

PH 003712

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Mono
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAR 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mono County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:
same as above

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street (no number)

CITY OR TOWN:
Bridgeport, Mono County, California

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
18

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Mono** CODE: **051**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
County of Mono

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street (no number)

CITY OR TOWN:
Bridgeport

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
**Mono County Courthouse
T5N R25E Sec. 28 and 33
Corner of Main and School Streets**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street (no Number)

CITY OR TOWN:
Bridgeport

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Mono County Historical Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Mono County Courthouse and County Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main and School Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Bridgeport

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California
COUNTY: Mono
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a two and one-half story building and is a classic example of Victorian style of architecture of the late 1870's and 1880's. It is a white wooden structure with red trim around the high french windows, many of which still hold the original French hand-rolled glass panes. The Cupola is two stories with rounded dome roof with hand wrought iron railing and flag pole. Ceilings are 14 feet with 12-foot high doors of heavy oak and walnut wood. Building sits on a foundation of local, hand-hewn granite blocks. All lighting is electric and all early fixtures have been removed.

The building is 74 feet by 80 feet and was designed by J. R. Roberts. Total cost of the building was \$31,000. Contract for construction was sold at public auction, July 3, 1880 to Charles Anton, Samuel Hopkins and James Cain. They assumed \$23,000 of the original contract.

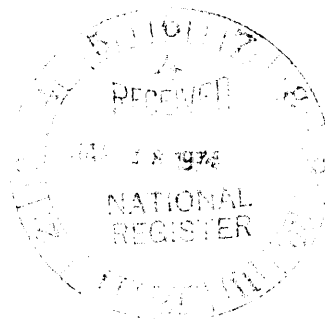
The plan of the building is clear, simple, and orderly. Entrances and windows are well-spaced.

The detailing is superb and well-designed to cast crisp shadows in the clear mountain air of the High Sierra. Although there is a "false front," for which structures in the 1880 West were famous, this one is solid and substantial and harmonizes well with the building as a whole. The east and west fronts have been treated in a simpler fashion, but still contain beautiful detailing around the openings. Just one window frame on the south front contains 137 separate pieces of milled or molded wood.

The fenestration is carried from the wood base almost to the 13-foot ceiling, giving the building great scale and dignity. Although the second floor line is well marked on the exterior, the arched windows at the second floor and the permanent architraves over them tend to unify first and second floor windows and emphasize a 32-foot high treatment. The architect has accomplished a similar result at the main entrance, the crowning glory of which is a grand cupola or belfry.

The exterior contains some unusual examples of the art of wood graining. Perhaps the most astounding feature is the remarkable safe doors which are installed in three locations. They still contain the original gold leaf lettering indicating they were cast in St. Louis in 1880 when they must have been floated down the Mississippi, carried around the Horn by sailing ship to San Francisco, and hauled over the Sierra Nevada by mule. The Superior Courtroom is a sight to behold.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Opened April 1, 1880**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

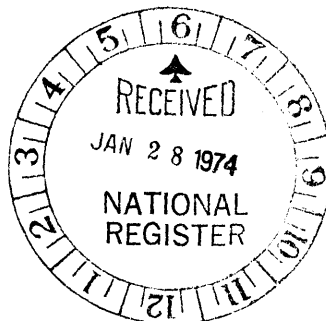
This is the second oldest operation of a courthouse in the State of California. It is still serving its original purpose. In the year of 1861, Aurora was serving as the county seat of Mono County. In that year, President Lincoln appointed Governor Nye as the first Governor of the Territory of Nevada. He in turn called for a special meeting of the Legislature and named Esmeralda County as part of that district. This started the argument and a new survey of the state line was called for and much to the embarrassment of the Mono County officials, Aurora was found to be located three miles inside the Nevada border.

Mono County officials hauled the county records to Kingsleys Inn in the new town of Bridgeport and this building served as a courthouse until the present one was built and opened in 1880. It is significant that this Courthouse has been serving a county that had its first County Seat not only in another county but also in another State. As far as is known, this is the only county in the United States with that distinction.

The Courthouse is a stately architectural statement. This grand old building reflects the opulence of the Bodie gold mines and the appreciation of a culture for which the early mining pioneers are famous.

According to Architectural historian, David Gebhard, the Mono County Courthouse is "one of the rare remaining examples of a California Italianate Courthouse. This beautifully kept 1880 wood building has all of the ingredients of the Italianate style: bracketed and pedimented canopies over windows, engaged columns and quoining at the corners, and a delightful miniature cupola with round headed windows and a curved mansard roof broken by small circular windows." (Page 418, A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Story of Bodie, Mrs. Ella M. Cain, 1956

Story of Early Mono County, Ella M. Cain, 1961

Mining Camp Days, Emil W. Billeb, 1968

Bodie, 1859-1900, Frank S. Wedertz, 1969

A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, David Gebhard, et. al; 1973

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

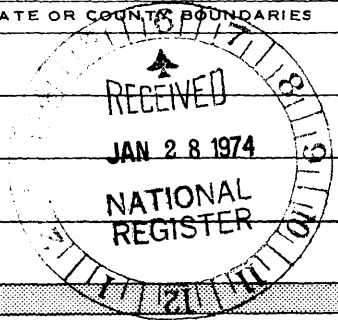
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		38° 15' 21"	119° 13' 33"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

11/305100
4225

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1.5 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Lee Symmonds, Mono County Historian and Curator

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Parks and Recreation, Mono Co. Museum** DATE: **June 20, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 104

CITY OR TOWN: **Bridgeport** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
Title: State Liaison Officer

Revision: January 16, 1974
Date: August 3, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/1/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3.1.74