

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1191

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name North Star House
other names/site number Foote Mansion

2. Location

street & number 12075 Old Auburn Road not for publication
city or town Grass Valley vicinity
state California code CA county Nevada code 057 zip code 95949

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

W. D. Wayne
Signature of certifying official
California State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

15 DEC 2010
Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official
Title

Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- other (explain:)
- determined eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

For Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2.1.11
Date of Action

North Star House
Name of Property

Nevada, CA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman / Arts and Crafts

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Quarry Stone and Cement

walls: Quarry Stone and Redwood Shingles

roof: Fireproof Composite Shingle

other: Brick Chimneys

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 North Star house is located on a sloping, wooded site in Grass Valley, California. The 11,000-square-foot, two story, Craftsman building is located on a crest of a hill, oriented west with a pine-studded view of the Sacramento Valley below. Designed in 1905 by architect Julia Morgan, the residence is U-shaped in plan, with an entry courtyard on the east side and a sprawling stone terrace serving as the focal point of the residence on the west side. In keeping with the aesthetic of Julia Morgan's Arts and Crafts design proclivities and with the First Bay Tradition generally, the building contains little unnecessary architectural ornamentation. The North Star House derives its aesthetic from its imposing massing and materials, which are simply expressed. The wood frame building features exterior stone masonry walls at the first level and redwood shingle sheathing at the second level. The stone walls are of rough quarried granite salvaged from the adjacent North Star Mine. The low pitch gable roof has wide overhangs that shield the shingle clad walls below. Eyebrow vents break the roofline in several locations, as do a number of brick chimneys, which are in-kind replacements to the originals. The roof was originally wood shingle, however it was replaced in 2004 with fireproof composite shingles that replicate wood because of severe disrepair of the original. Although some of the building's original materials have been removed and replaced due to deterioration, the building retains strong physical integrity to the historic period.

Narrative Description

The west side of the building was both the visual and social center of the residence, with generous indoor and outdoor living spaces. The massive two-tiered stone terrace fills this side of the building, partially wrapping around the north and south sides of the building. The upper portion of the terrace is integrated into the first-level of the building and the lower portion spills onto the lawn below. Massive stone columns support the terrace, punctuating the entire length of this side. Brick stairs lead from either side of the lower terrace to the lawn below. A single brick course runs along the low wall of the lower terrace, a simple embellishment which is repeated on the sills of several of the first level windows on the secondary sides of the building. Historically, the porch surveyed the pines below, as well as hydrangeas, magnolias, and crepe myrtle. Today, the landscape is a mixture of lawn, and pine, with some remaining shrubbery.

Protected by the terrace, the first level of the building's west side is punctuated by several entry doors and wood frame casement windows with casework, all of which feature simple, slightly projecting wood frames with no additional ornamentation. These entries accessed the living room, library, study, and dining room, the most public portions of the house. An open air sleeping porch is centered above the terrace on the second level. Protected by an overhanging roofline, the sleeping porch is punctuated by large wood columns, which are recent in-kind replacements of the damaged originals (See Continuation Sheet).

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Section 7-Narrative Description

The north and south wings of the residence are also characterized by quarry stone at the first level and redwood shingle at the second. At the first level, windows are recessed in the stone wall and underscored by simple brick sills, at the second level windows are primarily wood frame casement like those previously discussed, interspersed with several wood frame nine-over-one double-hung windows. A number of bedrooms and associated bathrooms run along the north and south sides, extending around the eastern courtyard. Historically, the rooms faced a fern grove to the south and an array of landscaping to the north, including Japanese quince, peonies, cedar, and tulip trees. Currently, some of this vegetation remains but much has been removed or diminished. In addition, new native species have developed on the surrounding grounds. A small single story garage was added to the northeast corner of the building after the period of significance (ca. 1968), obscuring a portion of the original exterior. This unsympathetic alteration is currently in the process of removal, revealing the original fabric of the building.

The east side of the building was historically service oriented, and is still approached by a vehicular gravel drive. The approach to the building was richly planted with mixed flower beds, shrubs, and roses, few of which remain. The east side is built around a courtyard, and features the same first story stone walls and second story shingling. Similar to the west side, this portion of the building is characterized by a mixture of indoor and outdoor living spaces. At the first level, the courtyard is surrounded by a colonnade of stone columns on the north and south side, supporting a second story overhang that protects covered walks below. The walkways accessed servant's quarters and kitchen on the north side, as well as several first-level bedrooms on the south. At the second level, open air passageways supported by large wood columns run the length of the north and south sides, punctuated by access doors to the bedrooms that run the length of these sides. Virtually all of the shingles at the second level have been removed due to extreme deterioration and await in-kind replacement.

From construction to 1968, the residence was occupied by a single family, the Footes. During this time there were no significant changes to the building, however upon the sale of the property the building was subject to some unsympathetic alterations, particularly on the interior, as it was converted for use as a boarding school. During this time period many of the original wood finishings were removed and some of the interior circulation patterns were altered. The building was subsequently vandalized and neglected during an extended period of vacancy from the late 1970s to the late 1990s. During this period the roof and some wood shingles, some windows, and much of the interior finishing were vandalized, damaged or destroyed. In 2003 the property was acquired by the Nevada County Land Trust, who has undertaken extended efforts to

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stabilize, rehabilitate, and restore the building to its original condition. Currently the building remains vacant, however the Land Trust intends to sensitively restore and rehabilitate the property as a community cultural center that will highlight local history and arts. Despite approximately three decades of decline, the building retains strong integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although integrity of materials has been somewhat diminished by the loss of some exterior features including original windows and shingle cladding, much of the material integrity remains in place, particularly evidenced by the building's defining quarry stone base. Further, sensitive in-kind replacement of some exterior features, including brick chimneys, shingles, and window framing, have encouraged continued material integrity.

