

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 29 1981
DATE ENTERED JAN 29 1982

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC MINERAL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON Old Mineral County Courthouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 551 C Street

CITY, TOWN Hawthorne

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Nevada-at-large

STATE Nevada

VICINITY OF
CODE 32

COUNTY CODE
Mineral 021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME County of Mineral, Nevada

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 1457

CITY, TOWN Hawthorne

VICINITY OF

STATE
Nevada 89415

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Mineral County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 1457

CITY, TOWN Hawthorne, NV 89415

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE none

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR
 DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Mineral County Courthouse is a two-story rectangular unreinforced brick building decorated with a one-story portico and a complex roof line.

The courthouse sits on a park-like setting on a residential street with other public buildings nearby. It shares a large lawn and many mature Cottonwood trees providing shade with the Community Center next door.

The symmetrical brick walls are painted and are articulated with a belt course and with slightly arched brick window and door openings devoid of decoration. The many windows are double-hung wooden frames with two over two lights. The roof line is complex with low-pitched intersecting gables forming pediments on each facade, several interior brick chimneys, and an original bell tower long since removed. The rectangular bell tower, proportionally large for the rest of the building was complete with iron cresting on the top. Presumably, it was too much weight for the building and was removed shortly after it was built. The roof is sheathed in wooden shingles and the gable ends are of brick with a boxed cornice. A projecting cornice decorated with double brackets ties the roof to the building.

One of the one-story porticos remains on the street facade of the structure, the side portico was removed when the two-story vault addition was added to the south side of the building in the 1930s. Also in the 1930s, the National Emergency Recovery Act workers replaced the original wooden portico on the east with a concrete version of a slightly different design. This altered portico remains today. The present central one-bay portico is five-sided, supported by six columns, and has a large five-sided run of stairs.

The building has a central hallway running east-west from the front door. The staircase with mahogany rails and balusters runs north-south at the center of the north wall. The first floor houses the jail and several offices. On the second floor, the courtroom occupies the southwest quarter of the floor with offices occupying the rest. The interior of the building has been modified, but it still has pressed metal ceilings throughout, wainscoting in the hallways, and original molding around the interior doors and transoms.

The building is in deteriorating condition with large cracks in the exterior walls, spalling bricks two wythes deep, and a roof open to the elements. The building has had structural problems most of its life. Tie rods connecting the north and south walls and buttresses on the north and south walls were added to increase the strength of the walls in the early 20th century.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1883

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George W. Babcock/A.C. Glenn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mineral County Courthouse is significant as it originally served as Esmeralda County's second courthouse (1883-1907), and later saw service as the first Mineral County Courthouse (1911-1974). It is the only structure in the State's history which served as a courthouse for two different Nevada counties, and is one of seven extant 19th-century courthouses in the State. Excluding a small number of residential structures which escaped the periodic fires beseting Hawthorne during its first one hundred years, the courthouse, from all indications, is the oldest substantial, non-frame structure in the Mineral County seat of government.

Less than two years after the infant community of Hawthorne was founded as a station on the newly-constructed Carson & Colorado Railroad, the citizens of the fledgling town had mounted a campaign to acquire county seat status. On March 1, 1883, the State Legislature approved "An Act to remove the county seat of Esmeralda County from the town of Aurora to the town of Hawthorne," and approved the sale of bonds to raise funds for the construction of a courthouse "in a sum not exceeding thirty thousand dollars." The effective date for the transfer of office was July 1.

The original building specifications for the courthouse called for a wood frame structure, but with the opening of the Hawthorne brick yard in the spring of 1883, it was generally agreed that the courthouse should be a brick building and the specifications were subsequently changed. The Esmeralda County Commissioners appointed A.C. Glenn as supervising architect of the project, and George W. Babcock was awarded the construction contract with a bid of \$29,125.00.

On August 16, ground breaking ceremonies were held and work commenced. The cornerstone was placed on September 8 and numerous articles were placed inside including the building specifications and plans, various coins, photographs, name cards, and so on.

The work was completed on December 5, 1883 at a cost of \$33,967.00, but not until after A.C. Glenn had been fired as a result of an investigation into alleged corruption involving the project. D. R. Munro was subsequently appointed supervising architect and saw the courthouse project to its completion.

In January 1884, the Esmeralda County Grand Jury directed the District Attorney to bring suit against Babcock for an illegal claim paid him during construction. In

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Statutes of the State of Nevada, 11th Session; 1883; Jan-Mar. 1, 1883; Carson City; Nevada State Printing Office, pp 95-107.

Reports of Cases Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada; 1883 4. Carson City; Nevada State Printing Office, 1889. 99. 34-48.

