

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Chollar Mansion  
historic name \_\_\_\_\_

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 565 S. D Street \_\_\_\_\_  not for publication

city or town Virginia City \_\_\_\_\_  vicinity

state Nevada \_\_\_\_\_ code NV \_\_\_\_\_ county Storey \_\_\_\_\_ code 029 \_\_\_\_\_ zip code 89440

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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Ronald Adams* SHPO \_\_\_\_\_ 6/17/93 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper *Patrick Adams* \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action 6/5/93 \_\_\_\_\_

Chollar Mansion  
Name of Property

Storey County, Nevada  
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	
<del>one</del> two		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<del>one</del> two		Total

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

Virginia City Historic District

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

one (contributing to district)

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling  
Commerce/business

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/hotel

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation not visible  
walls brick  
  
roof metal  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Architecture

Archeology

**Period of Significance**

1861-1942

**Significant Dates**

1861

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

William Chollar, Issac Requa

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

N.J. Coleman, H.S. Hill

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Comstock Historic District Commission

Chollar Mansion  
Name of Property

Storey County, Nevada  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	1	2	7	1	4	2	0	4	3	5	3	5	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
2 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

3 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

  
4 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bernadette Francke

organization Comstock Historic District Commission date March 1, 1993

street & number P.O. Box 128 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Virginia City state Nevada zip code 89440

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### 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.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Kay Benton

street & number P.O. Box 889 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Virginia City state Nevada 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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Chollar Mansion was designed by N. J. Coleman and built by H.S. Hill in the early 1860s during the mining boom in Virginia City, Nevada. It survives as one of three historic mine office/superintendent residences that exist on the same street. In 1870, when the Italianate-style building was found to be too close to the mining shafts, it was dismantled and moved approximately 1/4 mile to the north. The building was used as a residence and office after construction, and subsequently as a residence through the twentieth century. The current owner has converted the structure into a bed and breakfast inn.

The mansion is situated against a steep hill to the east, so only the west elevation - the second story of the building - is visible from above. The entrance on this elevation serves as the primary access to the building. A second entrance is located on the first floor of the east elevation; this may have been the primary access prior to the building's move in the nineteenth century. Located on the northwest section of Virginia City, the Chollar Mansion is one of the larger buildings along South D Street; other, neighboring buildings include the Fourth Ward School and the Mackay Mansion as well as smaller residences and various structures associated with the Comstock Mine and the Virginia and Truckee Railroad in the distance. The mansion is located on a rectangular lot, at the corner of Potosi and D Streets. The second building on the lot is a small, one-story, wood frame residence with a bay window to the south of the mansion which appears to date from the nineteenth century. This building is considered "contributing" to the nomination.

The Chollar Mansion is a square, two-and-a-half story brick residence anchored to its stone foundation with steel tie rods. The building is surmounted by dentiled cornice and a low hip roof with chimneys at each corner and a balustrade at the apex. The decorative brickwork on the chimneys includes recessed arches, brackets, and dentils. The north and south elevations have roof dormers which pierce the standing-seam roof. A two-story balustraded porch on the north, east and south elevations is not original to the building. All of the door and window openings are symmetrically placed across the elevations. The west elevation on D Street has three bays with a central entrance with side and transom lights and a portico. The east entrance also has side and transom lights. All of narrow, double-hung, multi-lite windows have plain stone sills and lintels.

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The interior of the mansion contains a cantilevered central staircase. The first floor has one room on either side of the stairs and the second floor has two rooms on either side of the stairs. A vault is located at the west corner of the first floor. Originally used as a paymaster's office, the room currently serves as a wine cellar. Changes to the interior include the introduction of plumbing, electricity, and modern appliances. The exterior and the interior of the building retain their historic integrity.

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The Chollar Mansion is significant under criteria A and B for its association with the development of the Chollar-Potosi Mine of the Comstock Mining District and for its association with William Chollar and Isaac Regua, residents of the house and important members of the Comstock community. In addition, the Chollar Mansion is eligible under criterion C as an excellent expression of Italianate architecture in Nevada from the early 1860s. It is also eligible under criterion D because the property represents an archeological site which contains information about an important mining complex during the Virginia City National Landmark's period of significance from 1859-1942. Only criteria A and B will be explored in this nomination.