As discussed in the introduction, while the property exhibits neglect and deterioration, it retains strong components of the seven aspects of integrity that enable it to convey significance under Criteria A, B, and C:

The North Star house has not been moved and retains its original footprint, and as such exhibits integrity of location.

The elegant Arts and Crafts design developed by Julia Morgan remains intact, with the massive stone walls and terrace, rustic wood walls, and continuous interplay between indoor and out creating a cohesive and lasting design vision that fills the sloping site. Although some of the exterior finishings and windows require in-kind replacement, the building retains the ability to convey its significance through integrity of design.

The setting of the property remains primarily pastoral and rustic, as it did at construction. The significant contributing elements of the property's setting were the interplay between a domestic green foreground surrounded by the broad swath of California foothills, pine forest, and the valley below, a relationship which has little changed in the past century. Much of the historic domestic landscaping has been documented and recorded and could be rehabilitated/replaced with a sensitive landscape plan. While operations at the historically associated North Star Mine have ceased, with the mine permanently closing in the mid-twentieth century, the immediate domestic sphere surrounding the residence was developed at physical and social remove from the clamor of the nearby North Star Mining operations and as such the immediate setting of the property remains largely intact.

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Section 7-Narrative Description

As discussed, while some historic materials are missing and/or damaged, many of the exterior materials remain intact, standing as testament to the acclaimed durability of much of Morgan's work. Interior and exterior features requiring rehabilitation or replacement will be addressed using *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and a Focused Rehabilitation Plan developed for the property in 2005 (see references).

Integrity of workmanship remains sound, with the building's solid rustic massing intact and reflective of the highest of early twentieth century craft. The construction of the building, from its massive quarried walls to the detailed workmanship of flowing interior and exterior spaces conveys the architectural significance of the building despite some loss of original finishings and features.

The building retains feeling and association to the historic period, and conveys its significance through these aspects of integrity. Through its Arts and Crafts design qualities, detailing, and setting, the building expresses its original feeling as both an architectural composition and a pastoral family residence. Similarly, while the North Star Mine is no longer in operation, with none of the famed Grass Valley mines remaining, the building stands in its original location and setting and can convey its historical role as a mine manager residence. Comparing current conditions with those from the active mine period, the building retains strong physical associations to the historic period and physically conveys the lasting local impact and legacy of the mining period.

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Name of Property

Nevada, CA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

LITERATURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1905-1932

Significant Dates

1905

1929

1932

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

FOOTE, MARY HALLOCK

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

MORGAN, JULIA

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from the building's 1905 construction to 1932, when Mary Hallock and A.D. Foote vacated the property. An additional significant date relating to the property is 1929, when the surrounding North Star Mine was sold to the Newmont Mining Corporation and ceased to operate as an independent gold mine. This period of significance reflects the property's association to the local mining industry (Criterion A), its relationship to the literary career of Mary Hallock Foote (Criterion B), and its relationship to master architect Julia Morgan (Criterion C).

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

The North Star House meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for its association with the development of the Grass Valley mining industry, which dominated the region's economic and social development from early American settlement during the Gold Rush period to the industry's slow decline and demise in the mid-twentieth century. In addition, the property also meets National Register Criterion B, for its association with author and illustrator, Mary Hallock Foote. As both an illustrator and author, Foote utilized her Western world as an inspiration to present an enduring portrait of the Western Expansion period to generations of American readers. During much of this creative period, Foote lived and wrote in the North Star House, gaining inspiration in the residence's expansive study from the surrounding activities of the mine and from the enveloping California hills and pine forests. Lastly, the property meets National Register Criterion C, as a significant representative of the early work of acclaimed California architect Julia Morgan.

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

The North Star House meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for its association with the Grass Valley mining industry, which did much to dictate the economic and social development of the region from 1850 to the middle part of the twentieth century. The 1905 construction of the North Star House for North Star Mine manager Arthur De Wint Foote and his family reflected the elevated status of the industry as one of the chief sources of wealth and industry for the area and stood as a continuation of grand local mine related commissions that included the Willis Polk designed Bourn Cottage at the rival Empire Mine (1895-1897). These architectural achievements paralleled the economic, engineering, and industrial achievements of the mines, necessitating sophisticated architectural forms to convey the status of the company and support the material and aesthetic comfort of successful mining officials such as A.D. Foote. Further, the construction served as a showpiece for visiting mining officials and investors, with the residence acting as a genteel social meeting ground that contrasted with the industrial activities of the mine itself.

In addition, the North Star House meets National Register Criterion B, for its association with prominent author and illustrator, Mary Hallock Foote. Foote enjoyed a long career chronicling the sites, images, and sentiment of the expanding American West, as she traversed the country with her mining engineer husband A.D. Foote. As both an illustrator and author, Foote utilized her Western world as an inspiration to present an enduring portrait of the Western Expansion period to generations of American readers. During much of this creative period, Foote lived in the North Star House, gaining inspiration from the surrounding activities of the mine and from the sunburnt California hills and pine forests. Equally important, she gained artistic refuge and comfort in the house, where in the study facing the western terrace she did all of her work after 1905 until her move from the property in 1932 shortly before her death, including the lifetime reminiscences which form her published memoirs, *A Victorian Gentlewoman in the Far West*. Having spent much of her adult life moving from one western hinterland to the next, the North Star House became Mary Hallock's western home and place of respite for some of the most prolific artistic decades (See Continuation Sheet).

