

RECEIVED

JUN 21 1993

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 *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

historic name Parish House

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

2. Location

street & number 109 South F Street  not for publication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 M. Jones 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

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews 8/5/93

Parish House  
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	
one		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
one		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 historic district)

**6. Function or Use**

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

Domestic/single dwelling

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

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

Domestic/single dwelling

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

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

Late Victorian/Italianate

---

---

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood

roof asphalt

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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1876

**Significant Dates**

1876

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Goodwin C. Jones, Robert Patterson

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Goodwin C. Jones

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

**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

Parish House  
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 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 and Henry Rogers

organization Comstock Historic District Commission date April 1993

street & number P.O. Box 128 telephone (702) 847-0281

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 Henry Rogers

street & number P.O. Box 511 telephone (702) 847-9047

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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

---

The Parish House was the home of a Virginia City, Nevada, mining engineer, Goodwin Jones, who had the house built in 1876 and chose an Italianate style. Though no record can be found of who the architect was, one can be sure Jones' engineering abilities accounted for much the design of construction; two mining timbers are used as an integral part of the foundation. Also, the use of redwood for the exterior wall and the durability of the rough-cut fur used for the frame attest to Jones' desire for a long-lived home. After 117 years and many different owners and uses, the Parish House is once again a home and is still standing "square and true", (although minor settling of the bay windows can be noted), perhaps a testament to Goodwin Jones' engineering ability and certainly to the skill and knowledge of the unknown builders.

The Parish House is located on the south-east corner of South F and Taylor Streets in Virginia City, Nevada, (more specifically, Lots 1 and 2 of Block 128, Range F). Facing west, the house originally occupied only the west one half of Lot 1 but over the years has grown to include all of Lot 1 and a portion of Lot 2. The view from the living room windows reveals the character of the neighborhood with both St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church to the west and St. Paul Episcopal Church to the north being neighbors. Both churches are contemporaries of the house and certainly were important parts of the neighborhood from their construction dates until present. Additionally, the old Methodist Church was also located nearby, attesting to the diversity of the neighborhood. Census records show the area was predominately Irish.

Virginia City is situated on a mountainside and steep inclines are the norm with the height difference from the front of the house to the rear of nearly eight feet. For the house to sit level the foundation is cut into the mountainside at the front and is totally above ground level at the rear, a length of thirty-eight feet. The view east down Six Mile Canyon includes Sugar Loaf Mountain, the Carson River near Fort Churchill and the Stillwater Mountain range in the distance.

The foundation is made from cut-stone blocks on the exterior lined with natural stone on the interior. The cut-stone blocks are only visible on the north side of the house. The floor joists are rough cut fur measuring a true 2" x 12", which are supported in the center of their span by two 12" x 12" mining timbers. The timbers

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

are supported by brick columns approximately 16" square and 72" tall. There is a stairway on the south side of the basement leading to the pantry area in the kitchen. The floor is concrete and the area is about 1000 sq. feet.

The house is built on a balloon type frame system with the exterior walls consisting of 1" thick rough cut fur which is then covered with 1" thick finished redwood lumber with a tongue and groove fit. The paint is believed to be a close match to the original color. This was determined by removing moldings and examining the unfaded paint underneath.

The roof of the Parish House consists of a gentle slope rising to a center rectangular portion with a flat top. The rise is about 6 feet from the ceiling joists to the center flat portion. There is an access door from the attic to the roof located in the center of the flat portion of the roof. The door to the attic is located in the upstairs closet and measures only about 2' x 1.5'.

The exterior of the house has many decorative moldings, such as brackets with scroll work located under the eaves. The porch has several scrolled brackets and many decorative panels. Each arched window has its own floral molding at the apex of each arch and the bay windows are decorated using column moldings. All of these windows measure about three feet wide and seven feet tall and each consist of two sections of glass.

For a home built in 1876, one thing that sets the Parish House apart from normal Victorian practice is the large size of the rooms. Consisting of two floors above a full basement, the overall plan is made up of the following rooms. The first floor contains the living room and adjoining, through tall, sliding wooden doors, the dining room. The kitchen, a closet and the small bathroom, plus the hall and staircase complete the arrangement. The ceilings are 11 feet in height and the vertical division of the hall and living room-dining room area support the second floor.

