

MAY 5 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Stateline Road at Route 28  not for publication

city or town Crystal Bay  vicinity

state Nevada code NV county Washoe code 031 zip code 89402

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Jane 4/29/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register Date of Action 6/3/94

Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel

Name of Property

Washoe County, Nevada

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Unknown

foundation

walls weatherboard, shingle, log

roof wood shingle

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1935-1942

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Name of Property

Washoe County, Nevada  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .26 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	1	2	4	0	6	5	0	4	3	4	6	1	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

3 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

2 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

4 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ana Beth Koval, Architectural Historian and Katharine Boyne, Historian

organization Rainshadow Associates

date July 1992

street & number 755 Forest Street, Suite 300

telephone 702-322-9542

city or town Reno

state NV

zip code 89509

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Tahoe Crystal Bay Inc., Attn: Dick Piper

street & number P.O. Box 37

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Crystal Bay

state NV

zip code 89402

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Washoe County, NV

### Description

The Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel, constructed in 1935, is a two-and-one-half-story building that originally belonged to the Cal-Vada Lodge, a Lake Tahoe resort and casino. The lodge is located in Crystal Bay, Nevada, on Highway 28, which circles Lake Tahoe. Casinos, hotels, and retail establishments along the highway give the neighborhood a commercial character. However, the nearby lake and forests lend a rustic feeling to the area. An example of the Bungalow style, the hotel adopts its own air of rusticity with its wood shingles, carved brackets, and other details. The building is currently vacant, but retains a high degree of exterior and interior integrity.

Several projections, porches, and balconies soften the structure's boxy shape. The hotel stands approximately 35 feet by 45 feet with projections on all four sides. Manufactured log skirting hides the foundation. The wood-frame building is sheathed in wide clapboard siding on the first floor and wood shingles laid in a staggered pattern above. The window and door surrounds are narrow, plain milled boards. The multi-light (divided vertically)-over-one-light, double-hung, wood sasn windows appear to be original. The front door, flanked by sidelights, is constructed of vertical boards pierced by three vertical, stepped panes with wrought-iron hardware. Other vertical-board doors and french doors, with narrow lights divided by vertical muntins, lead to the building's porches and balconies. The clipped gable roofs of the main structure and projections, and the shed roofs over the porches are covered with wood shingles and finished with exposed rafter ends and brackets with knee braces. A neon and enamel sign which reads, "Cal-Vada Lodge," projects from the ridgeline.

Each elevation of the building has a central projection two stories in height. The front (west) projection contains an open

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number 7 Page 2

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Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Washoe County, NV

Description (continued)

porch on the second floor and an enclosed porch on the first floor. One-story porches flank the projections on the west and south elevations. On the north side, a one-story porch stands to the east of the large projection. Instead of porches, the rear (east) elevation has two small triangular balconies off the second level which flank the projection. The porches are finished with shingled posts and flat wood brackets and balusters. The balconies have similar balustrades.

The interior has fifteen guest rooms, ten bathrooms, and a lobby. The existing floor plans appear to be original. The wall and ceiling surfaces vary and include mottled plaster, paneled walls, knotty pine beaded board walls, diagonal board ceilings, and split log ceilings. Linoleum and carpet cover the floors. Each room is a little different; some have simple painted decorations on the ceiling beams. All the interior doors have five panels each. In addition to the original interior door and window hardware, are wrought-iron curtain rods and lighting fixtures. The bathrooms appear to be original; only some of the plumbing fixtures have been replaced.

