

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 16 1982
MAY 27 1982
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 ST. CHARLES HOTEL - MULLER'S HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON Pony Express Hotel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 302-304-310 South Carson Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Carson City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Nevada-at-large

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE Nevada

CODE 32

COUNTY Carson City CODE 025

3 CLASSIFICATION

(independent county)

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<i>n/a</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dennis Sayan

STREET & NUMBER 310 S. Carson Street

CITY, TOWN Carson City

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE Nevada 89701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carson City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 198 North Carson Street

CITY, TOWN Carson City

STATE Nevada 89701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Carson City Architectural Survey by Historic Environment Consultants

DATE March, 1980 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Carson City Planning Dept. & Div. of Historic Preservation & Archeology

CITY, TOWN Carson City

STATE Nevada 89701

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

Situated on Carson Street (Federal Highway 395), the St. Charles-Muller's Hotel, now known as the Pony Express Hotel, faces the Nevada State Capitol complex. Originally constructed in 1862, the hotel is the only brick structure on Main Street remaining from that era. Although the porches and cornices have been removed, the exterior elevations retain their structural and visual integrity. On the interior, the upper floors are essentially unaltered and in the St. Charles portion of the hotel, the original lobby space remains although it has been converted to a bar.

The buildings, located to the west of the Capitol complex, are situated amid several blocks of similarly-scaled stone, brick and stuccoed commercial and governmental structures.

The southern section (306-310 S. Carson) is the Muller's Hotel, a two-story rectangular brick structure in a simple vernacular style with Italianate details. There are four brick segmental arched openings on the street level, with the supporting pier between one of them removed. The second story has five brick segmental arched window openings, filled in and fitted with small windows. The windows throughout vary from 1 over 1 lights to 6 over 6 lights, newer casement, and some fixed store fronts. The roof is flat, screened by a short, false parapet from which a high-car dentil course frieze band has been removed.

Alterations to Muller's include a two-story, brick, shed-roofed addition at the rear, and a one-story concrete block addition at the rear of that. Removed many years ago was a one-story, four-bay porch crowned with a lattice wood balustrade and squared posts. The original openings on this floor consisted of five pairs of french-door type windows. It is supposed that at least one set of these opened on to the porch. The lobby has been extensively altered, but the interior spaces appear intact. At some point, doors connecting the two hotels were cut into the south wall of the St. Charles.

The structure to the north of Muller's is the St. Charles Hotel (302-304 S. Carson), a three-story rectangular brick commercial building, flat roofed and occupying a 34x80 foot city lot. The east elevation has four openings, containing two recessed doorways, and two fixed windows; all having granite facing at their base. The four second-story and the four third-story windows have large wooden lintels, slightly angled to suggest pediments. Various fixed and sash windows have replaced the original french-door type windows.

The north elevation window frames are smaller in scale, and were/are filled with 6 over 6 sliding sash. The same angled lintels appear on this elevation. Most openings on the lower north elevation appear original and include at least one original sash window.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 August, 1862 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Contractor - T.T. Israel, Muller, Plitt, Remington

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Charles-Muller's Hotel, built in 1862, is significant on several levels. It was the first permanent hostelry in Carson City, built at a time when the city was in its infancy and important government monuments such as the Capitol building had not been conceived. As two admirable vernacular Italianate structures when constructed, it is the only commercial brick structure from that era remaining in the city. It is additionally significant as the only continuously operating hotel in the State of Nevada, having served the public from 1862 to the present day. It has certainly contributed to the broad pattern of our history.

Muller's Hotel, the southern section of the Pony Express Hotel, begun May 1862, was built by Albert J. Muller upon the site where he and George W. Remington had formerly operated a bakery business. It was finished in August 1862.

St. Charles Hotel, the northern section of the Pony Express Hotel, begun April Fool's Day 1862 by George W. Remington and Daniel Plitt, with local brickmaker, T.T. Israel, as its contractor, was completed in August 1862. Remington's brothers were involved in the teaming business and in a carpenter's shop which had formerly been located on the site of the St. Charles.

There had been another hotel called the St. Charles in Carson City during the year of 1860, although located at another site and short-lived. It was during this time period that George Remington and Albert Muller, both young men in their twenties, and later joined by Daniel Plitt, were operating a bakery business near the corner of Carson and Third Streets. When it was determined that Carson City was destined to become a thriving town and the capital of the Nevada Territory, these young men realized it was the proper time to build a substantial brick hotel. They all liked the Name "St. Charles" for a hotel since many of the finest eastern hotels were so named. The name "St. Charles" had been well-known by these men as a city situated on the Missouri River, founded by the French in 1769, and capital of the Northwest Territory and Missouri State Capital from 1820 to 1826.

