

# NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

## PROPERTY NAME:

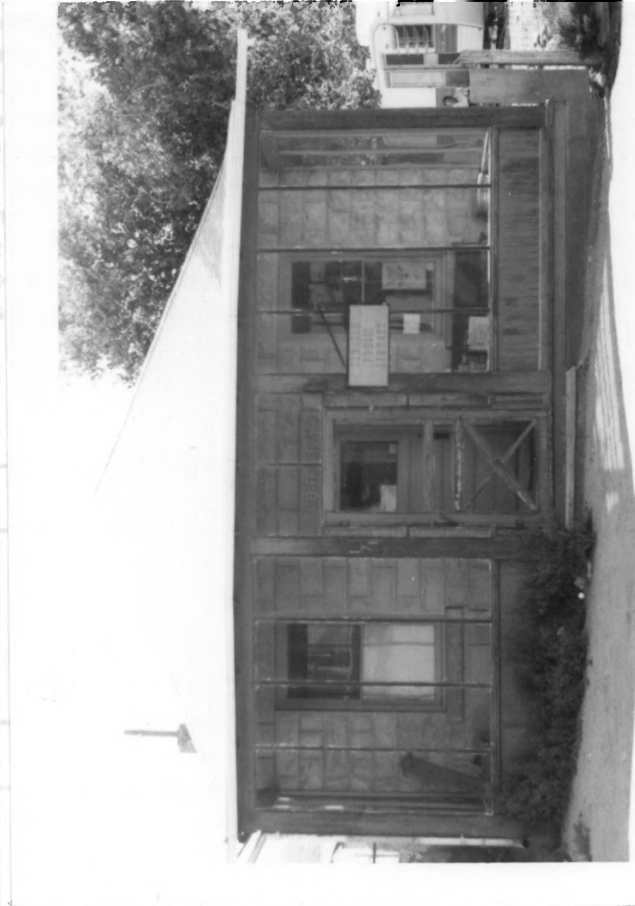
<i>Historic</i> Tonopah Public Library
<i>Common</i>

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-117
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

## LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> 171 Central	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

## CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



## CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Tonopah Public Library		
<i>Street Address</i> General Delivery		
<i>City</i> Tonopah,	<i>State</i> NV	<i>Zip</i> 89049

## 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> Library	
<i>Current Use</i> Library	<i>Acreage</i> less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i> John J. Hill, Builder	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1906	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July 1980
<i>View</i> Front facade looking west	

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Tonopah Public Library is a single story stone structure with a low pitched hipped roof. The plan is rectangular and measures 38 feet long by 28 feet wide. A shed roof extends from the building covering the front porch which is supported by four box columns separated by low frame walls. The front facade features coursed dressed stone while the rear and side walls are of random ashlar construction. The word "library" is cut into the stone lintel in a tablet format over the front entryway. Stone lintels and sills are also featured at all other window openings. A pair of tall rectangular double hung windows flank the entry at the front facade. Half windows at the side walls allow for book shelving inside while still permitting light to enter from above. A stone chimney projects through the eave at the south slope of the roof. Cornerstones located on either side of the front facade read respectively: "Erected, 1906" and "John J. Hill, Builder". Modifications to the building are minor and include the replacement of original green shingles with asphalt, the screening in of the front porch and wood infill at the original rail line. These modifications occur without severely altering the character of the building. Although in need of minor maintenance, the Tonopah Library is in sound condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Tonopah Public Library is significant for its continuous role in the development of the community and as one of the best preserved stone buildings dating from the Tonopah boom period. Local builder John J. Hill completed the structure in January 1906 and since that date the building has had continuous use as a library. The donation in 1901 of approximately 200 volumes by George F. Weeks precipitated the beginnings of the local library. The books were donated in memory of Weeks' brother, J.R. Weeks, whose death resulted in reportedly, the first funeral in Tonopah. A variety of temporary locations housed the volumes until a lot was secured on Central Street in early 1905. Mrs. Grace R. Moore and her daughter, Marjorie Moore Brown, wife of Tonopah Mining Company attorney, Hugh Henry Brown, (TON-151) were instrumental in sponsoring fund-raising events such as library socials and lectures, proceeds of which went to the cost of constructing the library. Donations from several prominent residents further supplemented these funds. The building also bears the distinction of being the best preserved example of early stone construction in Tonopah. Unmodified, except for an early screen porch infill at the front facade, the library retains its original integrity of design and materials. Although modest in size and in detailing, the library exemplifies the stone craftsmanship typical of this period in Tonopah's architectural development.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Tonopah Bonanza, 1901-1906  
Tonopah Sun 1905-1906

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Lot 28, Block F, Richardson Survey 1907

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

*Photo By*

Unknown

*View*

Front facade, looking west

*Date*

c. 1906