The second floor is made up of three large bedrooms, two of which are adjoining through sliding wooden doors, as on the first floor. A closet, a small study, the hall and stair landing. Also, a bathroom, which is a conversion from an earlier double bathroom, completes the upper floor. The ceilings upstairs are 10 feet in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

---

height. Both the upper and lower floors measure about 1000 square feet in area.

An interesting feature which is still almost completely intact is the 200 gallon kerosine tank located in the attic. The kerosine was supplied to all the lamp fixtures on both floors of the house via a distribution piping system. This tank is approximately a three foot cube made from one inch thick rough cut fur lined with galvanized sheet metal. There was no top for the tank which was filled by pumping kerosine up a pipe located in the kitchen. The distribution system is made of one half inch diameter tubing which is plumbed to each lamp medallion in each of the rooms on both floors. The pipe in the kitchen has been long since removed, however the filling pipe is still intact in the attic. The distribution system is nearly intact except the tubing is cut just above the medallion to allow electrical wiring to pass through the hole instead of the piping. The tank is intact and complete.

Another interesting feature is the woodwork throughout the Parish House. All moldings, stairway moldings, doors, door frames and window frames are made from clear white pine over which has been painted a pseudo-grain using stains and glazes. This was a popular finish at the time the house was built. The banister is solid mahogany. Most of the woodwork is in good condition, however about one third of the moldings and a few of the doors have been painted over with various kinds of paint. Also, all the window frames are numbered using Roman numerals, apparently specifically for the installation during construction. The upstairs, west side begins with "I" and proceeds across the west side and around the house. The down stairs begins with "XIV" on the west side and proceeds in a similar manner.

The common flue or chimney has several access holes. The first is in the basement, followed by two on the first floor, one for the dining room stove and one for the kitchen cook stove. On the second floor there are two access holes, one in the north-center bedroom and one in the east bedroom. The construction of the chimney is red brick and mortar and its exit point is towards the east rear of the center flat section of the roof, with a height of about two feet above the roof. All access holes are covered with decorative plates except the dining room, which is still used and the kitchen, which is walled up.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

---

Exterior alterations consist of an addition on the south side of the original house which runs the entire length of the house, (38 feet), and extends south about 15 feet. The south side of this room contains eight Andersen type windows. A facade on the west and east sides disguise the addition somewhat. A garage was built about the same time as the addition, that is about 1982, and considerable effort was made to style it after the house. The construction even includes replicas of the cornice brackets found on the house. This styling was fairly successful as the garage does appear older than it actually is. A picket fence which surrounds the property matches the original except on the south side, which is of solid board about 5 feet high. The rear porch was also enlarged somewhat from the original to accommodate the south side addition.

What is amazing about the Parish House is its condition. After 117 years it still stands square and when one "sights" down the north side of the building, the redwood tongue and groove lumber is still straight and in good shape. The roof is straight as are all the vertical corners. From the basement one can inspect the floor joists and all appear straight and true. The brick pillars and the brick chimney are also in good condition. Perhaps the only noticeable change is the bay windows, which appear to have settled about 1" to 3". Also, there are some minor cracks in the ceiling plaster and ample evidence that many people in the past have spent a lot of time repairing those and other cracks.

There are no specific records from which to determine where the original outbuildings were. Several photographs show a shed located at the rear of Lot 1, however this no longer is standing.

Interior alterations include modernization of the kitchen, which consists of a lowered, panel lighted ceiling and a central sink and cabinet console in the center of the kitchen. The pantry has had cabinets built into it and the same ceiling treatment as the kitchen. Additionally, sheet rock has replaced the lathe and plaster walls in the kitchen. The closet and bathroom on the first floor have lowered ceilings made of sheet rock, probably due to water damage to the original ceiling from the upstairs bathroom. The bathroom upstairs was at one time a dual bathroom and was converted to a single, large bathroom in 1991. There was substantial water damage which required replacement of some of the floor joists at that time, however replacement of the joists was limited to just the bathroom. The dining room had ceiling damage



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   5  

---

from the water also and this was repaired using a patch and plaster method to preserve as much of the original ceiling as possible. Most electrical wiring has been replaced, the exception is the upper floor which still uses the "knob and tube" wiring installed when the house was first "electrified". Additionally, all plumbing has been replaced with copper pipe for water supply and plastic pipe for drains.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

---

The Parish House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria B, for its association with the prominent local citizens who lived here, and under criteria C, for its Italianate architecture.