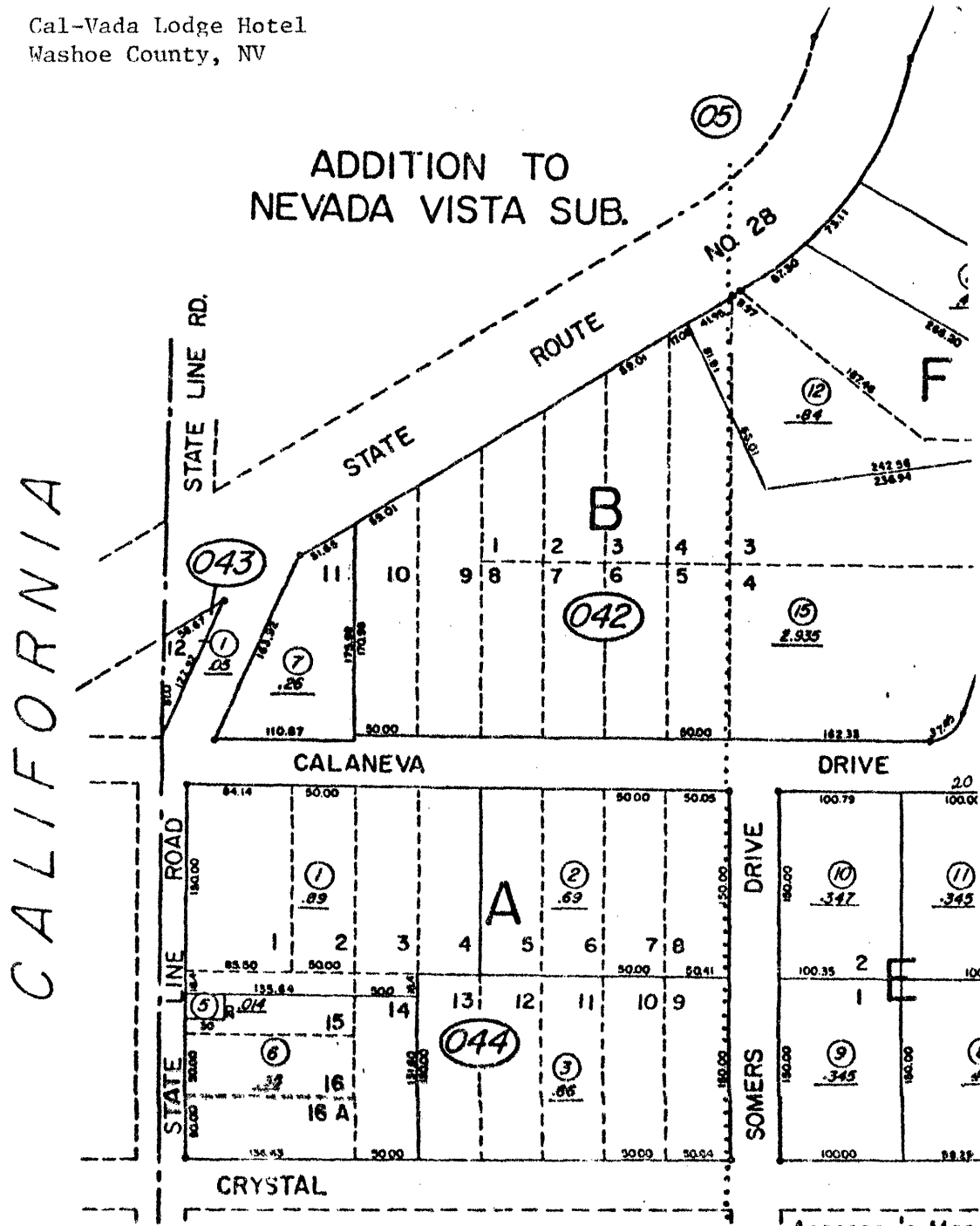
The building is vacant and in fair condition. It needs a new roof and is open to the elements due to a few broken windows. The only exterior alteration appears to be the enclosure of a first floor porch; the only interior alteration appears to be the replacement of some plumbing fixtures.

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Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Washoe County, NV



NOTE: This Map is prepared for the use of the Washoe County Assessor for Assessment and illustrative purposes only. It does not represent surveys of the premises. No liability is assumed as to the sufficiency or accuracy of the data delineated hereon.

Assessor's Map  
County of  
Washoe, Nev.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

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Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Washoe County, NV

**Statement of Significance**

Built in 1935, the Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel in Crystal Bay, Nevada, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as an intact example of a resort hotel at Lake Tahoe. It is one of the few extant hotels built in the 1930s in the Tahoe Basin which retains its integrity. The building is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an important example of a small hotel designed in the Bungalow/Craftsman style and set in a rustic resort setting.

Historical background and significance

Various interpretations attempt to explain the naming of Crystal Bay. The site may have been named for George Iweis Crystal, the first property owner, or for the rock crystals found in the area, or, perhaps, simply for the lake's crystal clear waters. The area, first identified on maps as Crystal Bay in 1873, was logged by the Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company.