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The North Star House was built in association with the North Star Mine as a residence for the Foote family with additional lodging for traveling shareholders, employees, board members, and other individuals related to the mine's industry. The residence also served as the literary and civic focal point of the mine, housing a schoolroom for employee's children and the offices of the Foote's, including mine engineer A.D. Foote and Mary Hallock Foote (See Continuation Sheet).

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Section 8-Statement of Significance

Lastly, the North Star House meets National Register Criterion C, as a significant representative of the work of acclaimed architect Julia Morgan. The Arts and Crafts residence was one of Morgan's first major commissions as an independent architect, undertaken only a year after her 1904 California certification and the opening of her San Francisco office. The building remains a cogent expression of Morgan's sophisticated grasp of the First Bay Tradition, which espoused the use of natural materials stripped of unnecessary ornamentation and the integration of buildings with their natural surroundings. With its quarried stone walls and terrace hauled from the North Star Mine, rustic redwood shingles, seamless indoor-outdoor spaces tailored to the foothill climate, and elegant site sensitive massing, the North Star House exemplifies these ideals and remains an important representative of both the architect's work and personal design ethic.

Developmental History/Additional Historic Context Information

The property was designed by Julia Morgan (1872-1957), the first female licensed to practice architecture in the state of California. Morgan began her practice in 1904, and designed the North Star House the following year. The property was her first significant, large-scale, residential project and exemplified her distinct California vernacular style. The building incorporated balanced neo-classical principles fused with Arts and Crafts influences. Morgan was one of the first women to receive an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and was the first woman certified in architecture by the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. During her career, Julia Morgan was responsible for more than 700 buildings throughout California and the west, including the master plan for the University of California, Berkeley with architect John Galen Howard, in addition to the Mining Building and the Hearst Greek Theater on the Berkeley Campus. Apart from numerous private residential commissions, Morgan is best known for her work for various Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) buildings, the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California, and many women's schools and colleges, social and community clubs, and the famous Hearst properties at San Simeon in San Luis Obispo County and Wynton near Mount Shasta. Julia Morgan's career lasted until her retirement in 1951.

Architecturally, the house exhibits exemplary elements of Morgan's design style, including exposed beams, strong horizontal lines that blend with the landscape, the extensive use of shingles, and a palette of earth-toned colors. While the 11,000 square-foot house embodies the

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distinctive characteristics of Morgan, it also highlights important regional and site specific innovations, including the locally excavated rock from the nearby mine and redwood timber. The design was also a direct response to the climate and site, with seamless indoor-outdoor space that reflected the intense extremes of the foothill climate.

The North Star House was constructed for the family of A.D. Foote, who was chief mining engineer of the North Star Mine from 1895 to 1913. During Foote's tenure at the North Star Mine it was one of the most productive in the area, and was a major component of the Grass Valley Mining District's wealth and productivity. Gold-bearing quartz had been discovered in Grass Valley in 1850, and from that period the region's social, cultural, economic, and environmental development had been dictated by the extraction industry. At the time of the Foote's arrival to the mine, approximately three-quarters of the town's inhabitants were miners and mining families, many of Cornish descent. At the North Star Mine, Foote designed and constructed the 30-foot Pelton wheel, the world's largest upon construction, which enabled the mine to become one of the most efficient and productive in the state. The construction of the impressive residence signified the ongoing success of the mine, as mine owner James Hague commissioned the building to reward his chief engineer and depict the financial success of the North Star Mine during the period. Despite the success of the early twentieth century, however, by the late 1920s the mine was in financial decline, as new shafts failed to locate ample amounts of ore. In 1929 the mine was sold to Newmont Mining Corporation, along with neighboring competitor Empire Mine. The sale marked the end of North Star Mine's existence as an independent, and highly successful, gold mine.

In addition to its significant role within the context of the development of Grass Valley's mining industry, the house holds significant associations to the life and work of author and illustrator Mary Hallock Foote, wife of A.D. Foote. Mary Hallock Foote (1847-1938) was the author and illustrator of sixteen novels and numerous short stories. As an accomplished artist, she also produced wood-cut illustrations for the works of other authors. Her series of writings and drawings about the far west, written from the perspective of a highly literate and inquisitive East Coast woman, met with immediate and enduring success from the mid-1870s to World War I. Her short stories and serialized novels appeared in *Harper's Weekly*, *Scribner's Monthly*, and later the *Century Magazine*, and were widely read in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Although she was born and raised in New York, Hallock-Foote became one of the best known writers and illustrators in the nation because of her insightful portrayal of the American West. Her work chronicled the experiences of women in the early days of the mining industry, with all of her writing from 1905 to the 1930s taking place from her home at the North Star Mine. In correspondence, Foote praised the house and its aesthetic, calling Morgan's creation,

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Section 8-Statement of Significance

“a big, cool, lovely house.” The author, “rejoiced in its spaciousness and the absence of things...ornaments,” and gained inspiration from both the home and the surrounding Grass Valley countryside. What pleased Foote most was Morgan’s client-centered approach, “which [let] us do it ourselves, instead of building it over our heads.”¹ This attribute was a hallmark of Morgan’s design ethos across a range of commissions, reflecting a design empathy often lacking in high-profile architects of the period.

In their later years, Mary Hallock and A.D. Foote left the house and Grass Valley, returning to the East Coast in 1932. The house remained in use as the Foote family residence until 1968, however, and was occupied by A.D. and Mary’s son and family. In 1968 the property was purchased as a private religious school for boarding students, which retained use of the property until the late 1970s. During this period, the house was altered, with interior alterations to accommodate the school function and some exterior alterations and minor additions (discussed in Section 7). The house has been vacant since the departure of the school, and has been subject to some interior vandalism including graffiti, broken windows, and general neglect. In 2003, the property was acquired by the Nevada County Land Trust. Since acquiring the property, volunteers have removed many of the unsympathetic alterations and have worked to stabilize and rehabilitate the property for community use. This effort has been aided by a 2005 Focused Rehabilitation Plan (see Section 9).

