

# NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

## PROPERTY NAME:

<i>Historic</i> Water Co. of Tonopah Building
<i>Common</i>

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-140
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

## LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> Corner of Burro and Brougher Ave's	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

## CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



## CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Board of County Commissioners		
<i>Street Address</i> Nye County Courthouse		
<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> Offices	
<i>Current Use</i> Offices	<i>Acreage</i> less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i>	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1909	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July 1980
<i>View</i> Looking east at main facade	

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Water Company of Tonopah building is a single story wood frame structure of rectangular plan. It measures roughly 30 feet wide by 50 feet deep and is covered by an original double pitched metal roof. The exterior finish is shiplap siding with a shingled skirt below the floor line at the main (west) facade. That facade also features an offset doorway and three independently located two over two double hung windows. A single run wood stair leads to the entrance deck. Other details include louvered ventilators at the gable heads and the original signage, "Water Co. of Tonopah" painted on the main gable wall. Windows along the side walls are either half or full openings with double hung sash. Almost no modifications have occurred to the building and it is in a moderate state of repair.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Water Company of Tonopah building is historically significant as being representative of the founding and operation of privately owned water systems in Tonopah. After the initial discoveries at Tonopah, the development of a reliable supply of water was critical for both the future operation of the mines and the growth of the community. Water was originally hauled into the camp and sold by the bucket or barrel. As the town expanded three separate local water companies were organized; the Tonopah Water Improvement Company in May, 1902, the Tonopah Consolidated Water Company in August, 1902, and the Crystal Water Company in September, 1902. Each were given franchises to supply water into the business and residential districts. The Crystal Water Company, organized by Uri B. Curtis and others, piped the first water supply to Tonopah in October 1902. The Tonopah Water Improvement Company followed two years later with their system in operation by 1904. That company was developed by Clarence Oddie and future Rhyolite businessman, John Overburry. By 1905 controlling interest in both the Crystal Water Company and the Tonopah Water Company was purchased by Philadelphia capitalist John Brock who also held majority holdings in the original Tonopah Mining Company, the Tonopah-Belmont Mining Company and the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad. The Brock family's domination of mineral production at Tonopah as well as important community utilities and rail service continued for several years. In 1909 the Water Co. of Tonopah building was constructed as offices for the Company. The wood frame structure still retains its original architectural integrity and is the primary remaining evidence of the important development of Tonopah's water system.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Elliott, Russell R. , Nevada's Twentieth Century Mining Boom, U of N. Press, Reno, 1966  
Nye County Assessors Records  
Tonopah Bonanza, 1901, 1902

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A portion of the Silvertop Mining Claim at the intersection of Burro and Brouger Avenues including the building only.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

*Photo By*

*View*

*Date*