

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| STATE: | NEVADA |
| COUNTY: | Washoe |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY DATE | NOV 8 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON: Benson Dillon, Billinghamst, Home House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 729 Evans Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Reno

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Nevada

STATE: Nevada

CODE: 32

COUNTY: Washoe

CODE: 031

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"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| 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 type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Nevada Highway Department

STREET AND NUMBER: 1263 South Stewart Street

CITY OR TOWN: Carson City

STATE: Nevada

CODE: 32

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washoe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: South Virginia Street

CITY OR TOWN: Reno

STATE: Nevada

CODE: 32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

NOV 8 1974

SEP 22 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

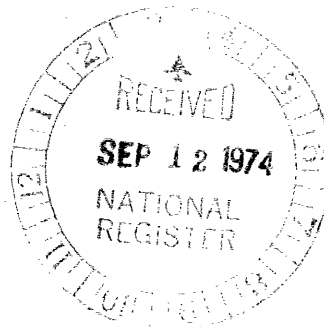
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This building was erected in 1940 as a residence for Benson Dillon Billinghamst, Superintendent of Washoe County's Schools. It is a wood-frame structure, two stories in height and is located on Evans Avenue near the University of Nevada. The design and construction indicate an unusual sensitivity on the part of the architect-builder and the building is a perfect example of the bungalow style of architecture developed at the turn of the century. The interior is stained pine, varnished and rubbed in five successive coats, and is a remarkable example of finish not found in modern construction. Most of the electric light fixtures are original and the bookcases, glass doors and mirrors are beveled.

The building has lap cedar and shingle siding, a gable composition shingle roof and a partial stone and concrete foundation. Interior finish is plaster with wood walls and ceilings and the floors are of hardwood. The first floor has a living room, den, formal dining area, kitchen dining area, utility room and one-half bath. The floor area for both stories totals 2,302 square feet.

On the second floor there are three bedrooms and one bath. The bedrooms have wall-to-wall carpeted floors, plaster walls and ceilings. On this level there is an enclosed porch of approximately 77 square feet.

The kitchen has been modernized, but retains the original birch and pine cabinets. There is a full basement with a concrete floor. A 544 square-foot triangular section at the rear of the lot has been taken for Interstate 80 highway construction. The freeway is depressed in the area and the rear property line is at the top of a long cut. The property is located in a multiple dwelling zone where one living unit is allowed per 1,000 square feet of land area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1908-1935

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input 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

The Benson Dillon Billingshurst Home is of state historical significance because of its association with Benson Dillon Billingshurst, a renowned Nevada educator. From 1908 up to the time of his death in December of 1935, he served as the Superintendent of Washoe County's Schools. His name and his influence are associated with many reforms and innovations in Nevada education. He was the first educator in the state to introduce the junior high school concept and under his administration five such schools were built and put into operation. He was also a leader and an innovator in industrial, home and commercial education in the state's schools. Among the other educational reforms he was associated with were the following: the establishment of the State Textbook Commission, laws providing free textbooks for school children, compulsory attendance laws, laws requiring medical examination of school children and laws dealing with better ways to finance education. He was also involved in raising the educational qualifications of Nevada teachers and in curriculum reform. For many years he lectured on educational matters at the University of Nevada.

Washoe County was the largest and best-financed school district in the state during Billingshurst's superintendency and the programs put into operation there were later adopted by other school districts. Billingshurst himself was often consulted by educators all over the state regarding their own educational programs and by legislators and governors on a wide range of educational matters. His good relations with students, parents, teachers, community leaders and political decision-makers smoothed the way for many reforms which otherwise would have met with a degree of opposition.

In 1933 the U.S. Department of Education rated Nevada's schools as second only to those of New York in quality and educational standards. This status was generally attributed to B.D. Billingshurst's work, vision and qualities of leadership.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washoe Landmark Preservation Inc, Unpublished report on the Benson D. Billinghamurst Home, Reno, Nevada, N.D.
 Sam P. Davis(ed.), The History of Nevada, Vol.1, Reno: The Elms Publishing Co., 1913, pp. 518-31, 1127.
 B.D. Billinghamurst, "The Reno Public Schools," Souvenir Edition, Nevada State Journal, July 28, 1912, pp.33-39.
 B.D. Billinghamurst, "Reno Public School System Has Set High Standard of Excellence," Nevada Newsletter, Special Number, Reno, Nevada, 1924, Its Resources, April 15, 1924, pp.36,39.

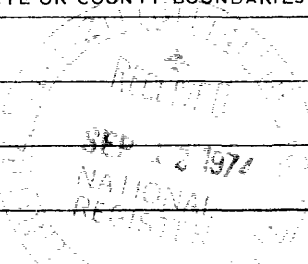
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 39 32 06 | 119 48 37 | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/8

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Phillip I. Earl, Curator of Exhibits

ORGANIZATION: Nevada Historical Society

DATE: Aug. 15, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1650 North Virginia Street

CITY OR TOWN: Reno

STATE: Nevada

CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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: Eric Corchillo

Title: Administrator (S.H.P.O.)

Date: 9-3-74

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

AR Montrose
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/8/74

ATTEST:

Charles H. King
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11-7-74

11/8/74
 11/8/74
 11/8/74

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