¹ Darlis A. Miller, *Mary Hallock Foote: Author Illustrator of the American West* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002). 223.

North Star House
Name of Property

Nevada, CA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

See Continuation Sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one _____
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary of the property includes only the 11,000 square-foot North Star House (see photographs and USGS Map). The property is located on Nevada County Assessor Parcel Number 22-120-40.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary was selected to include only the North Star House, with no contiguous acreage included. This selection was made because the residence itself is the sole remaining significant feature under Criteria A, B, and C. Although the house was once part of a larger mine assemblage which included thousands of acres, the acreage has since been subdivided and does not retain significant associations or integrity to the period of significance and historic context discussed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

See Continuation Sheet

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- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____ N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 666220 4339920
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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Section 9-Major Bibliographic References

Books

Boutelle, Sara Holmes. *Julia Morgan Architect*. New York: Abbeville Press Publishers, 1988.

Foote, Mary Hallock and Rodman, Paul W. *A Victorian Gentlewoman in the Far West: The Reminiscences of Mary Hallock Foote*. San Marino, California: The Huntington Library, 1972.

Fradkin, Philip L. *Wallace Stegner and the American West*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008

Miller, Darlis A. *Mary Hallock Foote: Author-Illustrator of the American West*. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002.

Stegner, Wallace. *Angle of Repose*. New York: Doubleday & Company, 1971.

Wilson, Mark A. *Julia Morgan: Architect of Beauty*. Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith Publishers, 2007.

Published Articles

"Ahead of Her Time: Locals Protect Pioneering Architect's Work," *The Union*, October 2, 1996.

"Foote Controversy Outlives Stegner," *The Union*, n.d.

"Footes: Arts and Sciences at the Mines," *The Union*, n.d.

"North Star House, a Historical Treasure, Can be Saved," *The Union*, May 6, 2000.

"North Star House History," *The Union*, September 4, 2004.

"Once Majestic House Faces Uncertain Future," *Sacramento Bee*, May 2, 1999.

Unpublished Sources

"North Star House Focused Rehabilitation Plan, Grass Valley, California," prepared for the Nevada County Land Trust, prepared by Architectural Resources Group, May 2005.

North Star House
Name of Property

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Polly S. Allen and Peggy Levine
organization North Star Historic Conservancy/Nevada Co. Land Trust date May 15, 2010
street & number 175 Joerschke Drive, Suite R telephone 530 615 8909 / 530 272 5994
city or town Grass Valley state CA zip code 95945
e-mail polly.s.allen@gmail.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.
See Continuation Sheet
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
See Continuation Sheet
- A **Floor Plan** of the North Star House
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

N/A

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 Sheets

North Star House
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Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Nevada County Land Trust (Contact Peggy Levine)
street & number 175 Joerschke Drive, Suite R telephone 530 272 5994
city or town Grass Valley state CA zip code 95945

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.

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North Star House, Nevada County, CA

Name of Property: North Star House
City or Vicinity: Grass Valley
County: Nevada County
State: CA
Name of Photographer: Polly S. Allen
Date of Photographs: October 2009
Location of Original Data Files: 2025 Castro Way, Sacramento, CA 95818

Above information applicable for all photographs listed below

Photo #1 (CA_Nevada County_North Star House_0001)
West façade (left) and south elevation (right), camera facing northeast.

Photo #2 (CA_Nevada County_North Star House_0002)
South elevation, camera facing northwest.

Photo #3 (CA_Nevada County_North Star House_0003)
East elevation, camera facing west.

Photo #4 (CA_Nevada County_North Star House_0004)
North elevation (left) and west façade (right), camera facing east.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

North Star House, Nevada County, CA



Figure 4: Sketch Map. North Star House shown in box .

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation North Star House, Nevada County, CA