The Chollar Mine was one of the earliest productive mines of the Comstock Historic District established after the gold and silver strikes of 1859. William "Billy" Chollar was one of the first miners to claim land in the area, and he happened to obtain an extremely valuable ore body situated between Gold Hill and the core of Virginia City along the Comstock Lode which ran approximately north-south between the two communities. The Comstock Historic Mining District, listed as a National Landmark in 1961, is famous as an important example of early nineteenth-century mining. It produced an enormous amount of silver and gold bullion and developed mining technology which was exported throughout the West.

The Chollar Mine was one of the first big producers on the Comstock, and became internationally famous as a good investment. It was involved in an early (1861), precedent-setting lawsuit with the Potosi Mine over the boundaries of their claims. Eventually the issue was resolved by the merging of the mines, a corporate action which enhanced the value of both.

Billy Chollar originally lived in a Virginia City Hotel as indicated by an 1862 directory. Soon after that, however, the Chollar Mine financed the construction of the Chollar Mansion which was designed by N.J. Coleman and built by H.E. Hill between 1862 and 1864. It appears in a bird's eye view dated 1864 and was clearly built for the Chollar mine during its early period of development beginning in 1860. It is assumed that William Chollar lived there during the early 1860s, although documentation on the actual transition of occupancy and management of the mine is not possible to establish accurately.

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The Chollar Mansion is one of three mine office and superintendent residences on Virginia City's D Street. The others date from the 1870s during a time when the head frames of mine operations had migrated downhill for access to deeper deposits. Since the Chollar Mine was originally located lower on the mountainside its mansion/superintendent office remained serviceable longer than others. The Mansion did eventually need to be moved, however, because the shaft for its operation widened to accommodate increased activity. Consequently, Chollar Mansion was dismantled and reassembled about one quarter of a mile away, to its present location, in 1870.

Chollar eventually sold his holdings in the Chollar-Potosi, but he continued prospecting in the area, making a strike in 1870 at nearby Mineral Hill. Sometime in the early 1870s he retired to Danielsonville, Connecticut where he presumably died.

Isaac Regua followed Chollar as superintendent of the Chollar-Potosi and became a prominent member of the community. In 1864 he became an assemblyman to the Territorial Legislature. By 1872 he was the superintendent of the Chollar-Potosi Mine and was being mentioned as a potential candidate for Congress. By 1878, the Combination Shaft was added to his superintendent duties at the Chollar-Potosi. Regua was an extremely important local figure which came to assume statewide importance. His son, Mark Regua, who grew up in the Chollar Mansion, also became an important figure in development of state through his work founding the Nevada Northern Railroad in White Pine County, Nevada.

The Chollar Mansion is also significant as one of the earliest substantial buildings on the Comstock. Building materials were precious. In 1860, for example, teamsters were charging \$100 per thousand board feet for lumber to be hauled from Carson City to Virginia City, a distance of fifteen miles. Brick was particularly rare because of the weight and problems of transportation. Similar early brick structures included the Maldenado residence built before 1861. This served as the superintendent's house for the Mexican Mine on the north end of the Comstock. Some early brick structures were also built along C Street, the principal commercial avenue. Almost all of these structures, including the three story Maldenado Mansion were dismantled or burned during the nineteenth-century. The Chollar Mansion is one of the few survivors of the earliest period of Comstock development, and it appears to be the most substantial structure in Virginia City dating to Nevada's territorial period from 1861 to 1864.

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Bibliography

Brown, Grafton. 1864 Bird's Eye View of Virginia City (on file at the Nevada Railroad Museum, Carson City, Nevada).

Gold Hill News, 8 January 1864, 2:6.

Kelly, J. Wells. First Directory of Nevada Territory (Los Gatos, California: Talisman Books, 1962, reprinted from the 1862 edition).

Lord, Eliot. Comstock Mining and Miners (San Diego, California: Howell-North Books, 1959, reprinted from the 1883 edition).

Territorial Enterprise, 3 March 1860, 2:2; 15 April, 1870, 2:4; 12 August 1870, 3:1; 6 February 1872, 3:2; 8 March, 1876, 3:2; 7 May 1878, 3:2.

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Verbal boundary description

Legal parcel number 01-057-01.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the mansion.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000689

Date Listed: 8/5/93

Chollar Mansion  
Property Name

Storey  
County

Nevada  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Patrick Andrews*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

8/5/93  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Classification:**

The Virginia City Historic District was incorrectly cited as the name of the related multiple property listing. This is deleted from the nomination.

**Significance:**

The nomination is amended to delete Criterion D and Archeology. Insufficient justification was provided in the narrative to support this area of significance. The state's intent was to emphasize the archeological **potential** of all Virginia City properties.

This information was confirmed with Ron James of the Nevada SHPO.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)