting on March 11, 2011.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have questions regarding this correspondence please contact me via telephone at 775.684.3427 or via email at <u>sfogelquist@nevadaculture.org</u>.

Sincerely

Sara Fogelquist Architectural Historian