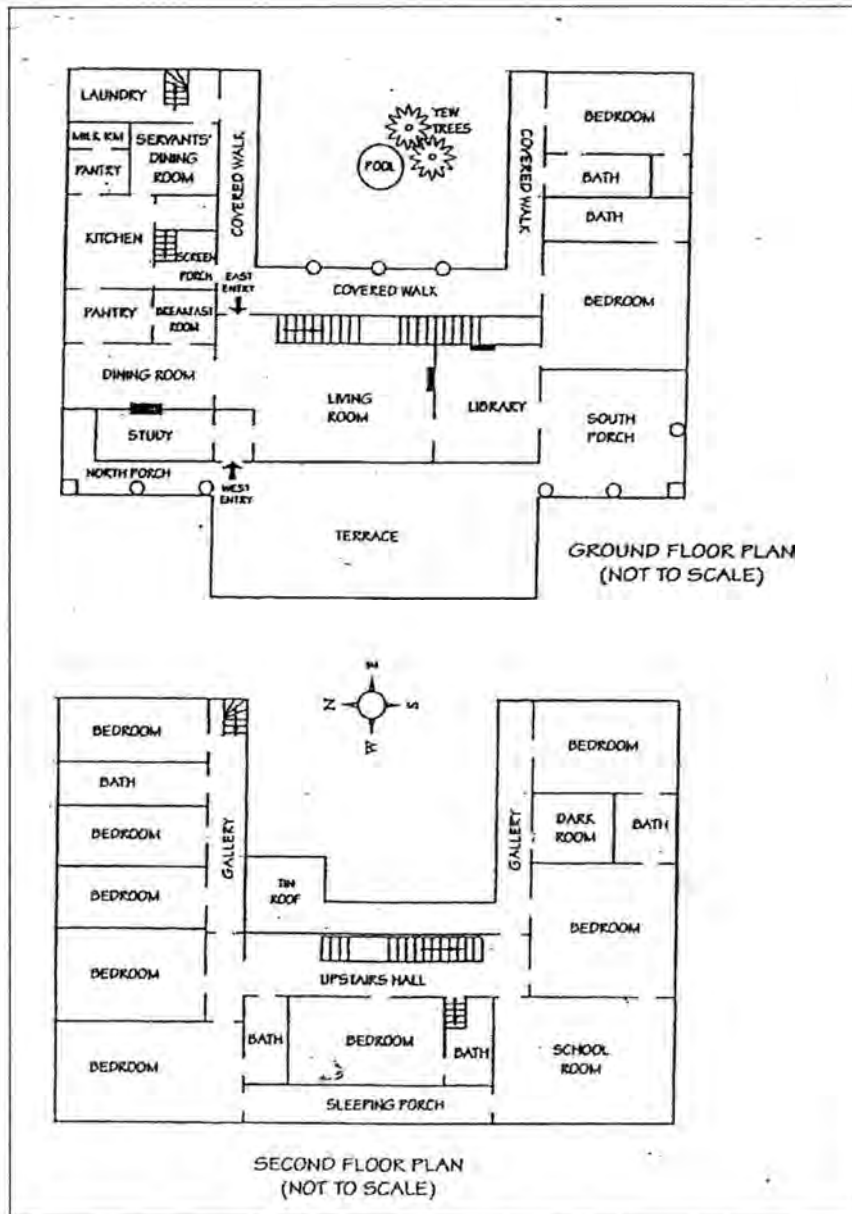


Figure 4: Floor Plan of North Star House
"History of the North Star House," *Nevada County Historical Society Bulletin*, July 1999.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation North Star House, Nevada County, CA

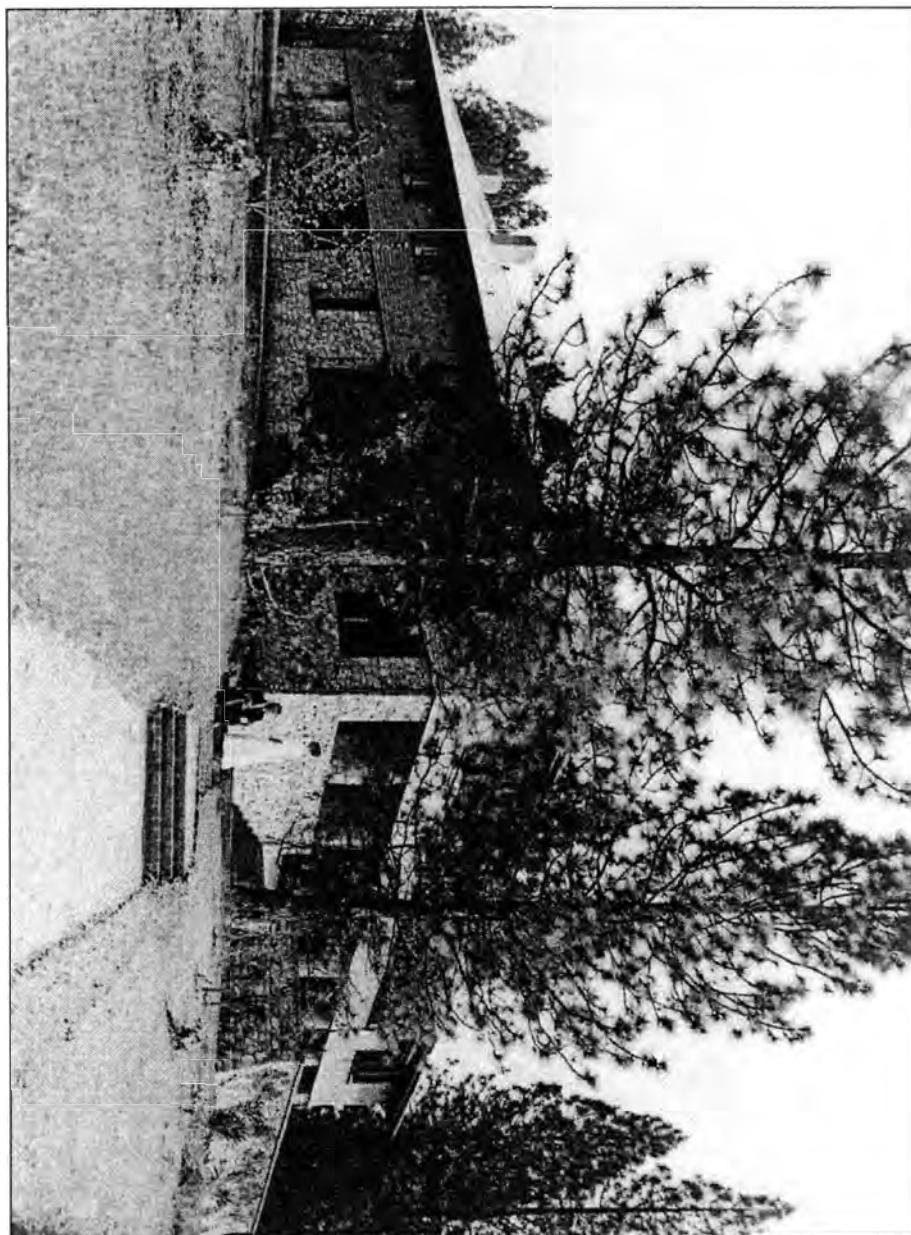


Figure 2: Northwest corner of North Star House soon after construction
A.B. Foote Collection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number. Additional Documentation North Star House, Nevada County, CA