Walker Lake Bulletin; 6-4; 7-5; 7-11; 8-1; 10-10; 11-21; 12-12; 1883.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -1
 UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1	3	5	8	5	2	5	4	2	6	5	1	5	0
ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

B

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The documented property occupies an area of 8 lots, 50x100 feet each in Block #42 or a property of 200 feet x 200 feet located in the center of Block #42 and marked as to boundaries by curb lines on B and C streets, by a fence/hedge line on the south and an unmarked line on the north. The area to the north is a greens-ward that extends to a community building on the extreme north end of the Courthouse block.

See map Attachment B

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Mildred L. Pierce and Guy Rocha, State Archivist, Carson City, Nevada
 Wilbur E. Wieprecht, Historian, Div. Hist. Pres. & Arch.

ORGANIZATION Preservation of the Original Mineral Co. Courthouse DATE 5/18/81

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 1721 / 201 S. Fall St. TELEPHONE (702) 945-2754 / 885-5138

CITY OR TOWN Hawthorne / Carson City STATE Nevada

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Djimi Rodden

TITLE Administrator

DATE 10/8/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Tom McManis
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Patrick Anderson*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1/29/82

DATE 1/28/82

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addition, as the county officers began moving into the new courthouse, the Grand Jury filed a report which charged that the new Esmeralda County Courthouse was one-third the specified size, the vault doors were made of 1/8 inch iron instead of the intended 3/8 inch boiler steel, that there were no water pipes, sink, or valves in either the kitchen or jail, and that the ceiling joints were not anchored to the building. There were many serious problems with the structure as enumerated in the report including the fact that the foundation was settling at an alarming rate. The Grand Jury advised that piers be put in immediately to counteract the settling which was done. Nonetheless, a cupola situated in the center of the courthouse had to be removed shortly thereafter because its weight had resulted in considerable structural damage. As a result of the scandal, two county commissioners--one being the brother of A.C. Glenn, resigned from office.

The Esmeralda-Mineral County Courthouse has had other notable events associated with its long history. The highly-publicized Preston-Smith murder trial of 1907 was heard in the district court in Hawthorne prior to the relocation of the county seat from Hawthorne to Goldfield in May. The two delegates of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), a radical labor union, were confined to the courthouse jail following a fatal shooting affray during a bitter labor dispute in Goldfield. Morrie Rockwood Preston, while serving a sentence for second-degree murder in the Nevada State Prison, was nominated as the Socialist Labor Party's candidate for the U.S. Presidency in 1908. Preston polled over 25,000 votes nation-wide and was the first presidential candidate to run for office while incarcerated in prison.

In 1921, Gee Jon and Hughie Sing were convicted in the Mineral County District Court of first-degree murder. As a result of the Tong war killing in Mina, both men were sentenced to death. Hughie Sing received a commutation of his death sentence shortly before the scheduled execution in February 1924. Gee Jon had the dubious distinction of being the first person in the Nation to be legally executed by lethal (hydrocyanic) gas.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

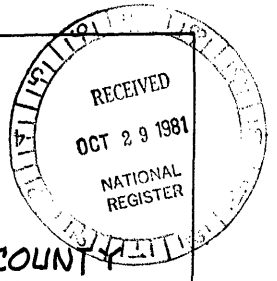
Nevada Revised Statutes: LXXIX; Nevada State Printing Office; March 1, 1883. pp.104-7

Mineral County Grand Jury Report and Casual Survey Report, 1960 (1965, 1967)

