

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only  
received JAN 24 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Twaddle Mansion

and/or common Norfolk Arts and Crafts Gallery

**2. Location**

street & number 485 West Fifth St. n/a not for publication

city, town Reno n/a vicinity of congressional district 2

state Nevada code 32 county Washoe code 031

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Edward L. & P. A. Aimone

street & number 485 West Fifth

city, town Reno n/a vicinity of state Nevada

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washoe County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Reno state Nevada

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title not represented has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair              unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Twaddle Mansion is an imposing Colonial Revival structure standing on the corner of Fifth and Ralston Streets. The two story wood frame structure has a large curved porch and Classical ornamentation. It stands on the northeast corner of West Fifth and Ralston Street, somewhat larger than the residences adjacent on either side. There is some vacant land across the street.

The Twaddle Mansion stands two stories in height, a wood frame structure surfaced with narrow clapboard siding. It was constructed c. 1905 by Benjamin Leon for Eben Twaddle. The foundation is of river rock with brick insets beneath the porch columns. The roof is hipped, and small dormer windows with diamond shaped panes project from it. Projecting eaves encircle the building. Brackets ornament the soffit beneath the eaves and above the plain frieze.

A cluster of fluted posts with Ionic capitals flank the stairway leading to the entrance. The posts support a decorative frieze and pediment. The gable of the pediment is also ornamented with a floriated design and the peak holds a finial. A shell pattern decorates the corners beneath the projecting pediment. A covered porch extends around the one story building on the west, also supported by the fluted posts and Ionic capitals. A balustrade of turned posts extends between the posts.

A large window with a highly decorative hood molding lights the first floor parlor, east of the entry. The projecting molding is gracefully arched and curved, ornamented with a highly floriated design, and held on either end by heavy decorative supports. The central portion is arched and flanked by narrower side lights. The frieze beneath the hood mold is highly decorative and continues the frieze line of the porch with its more geometric pattern. Building corners are defined by fluted pilasters with Ionic capitals. Windows are both double hung and fixed with beveled glass. Second floor facade windows are emphasized by ornamentation in the frieze above them.

A kitchen has been added to the structure, and the entry stairs may have been refurbished. Other alterations are primarily those minor changes required by building code to convert the structure to commercial uses.

A chain link fence protects the property and a lawn extends from the sidewalk to the building. Other landscaping includes shrubs and small trees.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c. 1905                      **Builder/Architect** Benjamin Leon

**Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)**

The Twaddle House is significant to the City both architecturally and historically. It is one of the City's finest representatives of the style and era architecturally. The dramatic house was constructed early in the 20th century for Eben Twaddle, an early day fire marshall and community figure.

Constructed c. 1905-1906 apparently by contractor Benjamin Leon, the Twaddle Mansion appears to be the finest representative of its style remaining in the city. The vernacular building utilizes the Colonial Revival style prominent at the time of its construction. The interpretation of that style in this structure is extremely rich. The ornamentation is outstanding in its variety and application. The lower floor, in particular, expresses a flamboyance to opulence rarely seen in a vernacular building outside of a good sized urban setting. The porch, arched facade window, and pedimented porch are unmatched in Reno in dramatic elegance. In fact, the lower floor is so ornamented, there is almost an imbalance between it and the more restrained decor of the upper floor.

The setting of the structure on a corner lot, almost isolated by its richness and scale, adds to its imposing image.

The Mansion was constructed for Eben Twaddle, a rancher and Reno Fire Marshall. The structure was later used as a place of residence for individuals undergoing a divorce, in order to establish Nevada residency. It was subsequently utilized as a religious center for the Baha'i religious group. Currently it serves a commercial purpose as the Norfolk Arts and Crafts Gallery.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Reno, Nevada, City Directories: 1904, 1906  
Founder's Title Company of Nevada, Title and Deed Records  
Reno, Magazine, August, 1979, Vol. 1, No. 6  
Interview: Ed & Pat Aimone, May, 1982  
Nevada State Journal, Nevada Life, June 24, 1976

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .21 acres

Quadrangle name Reno

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

### UMT References

A 

1	1	2	5	7	6	12	10	4	13	7	19	2	12	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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D 

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E 

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G 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification:** Washoe Co. Assessor's Parcel # 07-252-11  
Located on the NE corner of the intersection of Ralston and W. Fifth Street,  
the property has 92' frontage on Ralston St. and 100' on W. Fifth. This  
block was originally subdivided into 50X140' lots. The Twaddle property

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Boghosian

organization Historical Environment Consultants date June, 1982

street & number 2306 J Street, Penthouse telephone (916) 446-2447

city or town Sacramento state California, 95816

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James M. Hamrick

title Alternate SHPO

date January 14, 1983

For HCRS use only

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

Linda McCluskey  
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/17/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

Twaddle Mansion

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE One

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consists of the South 92' of lots 1 and 2 of the original subdivision.  
The residence is located on its original site.