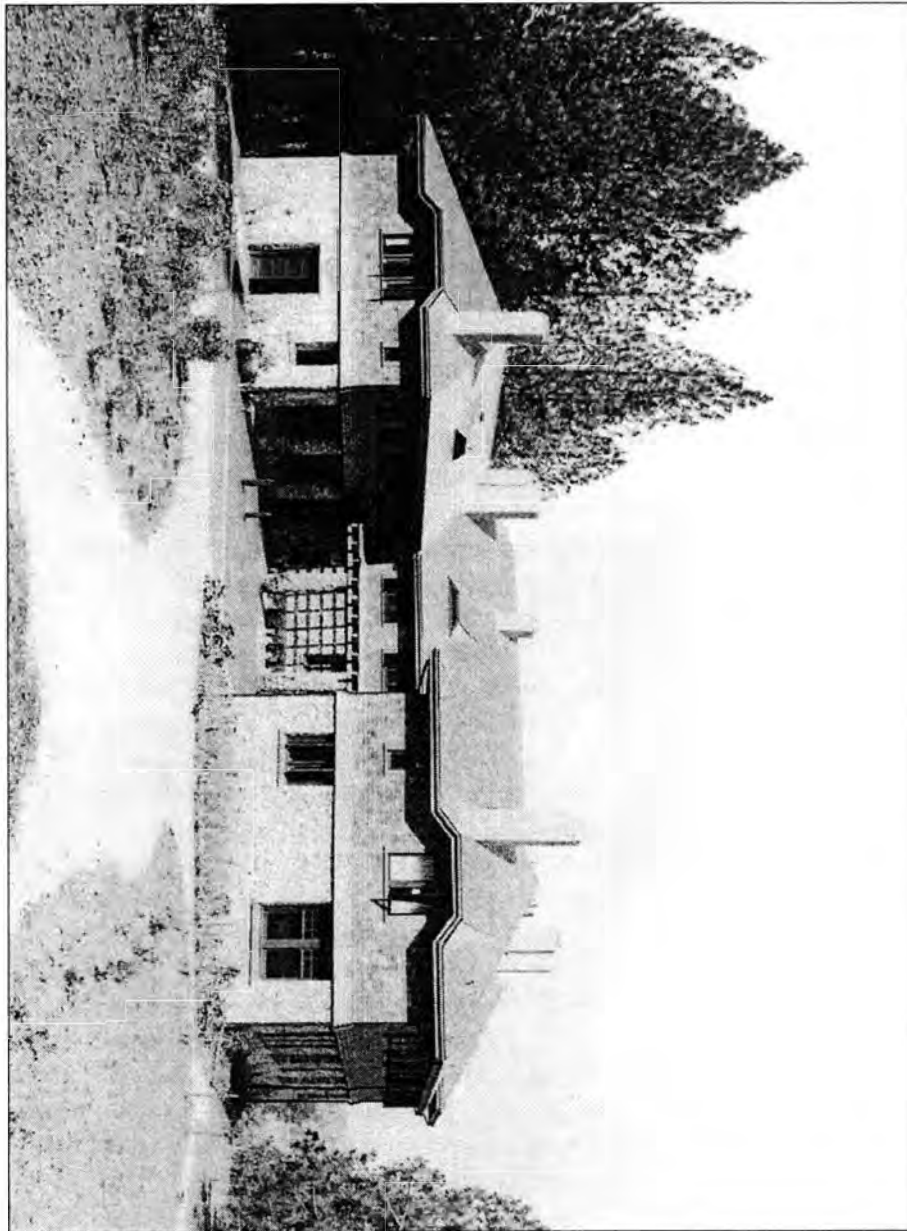


Figure 1: East entry of North Star House soon after construction
A.B. Foote Collection

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY North Star House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Nevada

DATE RECEIVED: 12/17/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/07/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/24/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/01/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10001191

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2.6.11 DATE

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.