Several factors influenced the development of Lake Tahoe's north shore into a resort. In 1927, California passed new tax laws that prompted wealthy Californians to relocate in Nevada. That same year, Nevada reduced its divorce residency requirements to three months. This change increased the growth of the hotel and entertainment industries in northern Nevada as individuals seeking a quick divorce flooded the state. Another significant event was Nevada's legalization of gambling in 1931. Most of the early Lake Tahoe lodges added a gambling component to their business soon after the passage of that law. Finally, the road ringing Lake Tahoe was completed in 1931, allowing easier access to Crystal Bay by visitors from California and Nevada.

Harry O. Comstock, president of the Brockway Lank & Water Company, first developed the Crystal Bay area with the Nevada



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Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Washoe County, NV

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Vista residential subdivision in 1926. The following year, Norman Henry Blitz came to Crystal Bay to sell real estate for Robert Sherman and his two partners, Spencer Grant and Harry Comstock. Biltz had a talent for attracting millionaires to Crystal Bay and other Nevada communities. The commercial development of the area began with the construction of the original Cal-Neva Lodge in 1927.

Lawrence P. McKelvey also played a major role in shaping Crystal Bay into a resort for the affluent. He purchased three parcels from the Nevada Vista Corporation and constructed the area's second lodge in 1927, called the La-Vada Lodge. McKelvey may have used the building as a gambling club as well (Scott, Vol. II., p. 126). In the early 1930s, he enlarged and refurbished the building, awaiting the repeal of prohibition. He also changed the name to the Cal-Vada Lodge (Scott, Vol. II., p. 126). In order to accommodate the rising number of visitors to the lodge, he erected single and double cabins nearby. In 1935, McKelvey again increased his business at Crystal Bay with the construction of the Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel, immediately to the north of the La-Vada Lodge.

"The LaVada Lodge was later known as the CalVada Lodge. This lodge, Jerry Rayburn recalls, was elegant and plush, visited by many celebrities, among whom was Evelyn Walsh McLean, owner of the Hope Diamond" (Van Tassel, p. 55). The hotel constituted the first lodging establishment in Crystal Bay and the largest through the 1950s. It appears to have served the clientele of both the Cal-Vada Lodge and the Cal-Neva Lodge, which did not have lodging rooms until the 1950s. These two lodges attracted a wealthy crowd from around the United States to the shores of Lake Tahoe.

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Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Washoe County, NV

Statement of Significance (continued)

By the late 1930s, the development of the Crystal Bay area had exploded. In 1937, the Ta-Neva-Ho Lodge was constructed and increased the size of the north shore resort community. Now known as the Crystal Bay Club, the building has been substantially enlarged and remodeled. That same year, the Cal-Neva Lodge burned to the ground. Norman Blitz rebuilt it in thirty-seven days on the same site. By 1958, the following resorts operated on the north shore of Lake Tahoe: the North Shore Club, the Sierra Lodge, the Nevada Lodge (Tahoe Biltmore), the Crystal Bay Club (Ta-Neva-Ho), the Monte Carlo, the Cal-Vada Lodge (Bal Taberin), and the Cal-Neva Lodge.

Of all the early resort buildings in Crystal Bay, the Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel is the only building which retains a high degree of integrity. Its neighbor, the Cal-Vada Lodge, remains in its original location south of the hotel, but it has been extensively remodeled and does not retain its historic integrity.

The Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel is significant under Criterion C as a prominent example of a Lake Tahoe lodge built in the bungalow style. A rustic version of this style was popular in the Lake Tahoe Basin in the early twentieth century. The numerous porches and balconies unite the exterior and interior spaces, bringing the beauty of the natural landscape indoors. Many of the interior features, including the knotty pine boards on the walls and the painted ceiling beams, attempted to create the atmosphere of a bucolic resort hide-away. The Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel is one of the few remaining buildings on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe which represents the area's early years as a thriving resort community.

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Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Washoe County, NV

Bibliography

Lake Tahoe Photograph #328. "La-Vada Lodge, where California and Nevada meet, Lake Tahoe." n.d. Nevada Historical Society Collection, Reno, Nevada.

Map. "Nevada Vista Subdivision Addition." Document #0042437, recorded on February 15, 1928, Washoe County.

Map. "Property of Cal-Vada Lodge, Inc." King and Malone Engineers Manuscript Collection, MS NC 479.1955.

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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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Cal-Vada Lodge Hotel  
Washoe County, NV

## **Verbal Boundary Description**

Legal parcel number 123-042-07.

## **Verbal Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the hotel.