

# NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

## PROPERTY NAME:

<i>Historic</i> Nevada California Power Co. Substation
<i>Common</i>

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-102
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

## LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> Corner of Knapp and Cutting Streets	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

## CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



## CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Sierra Pacific Power Co.		
<i>Street Address</i> 100 E. Moana Lane		
<i>City</i> Reno	<i>State</i> Nv.	<i>Zip</i> 89510

## 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> Power Substation	
<i>Current Use</i> Power Substation	<i>Acreage</i> less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i> unknown	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1905, Remodeled 1912	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> 1980
<i>View</i> Oblique, Looking northwest	

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Nevada California Power Company Substation is a large, rectangular one and a half story stone structure. It is surmounted by a moderately sloped double pitched metal roof which is terminated at the main facade by a stepped parapet gable wall. A single story shed roof element extends the length of the south wall and is also punctuated by a simple pedimented gable. The walls of the structure are built of uncoursed cut stone and detailing includes a stone water table and plinth. Three doorways and one window, all of different sizes, penetrate the main facade. Five evenly located double hung windows along the south wall provide light into the office and crew quarters of the substation. The north wall is given to a matrix of power line connections into the building. The 1905 historic architectural integrity of the exterior of the building remains intact. The interiors and window detailing date to a 1912 remodelling which followed a fire that damaged those portions of the building. The structure is still used as a power substation.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nevada-California Power Company Substation is significant for its association with the development of electric power in Tonopah and for its relationship to the history of the mining industry in Southwestern Nevada. Additionally it is one of only two surviving Nevada-California Power Substations in Nevada and the only one still used as a power facility. The cut stone structure was built in 1905 by the Nevada Power, Mining and Milling Company, an organization formed in 1904 by Nevada and Colorado capitalists to bring large amounts of electricity into the area. At that time the company purchased W.C. Watson's Tonopah Light and Power Company which had brought the first electricity to Tonopah in December 1902. The Nevada Power Mining and Milling Company owned extensive power rights in the Bishop Creek area of California and by 1905 their transmission lines served Tonopah, Goldfield, Rhyolite, Silver Peak as well as other communities. By 1907 the company was absorbed by the Nevada-California Power Company, incorporated in January of that year. The new company expanded their power network in proportion with the growing industrial needs of the boom areas and, by 1912, all of the local power companies in Southwestern Nevada were absorbed by the new organization. The Nevada-California Power Company Substation at Tonopah demonstrates not only the development of electric power in Tonopah, but also the economic necessity for local systems to be absorbed into a unified network during the tremendous expansion of Central Nevada's twentieth century mining industry.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Tonopah Daily Bonanza, 1912  
Elliott, Russell R., Nevada's Twentieth Century Mining Boom, U of N Press, Reno, 1966

## LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A portion of Block 5, Richardsons Survey, 1907

## ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

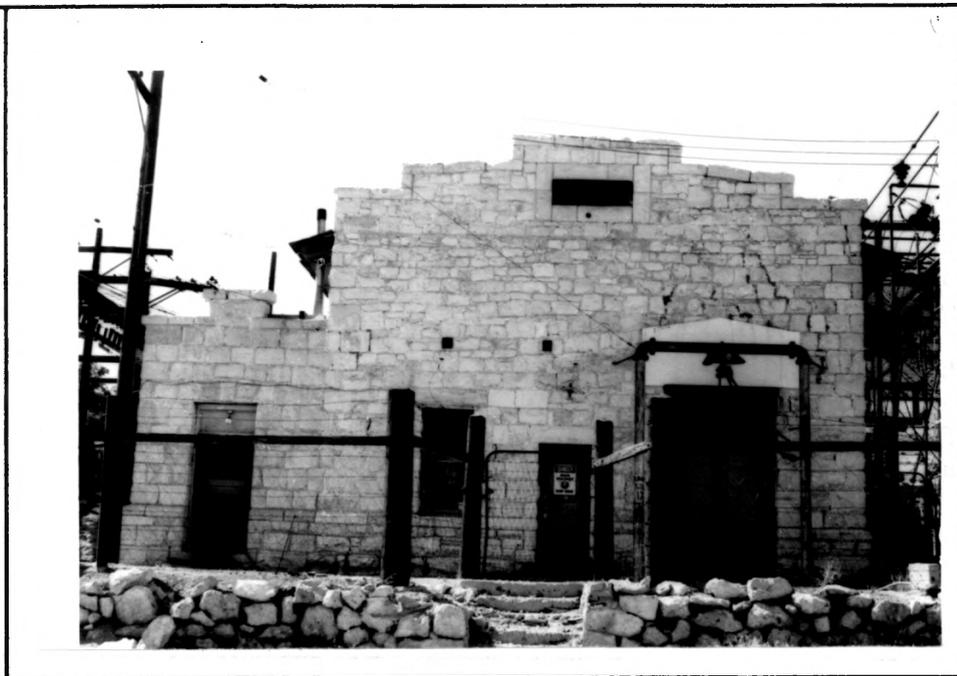
*Photo By*

Jim Woodward

*View*  
Looking west at front  
facade

*Date*

July 1980



# NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

## PROPERTY NAME:

<i>Historic</i>	Nevada-California Power Co. Auxiliary
<i>Common</i>	Power Building
	Sierra Pacific Power Building

## LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i>	
S.W. Corner of Knapp/Cutting	
<i>City</i>	<i>County</i>
Tonopah	Nye

## CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i>		
Sierra Pacific Power Co.		
<i>Street Address</i>		
100 E. Moana Lane		
<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>
Reno	NV	89510

## FORM PREPARED BY:

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

## PROPERTY INFORMATION:

<i>Historic Use</i>	
Electric Power Building	
<i>Current Use</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Warehouse	less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i>	
unknown	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i>	
Built ca. 1905	

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i>
	TON-103
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i>
	Building

## CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



<i>Photo By</i>	<i>Date</i>
Jim Woodward	July 1980
<i>View</i>	
Looking West	

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Nevada-California Company Auxiliary Power Building is a large rectangular structure measuring 30 feet wide by 60 feet long. Constructed of a wood frame structural system, the building is entirely clad in vertical sheets of corrugated iron. The roof is double pitched with a moderate slope and is also covered with corrugated sheets. Eaves are simple and enclosed. The south gable wall is punctuated by three large double door entrances, and a similar opening is located centrally along the north side wall. Windows along this wall are large evenly located openings with pairs of multi-paned double hung sash. Other openings along the building are similar in detail but smaller in proportion. All exterior architectural features are original and intact.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nevada-California Power Company Auxiliary Power Plant is an important compliment to the adjacent stone power building (TON-102) to the Northwest. Together they serve to interpret the evolution of the development of Electricity in the Tonopah District. This building, an industrial structure built of corrugated iron, may be the original Tonopah Light and Power Company building. It was moved to the present site about 1905 when the Nevada Power, Mining and Milling Company took control of electrical distribution in Tonopah. The former company was organized in 1902 by W. C. Watson and the power building built the same year. Nevada Power, Mining and Milling Company was bought by the Nevada California Power Company in 1907 and this building was absorbed into their expanded operation. The structure is in sound condition and still functions as a shop and warehouse.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A portion of Block 5, Richardson Survey 1907

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

Photo By

View

Date

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Tonopah Multiple Resource Area-

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

5.24.82

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

This continuation sheet will serve to combine the Nevada-California Power Co. Substation, and Nevada-California Power Co. Auxiliary Power Building, as submitted separately to the National Register as part of the Tonopah Multiple Resource Area.

As an important ensemble, the two structures are significant for their association with the development of electrical power in Tonopah, and for their relationship to the history of the mining industry in Southwestern Nevada.

There are unknown architects for both structures, and the combined acreage for both structures remains less than one.