CA _ NEVADA COUNTY _ NORTH STAR HOUSE _ 0001



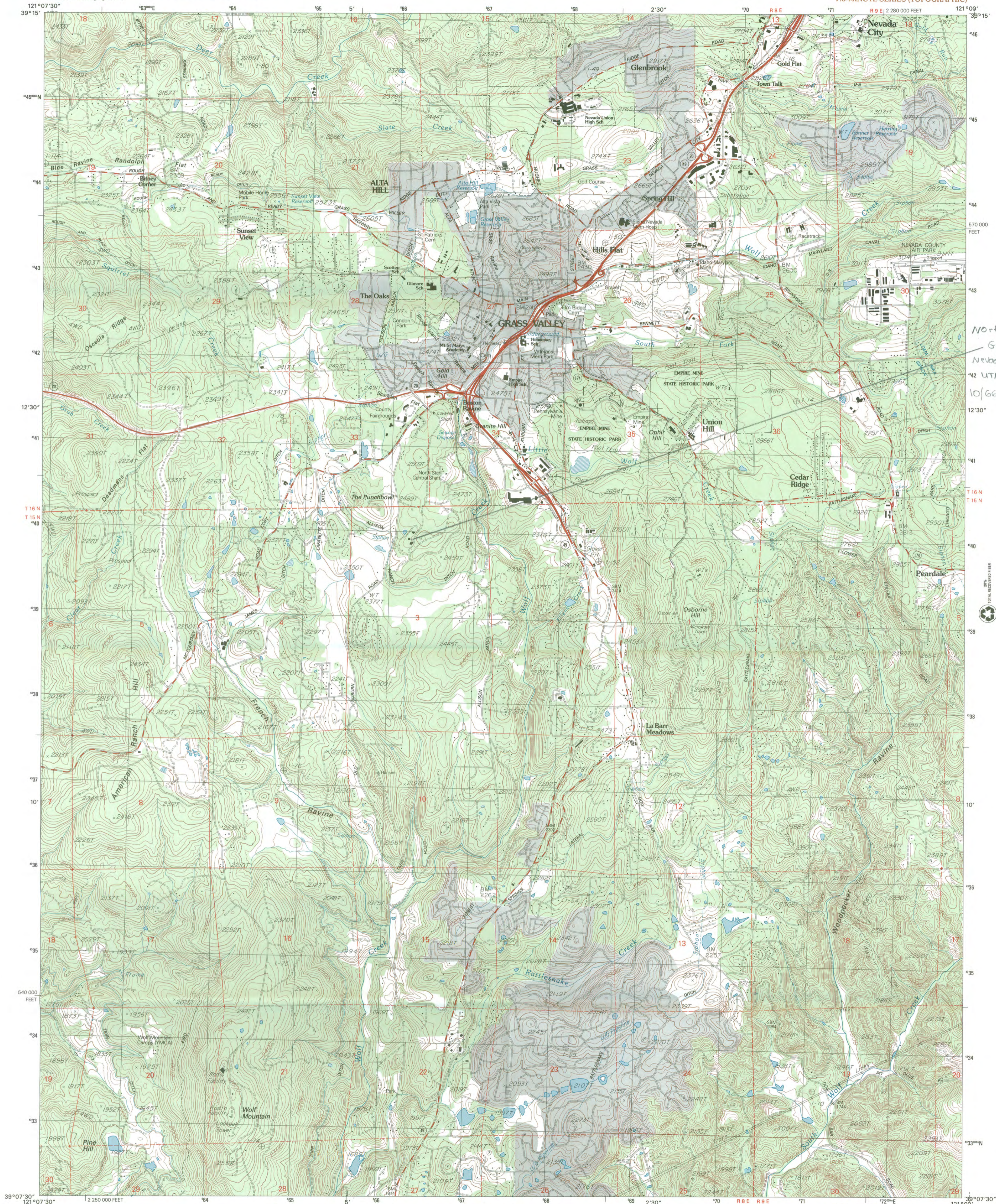
CA - NEVADA COUNTY - NORTH STAR HOUSE - 0002



CA - NEVADA COUNTY - NORTH STAR HOUSE - 0003



CA - NEVADA COUNTY - NORTH STAR HOUSE - 0004

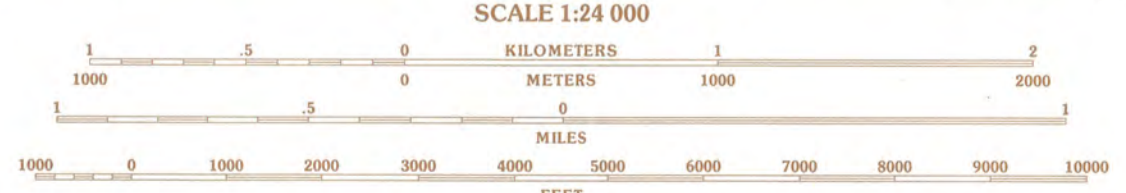


North Star House
Grass Valley, Vic
Nevada County, CA
UTM References
10/666,220/4,339,920



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DERIVED FROM IMAGERY TAKEN 1987
PHOTOINSPECTED USING IMAGERY TAKEN 1998
NO MAJOR CULTURE OR DRAINAGE CHANGES OBSERVED
PLSS AND SURVEY CONTROL CURRENT AS OF 2002
BOUNDARIES VERIFIED 2002
PROJECTION TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID ZONE 10
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS CALIFORNIA, ZONE 2
UTM GRID DECLINATION 01°13' EAST
2002 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 15°30' EAST
VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1927 (NAD 27)
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and
NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from
National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
(TO CONVERT ELEVATIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988, ADD 2 FEET)
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 French Corral
			2 Nevada City
			3 North Riverfield
			4 Rough and Ready
4		5	5 Chicago Park
			6 Wolf
			7 Lake Combe
			8 Colfax
6	7	8	

ROAD LEGEND
Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

GRASS VALLEY, CA
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1998





GRASS VALLEY CITY COUNCIL
125 East Main St., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Office of the Mayor

Council Members

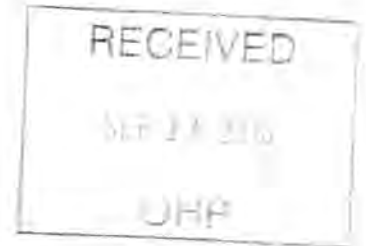
Lisa Swarthout, Mayor
Jan Arbuckle, Vice Mayor
Chauncey Poston
Dan Miller
Yolanda Cookson

Daniel C. Holler, City Administrator

A CENTENNIAL CITY

September 15, 2010

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer
California State Parks
Office of Historic Preservation
Post Office Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001



RE: National Register of Historic Places Nomination for
North Star House/Foote Mansion

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

It is my pleasure on the behalf of the City of Grass Valley to express our support for the National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the North Star House/Foote Mansion.

We believe the North Star House meets the requirements for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a locally significant structure with strong ties to Grass Valley's historic gold mining past. The property also represents the early work of acclaimed California architect Julia Morgan. The property was also used by the prominent author and illustrator Mary Hallock Foote.