It was decided that the men would build two hotels, side-by-side, pretentiously located across the street from the "Playa", where one day they knew the Nevada State Capital building would be constructed. Whether by the flip of a silver dollar, or by mutual agreement, it was Remington who gained title to the name of St. Charles. Barely finished, the St. Charles' owners leased the "bar room and reading room" on August 9, 1862, to Charles B. Slicer for \$150 a month rent, reserving a small space therein for an office.

The anxious Slicer placed this ad in the September 13, 1862 issue of the Silver Age: "St. Charles Saloon - Charley Slicer, proprietor. My friends will here after find me at the corner of Carson and Third Streets in the new brick building recently

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carson City Courthouse records, Assessor's records, Nevada directories, Historic Environment Consultants, 2306 J. Street, Sacramento, Calif., Territorial Enterprise, Daily State Register, Nevada Appeal, Silver Age, Nevada Magazine, Fall 1979. Basso, Dave Sagebrush Chronicles, Vol. 1, Carson City, Dave Basso, Pub.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A 11 261000 4338200
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
 B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is situated on two city lots, each 34x80 feet, at the southwest corner of Carson Street and Third Street. It is contained within lot 1 and lot 4 of block 26, Sears, Thompson and Sears Division; the first plat of Carson City, sold in August of 1859.

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 W. E. Wieprecht, Historian, Nevada SHPO office (702) 885-5138
Noreen I.K. Humphreys for Dennis Sayan
 ORGANIZATION Private Citizen DATE June 15, 1980
 STREET & NUMBER 611 Mary Street TELEPHONE 882-1918
 CITY OR TOWN Carson City STATE Nevada 89701

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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 *Dennis Rodden*
 TITLE Administrator DATE April 5, 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>William H. Brankam</u>	DATE <u>5-27-82</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	DATE <u>5/26/82</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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St. Charles Hotel - Muller's Hotel

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Alterations to the St. Charles include the removal of a one-story porch which occupied the same level as the Muller's porch. Lower porch columns appear to have been stylized doric, while the upper balustrade consisted of numerous turned balusters supported by elaborate turned posts. A wide, plain frieze once appeared below a projecting boxed cornice supported by paired brackets with pendants. The date of the removal of these features is unknown. Also altered are the sills of the second floor windows, raised at some point after the removal of the porch.

Both structures were stuccoed around 1930, the remnants of which are visible at the frieze level of the St. Charles, and on the north elevation. This surface was removed by sandblasting and appears to have affected the structure in varying degrees. The softer brick on the rear and south elevations appears to have suffered the most. Preliminary certification for Tax Act purposes has been issued for the rehabilitation of this structure. A re-stuccoing requirement has been tentatively suggested for the rehabilitation project by the National Park Service.

The Pony Express Hotel, with its 14,000 square feet, has five inch wide pine floors throughout its present sixteen hotel rooms, seven apartments, central stairwells, twenty-four toilet rooms, lobby, saloon, restaurant, and retail shop. The brick walls are twenty-two inches thick.

It will be rehabilitated, with its significant historical architectural features duplicated, including the porches.

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St. Charles - Muller's Hotel

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

erected where I now have the finest saloon in Carson and will always keep on hand the most choice brands of liquor, cigars, etc. Also all the late daily papers of Nevada Territory and California. Call and see me boys and you will find the St. Charles exactly as I represent it to be - the pleasantest resort in Carson and where everything kept by the bar is the best quality."

Immediately, many of the prestigious members of the city's society began patronizing the St. Charles Hotel. Dr. A. W. Tjader and Dr. J.D. Thompson announced to the public that they had established offices in the hotel. Hoping to attract the attention of the legislators, office seekers and lobbyists due to arrive for the Second Territorial session of the Nevada Legislature, the owners placed their very first ad in the October 2, 1862 newspaper. "St. Charles Hotel, Remington and Plit proprietors. This new and elegant hotel has just been completed and handsomely furnished throughout, and is now open to the public, who will at all times find it the most desirable and commodious first class house in Carson at which to stop. Our table will be supplied with the best in the market, and accomodating and experienced waiters will always be in attendance. The Pioneer Stage Company's office is in our house --".

A month later reporter Andrew Marsh, who arrived in town to cover the Legislature for the California newspapers, wrote a flowing description. "After a year's absence, once more within the realms of Governor Nye, the land of silver and gold mines, of dust, of loose six-shooters and bad whiskey, of dirty brown hill and sage brush, the land teeming with wealth and energy - One year has wrought wonderful changes in this city. The St. Charles, a tall new brick hotel, with a very showy front - where all the stages stop first when they come to town. This has sprung up entirely de novo within the year. On the ground floor last year was a very small restaurant, kept by Remington, one of the present proprietors -. The other proprietor is G. Haswell, formerly a deputy Sheriff in Sacramento. The building is three stories high, of brick, thirty-four feet by eighty, and contains somewhere from thirty to fifty sleeping rooms, besides parlor, dining room, offices, etc."