Though none of the people who lived in the Parish House had the fame of John Mackay or William Sharon, their significance lies in the fact that they are representative of the successful business people who lived on the Comstock and made their living supplying services to the "rich and famous". For example, Goodwin Jones was an engineer for the Caledonia Mine, the smallest of the official Comstock Lode mines. Robert Patterson, another resident of the Parish House, was the proprietor of the famous International Saloon, (located in the International Hotel). Dr. Thomas McDonald was a Virginia City physician. John McGrath was a successful merchant with a popular store on C Street. Also of significance is the use of the house by St. Mary's of the Mountains, the Catholic Church in Virginia City. From 1935 until about 1970, the Parish House was used as St. Mary's rectory and as a result obtained its name, the Parish House. These colorful people, who lived and worked on the Comstock all contributed to the area's history.

This large Italianate style house was built in 1876 by Goodwin C. Jones. The land on which it was built was a Christmas gift to Goodwin's wife, Martha, from her brother, W.S. Hobart. Goodwin was a former superintendent of the Ogden Mill and, at the time the house was built, an engineer for the Caledonia Mine in Gold Hill. The Jones' lived in their house until 1884. It was sold to Andrew Patterson, who only kept it for about one year, selling it to a relative of his, Robert Patterson.

Robert Patterson and his wife Ellie lived in the house from 1885 until Robert's death in 1893. Ellie continued living there until 1897. Robert Patterson was the proprietor of The International Saloon and Club Rooms, which were located on the first and second floors of the International Hotel.

Dr. Thomas P. McDonald, a physician, lived in the house at the turn of the century, along with his wife Mary Alicia, two small children and an Irish servant. Mary McDonald purchased the house from Ellie Patterson in 1897 and in turn sold it to John McGrath in 1901. John McGrath was a grocer and merchant with a store on C Street, and lived in the house the longest of any of the owners, 28 years. His

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

---

large family numbered seven in 1910, with four children, his mother-in-law and he and his wife, Margaret.

These owners were the highly successful entrepreneurs whose existence depended on the monetary health of the Comstock. They were involved, on a day to day basis, with the people who contributed to the success of the Comstock. By supplying the needs and desires of the worker and entrepreneurs alike, the residents of the Parish House contributed their part to the continued life of the Comstock and thereby became part of its history.

When John McGrath died in 1929, the house was purchased as part of an estate by Jane Boyle in 1930. It is unlikely that Jane Boyle or her husband William lived in the house but they kept it until 1935, selling it to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno, Thomas Gorman. This began the long association between St. Mary's of the Mountains and this house. There was some confusion from 1935 until 1939, the Boyles were still paying taxes on the property while it was owned by the Bishop. This required another deed to be drawn in 1939 to clarify ownership so St. Mary's could use the house as its rectory. The house was used as the Catholic parsonage from, possibly as early as 1935 and almost certainly by 1939, until about 1970. After 1970, the Catholic Bishop rented the house out to individuals and finally, in 1977, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Reno sold the house, which has had various owners since.

The house derives its name, "The Parish House," from a pen and ink drawing by noted local artist Thelma Davis Calhoun. Probably dating from the 1950s, this drawing has been widely reproduced and has, no doubt, misled many into believing the Catholic Church had always owned the house behind St. Mary's in the Mountains.

