

NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

PROPERTY NAME:

<i>Historic</i> Nye County Mercantile Co. Building
<i>Common</i> NYCO Building

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-135
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> 147 Main	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Robert A. LaSalle		
<i>Street Address</i> 2725 Kietzke Ave.		
<i>City</i> Reno	<i>State</i> NV	<i>Zip</i> 89502

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> Commercial	
<i>Current Use</i> Commercial	<i>Acreage</i> less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i>	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1905	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July 1980
<i>View</i> Looking west at front facade	

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Nye County Mercantile Company Building is a two story commercial building constructed of concrete blocks. Its strictly symmetrical facade features a broad metal cornice detailed with modillions, dentils, and a moulded frieze. Openings on the second level are evenly placed, with alternating paired or independent double hung windows. The upper story wall is supported by three Doric Order cast iron columns which define the four storefront bays. The south bay contains an entrance to the second level stairway, the adjacent bay a double door entry to the storerooms, and the remaining bays contain two-part storefronts. Toplights have been enclosed and storefront carpentry may not be original. The interior of the building still contains the original decorative pressed metal ceiling. The concrete has deteriorated and partially fallen away but remaining portions of the building are intact.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nye County Mercantile Company building is significant for its historic association with early pioneer merchant and businessman Henry C. Cutting. It is also important for its contributions to the architectural fabric of Tonopah as being a locally rare example of the use of concrete block as a building material. Although machine made concrete block came into popular and wide spread use nationally during the early twentieth century, its application as a building material in Tonopah was almost non-existent. In a community where stone and wood frame buildings dominated the commercial street fronts, H.C. Cutting's NYCO building presents a unique and well crafted diversion. Cutting was among the first leasers in the district, arriving in Tonopah late in 1900. He was educated as a teacher and had served as Nevada's State Superintendent of Public Instruction before the turn of the century. His public service in Tonopah included membership on the first school board and the first board of City Commissioners. Aside from his mining interests, Cutting, along with partner B.F. Edwards, operated one of the first mercantile establishments in the community. He is also noted for establishing the first stock exchange in Tonopah in 1902. In 1905 Cutting reorganized his mercantile business as the Nye County Mercantile Company and had this two story structure built on Main Street. The second floor was used as lawyers offices including those of Patrick McCarran and William Morris Stewart.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Tonopah Bonanza, 1905
Travers, James W., Tonopah Past, Present and Future, np 1902

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lots 11, 12, Block A, Richardsons Survey 1907

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH
<i>Photo By</i>
<i>View</i>
<i>Date</i>