Muller's Hotel did little advertizing, catering to the working class. Its patronage was largely derived from French Canadian wood choppers. This is not surprising since French-born Albert Muller, a professional baker and his wife, Lena, a good cook, were overseeing the dining room.

The St. Charles, the hub of activity, was in competition with other hotels, such as the Ormsby House, a block away. Social events, such as the wedding of Joseph L. Salmon and Louisa Baker, a local Genoa counple, were highly touted. On the other hand, bar room scuffles in which gun wielding men broke windows and skulls occurred. Murder had been committed and suicide attempted, but when such things happened, the staff maintained an impeccable decorum in order not to disturb the other guests.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

The St. Charles Hotel had had numerous owners and proprietors, when in July, 1863, the well-known lawyer, editor and publisher, John C. Lewis, leased the hotel. He solicited the patronage of the traveling public, offering forty well-ventilated rooms furnished with spring and hair mattresses. Colonel Samuel Youngs of Esmeralda County, the oldest member of the 1863 constitutional convention of the Nevada Legislature, wrote in his diary, "Am boarding at the St. Charles, \$15 per week."

George Tufly became the owner of the St. Charles in 1866, a position he held until the 1880's. He had just returned from his homeland in Switzerland and Germany, in 1872, when he had the hotel overhauled and renovated with all the walls freshly white-washed and papered. Linens for the hotel were always sparkling clean, a specialty of the Chinese Wash House connected to the rear of the hotel.

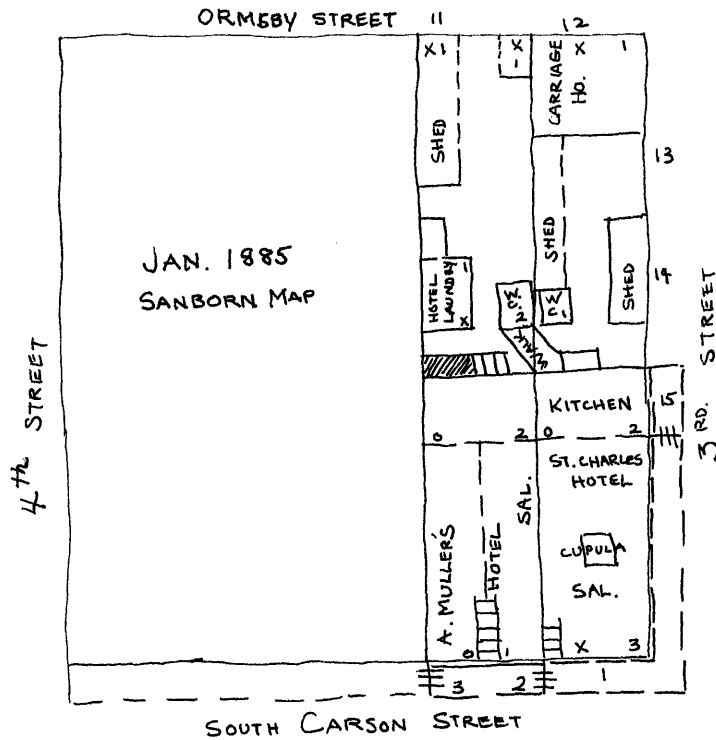
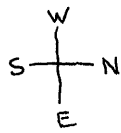
It was during Tufly's tenure that a sweet voiced boy named Richard Jose ventured into the hotel's bar, offering songs for his supper. The boy and man liked each other, both being rather plump. Little did Tufly know that Richard Jose, the Cornish ballad singer, would one day be famous, performing at Carnegie Hall, and making recordings for Victor Talking Machine Company. Little did Tufly know that Jose was also destined to become his grandson when he married Theresa Shrieves. Theresa was the child of Tufly's daughter, Louisa Tufly Shrieves, and V&T railroad conductor, Harrison Shrieves.

By 1895, Gilbert Briggs and his wife, Dorcas, purchased the St. Charles and Muller's, changing the name to Briggs' House. He offered meals for 25¢ and a free bus to the railroad depot. The combined hotels changed hands and names several times after that, until the mid 1900's when it became known as the Pony Express Hotel.