Mineral County Independent 12/6/1933. p1:1
12/5/1935. p1:6
12/12/1934. p1:7

Mineral County Grand Jury Report, 1884

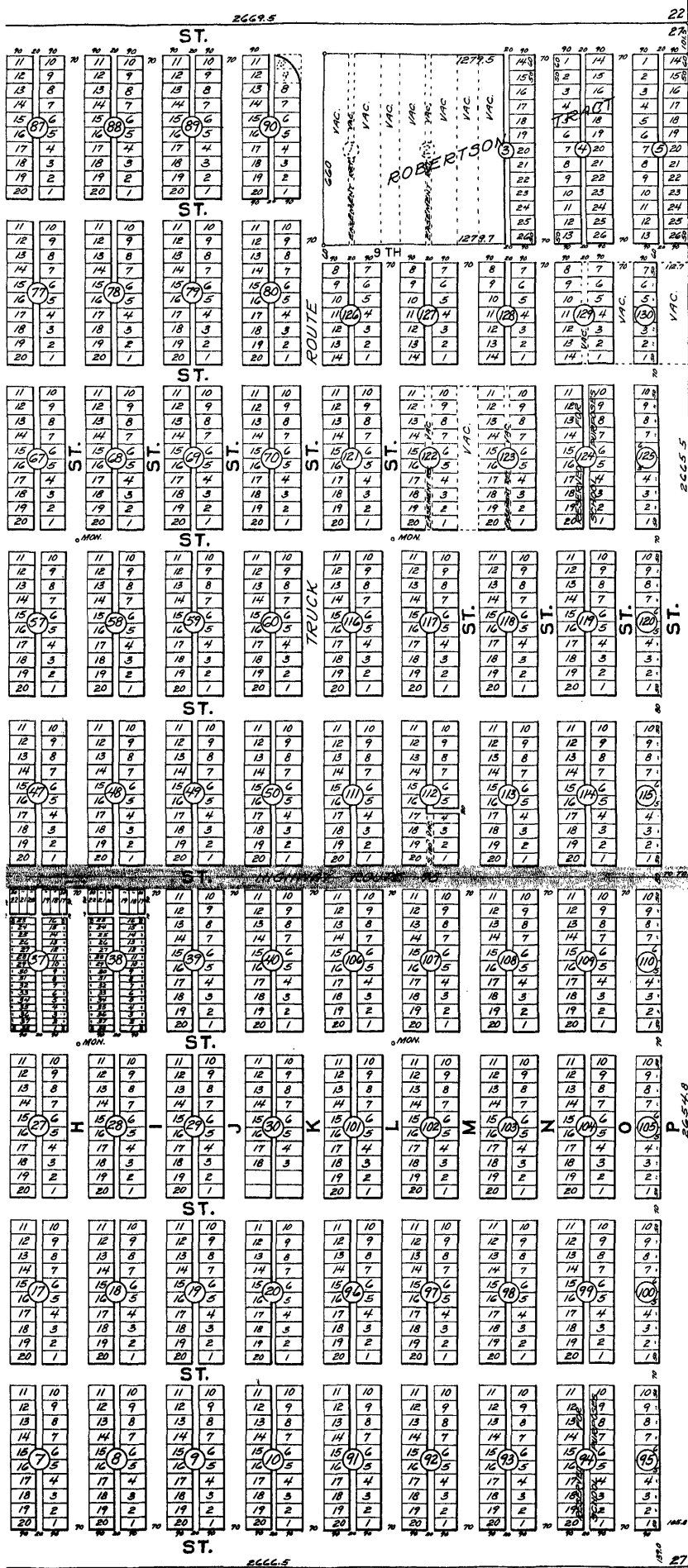
"Hawthorne Centennial: 1881-1981." Mineral County Independent and Hawthorne News,
Special Centennial Issue, April 8, 1981.



ATTACHMENT A :
OLD MINERAL COUNTY
COURTHOUSE

JAN 29 1982

NEVADA



-NOTE-
For the position of easements
consult earlier official maps.

ENGINEER'S STATEMENT

Bernard York, Registered Engineer and
Land Surveyor, being first duly sworn
deposes and says that he prepared
this Revised Map of Hawthorne, Nevada, under
the authority of the Board of County Commissioners
of Mineral County, Nevada; that he searched,
with the assistance of the County Clerk, the
County Recorder, and the County Assessor,
the official records of Mineral County on file
on the 1st day of June, 1963; and that this
map is a true and complete map drawn in
full accord with the official maps and
other records then on file in the records of
Mineral County, Nevada.

Bernard York
R.E. & L.S. No. 161

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 19th day of June, 1963.

J.E. Courchesne
Notary Public in and for the County
of Mineral, State of Nevada.
My Commission Expires April 7, 1963.

ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL

At a regular meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners of Mineral County,
Nevada, held on the 1st day of
June, 1963, this map was accepted and approved
as an Official Revised Map of the City of
Hawthorne, Nevada, and a copy ordered
filed with the Office of County Recorder.

Stuart W. Humphreys
Chairman

Attest J.E. Courchesne
County Clerk

Donald H. McHardy

Approved J.E. Courchesne
District Attorney

Mike Mongelli

Approved Bernard York
County Engineer

SCALE: 1" = 200'

OFFICIAL REVISED MAP OF
HAWTHORNE
MINERAL COUNTY, NEVADA.

AS COMPILED AND DRAWN FROM
OFFICIAL MAPS AND OTHER RECORDS
ON FILE IN THE OFFICES OF MINERAL
COUNTY, NEVADA, ON THE 1ST DAY OF
JUNE, 1963.

BY
BERNARD YORK, R.E. & L.S.
JUNE, 1963.