The Parish House's architecture and styling is also significant. It is a good example of Italianate styling with ample decorative moldings and brackets. Its construction is stout and even contains an example of integrating mining construction techniques with home construction by utilizing mining timbers used in the foundation. The house still has, almost completely intact, its 200 gallon kerosine tank in the attic which supplied all of the original lamp fixtures on both floors. The house is in very good condition and serves as an example of one of the Italianate style homes which were so popular in Virginia City after the Great Fire of 1875.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   1  

---

PRIMARY SOURCES

- A. ASSESSMENT ROLL, STOREY COUNTY COURT HOUSE - BOOKS FROM THE YEAR 1876 TO 1940 WERE EXAMINED.
- B. BOOK OF DEEDS, STOREY COUNTY COURT HOUSE - THE FOLLOWING BOOKS CONTAIN RELEVANT INFORMATION:
1. BOOK #36 , PAGE 130 AND 131
  2. BOOK #53 , PAGE 5 AND 6
  3. BOOK #53 , PAGE 7
  4. BOOK #52 , PAGE 569 AND 570
  5. BOOK #54 , PAGE 522
  6. BOOK #61 , PAGE 562 AND 563
- C. OFFICIAL RECORDS, STOREY COUNTY COURT HOUSE - THE FOLLOWING BOOKS CONTAIN RELEVANT INFORMATION:
1. BOOK #6 , PAGE 136 AND 137
  2. BOOK #6 , PAGE 138
  3. BOOK #9 , PAGE 435
  4. BOOK #26, PAGE 11
- D. CENSUS RECORDS, NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, RENO, NEVADA
1. 1880 CENSUS - INFORMATION ON GOODWIN JONES
  2. 1900 CENSUS - INFORMATION ON DR. THOMAS MCDONALD
  3. 1910 CENSUS - INFORMATION ON JOHN MCGRATH
- E. TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE, NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, RENO, NEVADA
1. MARCH 4, 1881 - BURGLARY OF JONES HOUSE, LISTED UNDER INFORMATION ON GOODWIN JONES
  2. OCTOBER 4, 1876 - REFERENCE TO ST. MARY'S FOR DATING PURPOSES
  3. NOVEMBER 15, 1876 - REFERENCE TO ST. MARY'S FOR DATING PURPOSES
- F. VIRGINIA CITY DIRECTORY 1878, COMSTOCK HISTORICAL DISTRICT - THIS CONTAINS INFORMATION ABOUT GOODWIN JONES
- G. PACIFIC COAST DIRECTORY 1886, CONTAINS INFORMATION ABOUT ROBERT PATTERSON

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   2  

---

SECONDARY SOURCES

- A. "ELEGANCE ON C STREET" - RICHARD DATIN - CHAPTER "THE BUILDING OF TRADITIONS" CONTAINS INFORMATION ON ROBERT PATTERSON.
- B. "VIRGINIA CITY VIGNETTES" - DOROTHY NICHOLS - CONTAINS INFORMATION ON JOHN MCGRATH.
- C. "ST. MARY'S IN THE MOUNTAINS - NEVADA'S BONANZA CHURCH" - VIRGIL BUCCHIANERI - CONTAINS INFORMATION ON ST. MARY'S RECONSTRUCTION IN 1876 AND LISTS VARIOUS PASTORS.
- D. PHOTOGRAPH IN THE DELTA SALOON - USED FOR DATING CONSTRUCTION
- E. CAROLINE BEAUPRE, ARCHIVIST FOR ST. MARY'S IN THE MOUNTAINS
- F. ART KUZNIEWSKI, FORMER RESIDENT OF THE PARISH HOUSE
- G. JOHN LANGMAN, FORMER OWNER OF THE PARISH HOUSE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

---

Verbal boundary description

Legal parcel number 01-147-04.

Verbal boundary justification

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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 93000688**

**Date Listed: 8/5/93**

Parish House  
**Property Name**

Storey  
**County**

NV  
**State**

N/A  
**Multiple Name**

-----  
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.

Patricia W. Andrews  
**Signature of the Keeper**

8/5/93  
**Date of Action**

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Significance:**

The nomination is amended to remove **Criterion B** to add **Criterion A** (Commerce), for the resource's significant association with numerous influential residents, including local businessmen and professionals. When the residents of a property, none of whom may be of individual significance, have collectively had a significant demonstrable impact on a community, the resource is more likely to be significant under Criterion A for a pattern of events. [see NR Bulletin 32, pp. 7-9]

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

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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