

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **AUG 3 1987**  
DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC *Gray House, Joseph H.*

AND/OR COMMON  
*See above*

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
*457 Court Street*

CITY, TOWN

*Reno*

STATE

*Nevada*

*N/A* -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*N/A* VICINITY OF

*2*

CODE  
*32*

COUNTY  
*Washoe*

CODE  
*031*

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- N/A*  BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME *Gray Mansion Associates*

STREET & NUMBER  
*457 Court Street*

CITY, TOWN  
*Reno*

*N/A* VICINITY OF

STATE  
*Nevada*

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET & NUMBER  
*S. Virginia Street*

CITY, TOWN  
*Reno*

STATE  
*Nevada 89501*

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
*Newland Heights Cultural Resource Survey*

DATE  
*1980*

- FEDERAL
- STATE
- COUNTY
- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
*Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology*

CITY, TOWN

*Carson City*

STATE  
*Nevada*

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joseph H. Gray House is a two story, wood frame dwelling constructed C. 1911. Built by prominent Reno Department Store owner, Joseph H. Gray, the building follows a design integrating Colonial Revival style ornamentation with massing associated with Queen Ann design. The dwelling, whose architect has not been identified, retains a high degree of integrity. The structure is currently used for professional offices.

The Gray House occupies a prominent, landscaped lot on Court Street in the Newland Heights area of Reno. Although many buildings have been converted to commercial offices, the area retains its residential character defined by low scale, single family dwellings dating from the first three decades of the twentieth century.

The Gray House is supported by a raised, random rubble foundation and terminates in an asphalt shingle roof incorporating both gable and hip forms. The dwelling's roof eaves are extended and include decorative exposed rafters. The first story of the asymmetrical building is spanned by an open shed porch supported by paired Tuscan columns which rise from a shallow balustrade sheathed in weather boarding. The masonry of the dwelling is irregular. Exterior wall planes are sheathed in weatherboarding while building corners are defined by narrow cornerboard. Windows are two-light-over-two-light sash enframed by simple board surrounds.

The principal entrance to the structure is marked by a slightly projecting pedimented porch supported by paired, Tuscan columns.

A single bay, single story garage is located to the rear of the site. The garage is supported by a shallow rubble foundation and terminates in a flat roof defined by a shallow parapet. This simple, frame structure is contemporary with the dwelling.

The site includes two contributing buildings: A two story dwelling and a single story garage.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### CRITERIA C

#### Summary

The Joseph H. Gray House is an architecturally significant, two story dwelling indicative of the suburban design associated with Reno's Rio Vista Heights Subdivision; the city's most prominent and architecturally influential residential development of the early 20th century. Constructed in 1911, the Gray House exemplifies the transition between the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles in a western residential context.

#### Elaboration

The development of Rio Vista Heights dates to 1906 and can be credited to prominent Nevadan, Francis G. Newlands. Newlands, who served the state as both a Congressman (1893-1903) and Senator (1903-1917) was responsible for introducing the Reclamation Act of 1902; legislation which opened up ten million acres in the west for irrigation and subsequent settlement. Newlands was also a private land developer responsible for the subdivision of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and Rio Vista Heights in Reno. The residential area is commonly known as Newland Heights.

The Reno subdivision, overlooking the Truckee River, attracted prominent local merchants and professionals who constructed sizable suburban dwellings reflecting then current architectural trends.

Built around 1911, the Gray Mansion is an imposing and attractive example of Queen Anne form and Colonial Revival ornamentation. It is one of the most imposing and well preserved structure of its style in the area. The dwelling was constructed by prominent area merchant, Joseph H. Gray as his residence.

Joseph Henry Gray was born in Truckee, California, November 8, 1869. He belonged to a pioneering family which contributed to westward movement into the Sierra Mountain range. Around the turn of the century, Gray moved to Reno where he became one of the founders of Grey, Reid, Wright Company in 1900. He helped build it into one of the area's most successful businesses.

Gray commissioned the construction of the Mansion at 457 Court Street ca. 1911. The massive structure, situated in the most prestigious Reno neighborhood of its time was an appropriate expression of the wealth and success of one of the area's most successful merchants. Gray sold his interest in the business in 1928, but continued as an active participant in the business until the early 1950s. The Grey Reid Department Store remained in business in Reno until the early 1980s.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Zauner, Phyllis, Reno-Sparks, Nevada; Tahoe Paradise, California: Zanel Publications, 1978.  
 Stone, Lew W., "Beautiful Homes in Reno 1915," Nevada State Journal, 1980-81  
 Wright, Thomas Preston, "A Reno Renaissance," Reno, August 1979, p. 12  
So This Is Reno, Junior League, Reno, The Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology.  
Nevada State Journal, July 21, 1956  
Reno Evening Gazette, July 21, 1956

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	2 5 7 7 8 15	4 3 7 8 3 8 10	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Parcel Number 11-101-09 of the Reno, Nevada subdivision recorded as Rio Vista Heights Subdivision (1906).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Kathryn M. Kuranda Architectural Historian  
Ronald M. James, Deputy, State Historic Preservation Officer  
 ORGANIZATION Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology DATE 05/01/87  
 STREET & NUMBER 201 South Fall Street, Room 106 TELEPHONE (702) 885-5138  
 CITY OR TOWN Carson City, STATE Nevada 89710

## 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Ronald M. James Deputy  
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 7/24/87

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Jude McClelland</u>	DATE <u>11/20/87</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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

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

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received 8/2/87  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Elaboration Continued

Joseph Gray maintained residency at 457 Court Street from 1911 until his death on July 20, 1956.

After the death of Gray in 1956, the structure became the residency of a number of successive owners. In 1986, it was converted to professional office space.