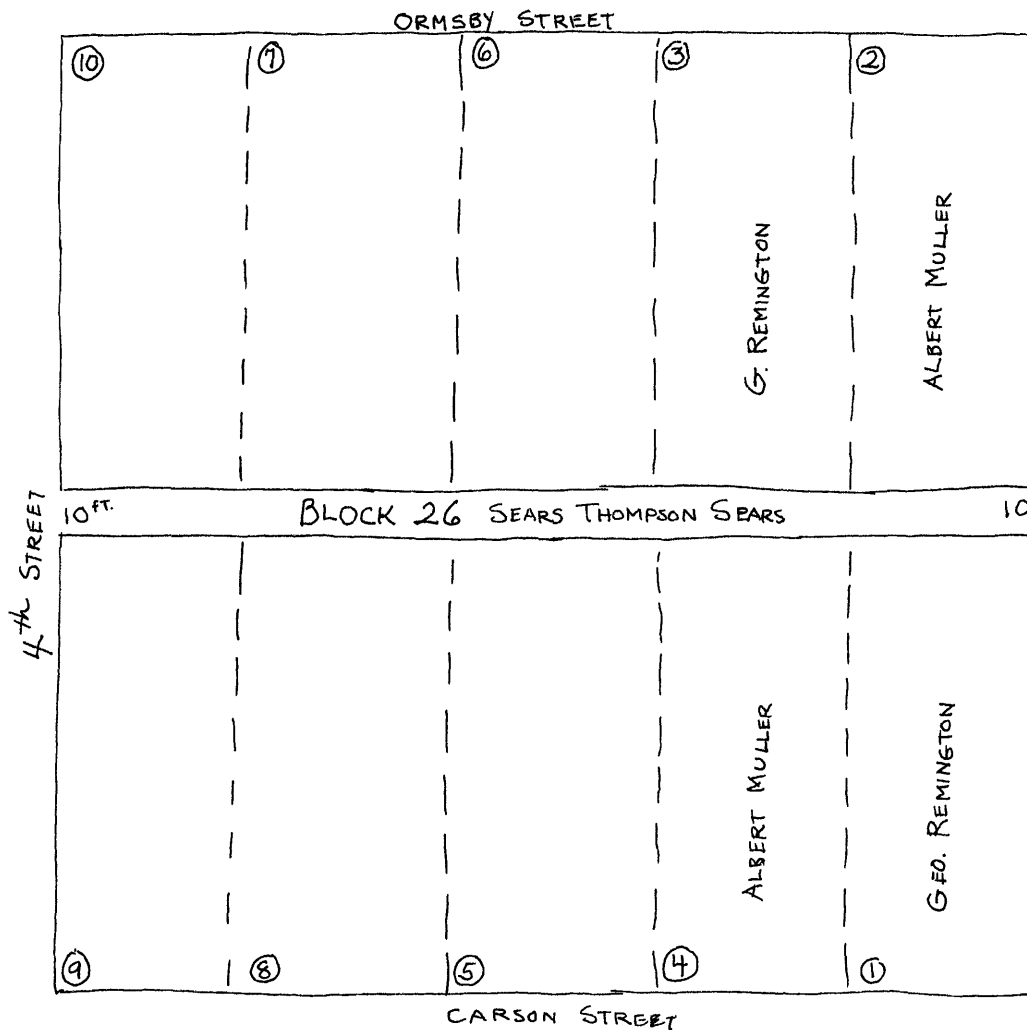
The 1957 Hotel Red Book listed three hotels in Carson City, the Pony Express with 32 rooms had the largest room count. The hotel has housed many businesses throughout its lifetime, such as stage coach office, saloon, restaurant, butcher-barber-flower-antique and retail shops. During prohibition the bar room served as a grammar school class room, following a fire at the school house. Today, the Pony Express Hotel houses on its main floor, a lobby, corner bar, Chinese restaurant, commercial shop and the manager's apartment.

Currently, plans for the rehabilitation of the interior, and restoration of the exterior are being formulated.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL, MULLER'S HOTEL, NOW (1980) PONY EXPRESS HOTEL - CARSON CITY, NEVADA
 MAPS REDRAWN FROM ORIGINALS BY NOREEN HUMPHREYS 1980



APR 16 1982



ALL LOTS 34 X 80 FEET

ASSESSOR'S MAP
 FOR YEAR 1864

BIRDS EYE VIEW OF CARSON CITY

ORMSBY COUNTY

NEVADA

1875

LOOKING

SOUTH WEST

APR 26 1882

© 1972



- 10 ORMSBY HOUSE.
- *11 ST. CHARLES HOTEL.
- 12 CORBETT HOUSE.
- 13 CARSON CITY BREWERY.
- 14 WINNIE & DAVID'S LIVERY STABLE.

