

NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

PROPERTY NAME:

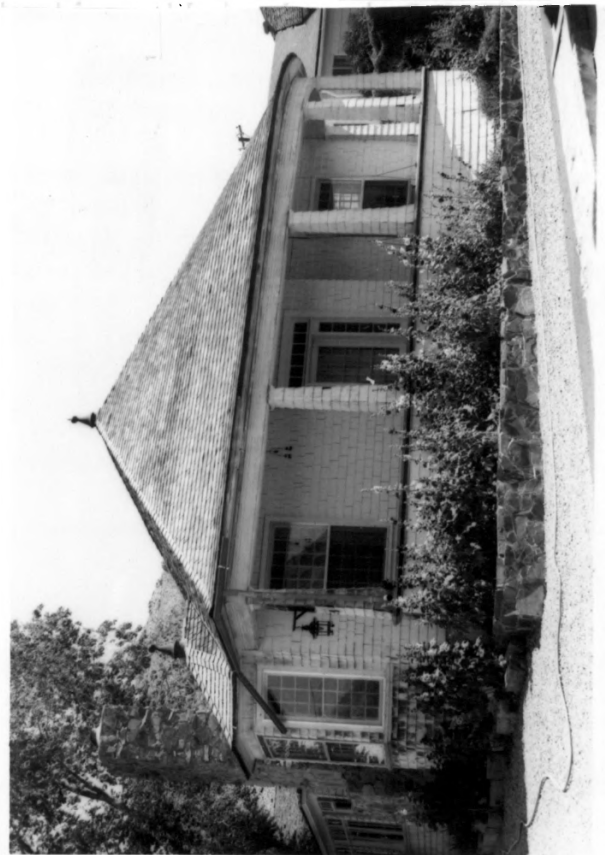
<i>Historic</i> Samuel C. Dunham House
<i>Common</i>

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-125
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> Belmont Avenue	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Roscoe Risley, Jr.		
<i>Street Address</i> P.O. Box 1086		
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>State</i> NV	<i>Zip</i> 89049

FORM PREPARED BY:

<i>Name</i> Janus Associates	<i>Date</i> Sept. 1980
<i>Street Address</i> 2121 S. Priest Suite 127	<i>Phone</i> 967-7117
<i>City</i> Tempe	<i>State</i> Arizona
	<i>Zip</i> 85282

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

<i>Historic Use</i> Residential	
<i>Current Use</i> Residential	<i>Acreage</i> less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i>	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1904	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July 1980
<i>View</i> Front Facade, looking north	

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Samuel C. Dunham house is a single story frame structure of irregular massing over an asymmetrical plan. The overall building envelope measures roughly 35 feet wide by 50 feet long. The style of the house is a mixture of the Eastern Shingle influence and the Neo-Colonial mode of Georgian Revival. Both were popular styles during the early twentieth century. The Dunham house employs the massing and surface treatments of the Shingle style and the detailing of the Neo-Colonial mode. The walls are clad with shingles and are skirted at the base. The major roof is pyramidal and extends past the wall planes to enclose a front veranda. Supported by six truncated shingled columns, the roof curves with the veranda at the south east corner and is the most striking feature of the building. The main facade is offset in two wall planes below the veranda. Entrance is gained through a multipaneled door with top and side lights. On the west a bay window projects from the wall and is covered with a tripart hipped roof. Both the bay window roof and the main roof feature finials. The rear massing of the house is covered with a hipped roof intersecting the north slope of the main roof. A massive stone chimney extends through the eave on the west wall adjacent to the bay window. A second porch toward the rear of the west wall is original and has been enclosed with casement windows. Original windows on the main body of the house are discrete and feature multiple pane top and bottom sash. Almost no alterations have been made to the structure and it is well maintained. The owners of the property have recently restored the original shingle roof.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Dunham house is significant for its distinctive architectural qualities and for its historic association as the residence of prominent Tonopah businessman Samuel C. Dunham. Dunham arrived in Tonopah in August 1902 during the acceleration of the town's boom period. He purchased half interest in the two month old weekly paper, the Tonopah Miner and eventually became editor and publisher along with Thomas D. VanDevort. Dunham also held considerable financial interests in several mining properties throughout the Tonopah district. In 1908 he moved to Reno and along with N. Goodwin and G.G. Rice, promoted the Rawhide boom. He died in 1920 in Washington D.C. where he had been engaged in mining promotional work.

The house that Sam C. Dunham had constructed during his career in Tonopah is the best preserved local example of Eastern Shingle Style influenced Neo-Colonial residential architecture. The building is distinctive for its attention to materials and details, and for such design characteristics as a massive stone chimney, bayed windows and sweeping curvilinear veranda. Its architectural qualities in conjunction with its historic association with Samuel C. Dunham, merit the buildings inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Nevada State Journal, 1920
Nye County Assessors Records
Tonopah Bonanza, 1901, 1902
Travers, James W., Tonopah Past, Present and Future, n.p. 1902

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lots 4 and 5, Block 20, Richardson Survey, 1907

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

Photo By

Unknown

View

Front facade
looking north

Date

c. 1906