The North Star House is truly reflective of our past and represents an important part of our local efforts to preserve and honor our local heritage. The placement of the property on the National Register is one more step in our efforts to retain a visible, physical reminder of our culture and history that shaped much of Grass Valley. The property will continue to serve our community today as a "meeting place" that has a sense of purpose and remembrance for area residents and visitors now and in the future.

The City respectfully request that the State Historical Commission carefully consider and support the request to place the North Star House/Foote Mansion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Lisa Swarthout, Mayor

cc: Grass Valley Historic Commission

Telephone (530) 274-4310 – Fax (530) 274-4399
www.cityofgrassvalley.com

North Star House
Grass Valley Vicinity, Nevada County
Staff Report

Located on a sloping, wooded site near Grass Valley, the U-shaped, 11,000-square-foot, two story Craftsman North Star House was designed by noted California architect Julia Morgan in 1905, only one year after she entered private practice. It was Morgan's first significant, large-scale residential project and expresses her sophisticated grasp of the First Bay Tradition, which espoused the use of natural materials stripped of unnecessary ornamentation and the integration of buildings with their natural surroundings. The North Star House derives its aesthetic from imposing massing and materials, primarily stone and redwood, and balances neo-classical principles with Arts and Crafts influences.

The North Star house was constructed for the family of A. D. Foote, chief mining engineer of the North Star Mine from 1895 to 1913. During Foote's tenure at the North Star, the mine was one of the most efficient and productive in the state and was a major component of the Grass Valley Mining District's wealth and prosperity. The construction of the impressive residence signified the ongoing success of the mine and was meant to reward Foote for his work. The Foote family continued to use the house as a residence until 1968.

In addition to its significant role within the context of mining and the career of Julia Morgan, the North Star House is directly association with the productive life of author and illustrator Mary Hallock Foote, the wife of A.D. Foote. Mary Hallock wrote and illustrated sixteen novels and numerous short stories. As an accomplished artist she also produced wood-cuts for the works of other authors. Her writing and drawings met with immediate and enduring success from the mid-1870s to World War I and her work was serialized in *Harper's Weekly*, *Scribner's Monthly*, and later *The Century Magazine*. Although born and raised in New York, Hallock-Foote became one of the best known writers and illustrators in the nation because of her insightful portrayal of the American West. All of her writings from 1905 to the 1930s took place in her home at the North Star Mine.

Despite unsympathetic interior alterations and vandalism over the course of three decades, the North Star House's design remains intact. Massive stone walls and terraces, rustic wood walls, and a continuous interplay between indoors and outside areas still define the house and expresses the skill of the designer and early twentieth-century craftsmen who built the house. The residence's feeling and association with the historic period are retained. The setting remains pastoral and rustic. The North Star House's period of significance dates from construction in 1905 to 1932 when Mary Hallock and A.D. Foote returned to the East Coast.

Staff recommends the State Historical Resources Commission (Commission) determine that the North Star House meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the development of the North Star Mine and the broader context of the development of the mining industry in the Grass Valley Mining District. Staff further recommends that Commission find the North Star House eligible under National Register Criterion B for the home's direct association with the productive life of author and illustrator Mary Hallock Foote. Staff further recommends that the Commission find the North Star House eligible under National register Criterion C for embodying the distinct characteristics of a monumental Craftsman house influenced by the regional First Bay Tradition esthetic, and as an early example of master architect Julia Morgan's body of work, critical to understanding the beginning phase of her career. Finally, staff recommends the State Historic Preservation officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register.

Jay Correia
State Historian III
October 12, 2010

COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200 • Nevada City, California 95959-8617

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Toll-Free Telephone: (888) 785-1480

E-Mail: bdofsupervisors@co.nevada.ca.us
Web: www.mynevadacounty.com/clerkofboard

October 12, 2010

California State Parks
Office of Historic Preservation
Attn: Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001



Dear Mr. Donaldson:

The Board of Supervisors of Nevada County is pleased to support inclusion of the North Star House/Foote Mansion in the National Register of Historic Places.

On December 6, 2005, the Board designated the Julia Morgan-designed North Star House/Foote Mansion as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 05-02. Julia Morgan was the first female licensed architect in California and designer of the Hearst properties at San Simeon, Asilomar in Pacific Grove, numerous buildings on the UC Berkeley campus and at least 700 other buildings. The house was built in 1906 for Arthur D. Foote, manager of the North Star Mine and his wife, Mary Hallock Foote, a noted 19th century author and illustrator, and is considered an early example of California vernacular Arts and Crafts design.

Furthermore, the house is a locally significant representative of the mining industry in Grass Valley, in the heart of California's Gold Rush country. The North Star mine was the deepest of the quartz or "hard rock" mines in the area. It produced huge amounts of gold during its time, with output valued at approximately \$33 million by 1928. Granite from the mine is incorporated into the walls of the house.

The North Star House/Foote Mansion is truly a "gem" of California's Gold Country and deserves this important recognition. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathan H. Beason, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

cc: Ms. Marty Coleman-Hunt, Executive Director, Nevada County Land Trust
Ms. Peggy Levine, North Star Historic Conservancy

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov



December 15, 2010

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **North Star House National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Ms. Shull: *Carol*

Enclosed please find the **North Star House** nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The North Star House is being nominated to the National Register by its owner, the North Star Conservancy/Nevada County Land Trust. The house is located near Grass Valley.

On November 5, 2010 the California Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the North Star House eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the development of the North Star Mine and mining in the Grass Valley region, Criterion B for its association with the productive life of nationally known author and illustrator Mary Hallock Foote, and Criterion C for embodying the distinct characteristics of a monumental Craftsman home. The North Star House also represents the beginning phase of noted California architect Julia Morgan's career.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Jay Correia of my staff at 916-445-7008 or jcorr@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer
Enclosures