

RECEIVED 413

MAY 5 1994

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. **INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION** Complete the **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** 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 Dat So La Lee House

other names/site number Louisa Keyser House

2. Location

street & number 331 West Proctor St. not for publication

city or town Carson City vicinity

state Nevada code NV county Carson City code 510 zip code 89703

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. Jones 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Antoinette Reese 6/6/94

Dat So La Lee House

Carson City, NV

Name of Property

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and early 20th century American movements

Other: board and batten

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block

walls wood: weatherboard

roof asphalt shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

Dat So La Lee House
Name of Property

Carson City, NV
County and State

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Ethnic Heritage - Native American

Period of Significance

1915-1920

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Louisa Keyser aka Dat So La Lee

Cultural Affiliation

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Architect/Builder

Abram Cohn

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Dat So La Lee House
Name of Property

Carson City, NV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | 1 |
|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

3

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

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 Jody Barber Steele

organization _____ date May 5, 1993

street & number 351 Shoshone St. telephone 702-882-6442

city or town Carson City state NV zip code 89703

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.)

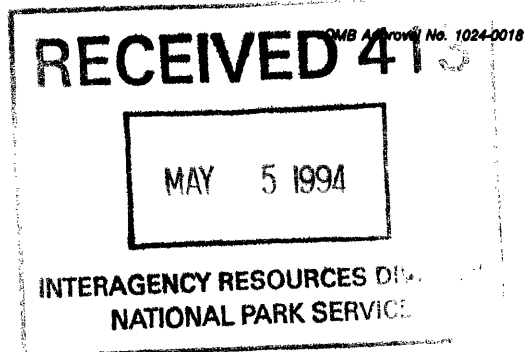
name Juana Beguelin

street & number 333 West Proctor St. telephone 702-882-8932

city or town Carson City state NV zip code 89703

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.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Dat So La Lee House, Carson City County, NV

DESCRIPTION

The DAT SO LA LEE house served as the home of the well-known Washoe Indian basket weaver Louisa Keyser, better known as Dat So La Lee. Abram Cohn, the husband of Louisa's promoter, Clarrise Amy Cohn, built the house for Louisa about 1914. The one-story, gable-roofed, vernacular board and batten cottage is in fair condition and retains much of its integrity despite the loss of its original windows and roof material. The building continues to be used as a private residence.

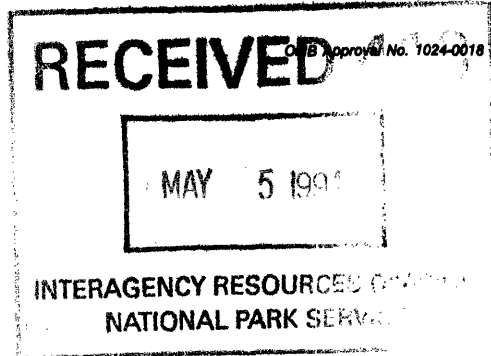
The house stands within Carson City's historic district on the west side of town. It fronts north on West Proctor Street and is set back approximately forty feet behind a small lawn and concrete parking area. The cottage is smaller in scale, height, and mass than the adjacent houses. It is not known whether the building was constructed on site or moved to its present location.

The building has a rectangular footprint with shed-roofed additions to all sides except the east side. Concrete blocks form the foundation. Plain vertical boards and battens clad the walls. The structure's gable roof and shed roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The rear porch has been enclosed and the original double-hung windows have been replaced with aluminum-frame sliding windows. However, the front and rear doors appear to be original to the house.

Amy Barber, my grandmother and the great-granddaughter of Charley Keyser, who was Louisa's husband, had stayed at this house when she was a young girl, around 1916 to 1919. Amy stayed there with her grandmother, Minnie Keyser George Washoe. She remembers the cottage consisting of only one room, with a corner sectioned off to contain the bathroom area. She distinctly remembers the pull-chain toilet, as it was the first commode she had ever used. She also recalls watching Louisa weave her baskets at this location.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number 8 Page 2

Dat So La Lee House, Carson City County, NV

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The DAT SO LA LEE house is historically significant under criterion B of the National Register criteria for its association with Louisa Keyser, a Washoe Indian basket weaver of world renown. Louisa Keyser, was also known as Dat So La Lee, her Indian name, which means, "big around the middle or big hips".

The Washoe Indians are one of the primary inhabitants of the Great Basin, with aboriginal territory extending from Honey Lake, California in the north, south to Antelope Valley, and from the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the west to the Pine Nut Mountains on the east. This is an area approximately 150 miles long and 50 miles wide. The early Washoes were primarily hunters, fishers, and gatherers who favored camps within proximity of an abundant water supply.

During the winter months, the Washoes gathered into small groups along the springs, streams, and rivers of the lower valleys. In the early spring, they moved their camps to the shores of Lake Tahoe until the fish runs were over then moved into the high country for the duration of the summer where large amounts of plant foods could be gathered by the women, and the men could fish. By late summer, the Washoe worked their way down to the eastern valleys and mountain ranges to gather pine nuts and organize hunting trips. Once these trips were over, the Washoe again returned to their winter camps where the women could spend many hours weaving baskets and the men repaired and manufactured new hunting equipment and tools. The elders told stories to the children which is the traditional Washoe way of teaching children how to behave in the proper way.

Louisa Keyser, was tó]lelti, a Washoe term used when referring to Washoes from the Woodfords-Markleeville, California, area. She was born around 1861 in this same area. Unfortunately, very little is known about her early life. Her mother died when she was quite young, possibly an infant, as Louisa could not remember her mother. Louisa was probably raised by a sister of her mother or a grandmother, as was the practice of traditional Washoe when a child lost a mother. This is more than likely the same woman that taught her how to weave the baskets she eventually became famous for. Her father was Da-da-u-ongala, the only name Louisa ever knew her father to go by was his Indian name, and she had one brother, Jim Bryant. Louisa married several times and had children, but they all died in childhood. She married Charley Keyser in her later years, and was married to him when she died on December 6, 1925, in Carson City, Nevada.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Dat So La Lee House, Carson City County, NV

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Louisa is recognized for her outstanding contribution of the perfection she achieved in Washoe basket weaving. She was largely responsible for the development of Washoe basketry as an art form, and her artistry in basketry has never been transcended by any other Washoe basket weaver. During her lifetime, Louisa was the only Native American weaver who had ever attempted or gained perspective in her productions, which is evidenced in all her masterpieces. She also had the distinction of being the only American Indian basketmaker to achieve even a semblance of international fame for her work.

In 1945, a Nevada State Law was passed in regards to the preservation and display of her world-renown basketry. Nevada Revised Statute No. 381.180 states the following:

Any Indian baskets received by the Nevada state museum from the Dat-So-La-Lee basket collection purchased by the State of Nevada, in compliance with the provisions of chapter 235, Statutes of Nevada 1945, in order to preserve the last outstanding examples of the ancient art of the Nevada Indians, shall be placed upon display by the Nevada state museum.

There is also a historic land marker designating the location of Louisa's burial site. Nevada Historic Marker No. 77 is dedicated to "DAT SO LA LEE". It is located in front of the original Stewart Indian Cemetery, adjacent to the original wagon-route from Genoa, in Carson Valley, over the Great Basin, to Camp Floyd, Utah, which originated in about 1855.

Through the efforts of her primary promoter, Clarrise Amy Cohn, Louisa's baskets were, and still are, recognized as true works of art and are sold throughout the world for very large sums of money. Louisa was a very intelligent woman and made the best of the Whites' presence in the Washoes' world.

Because of the recognition she has received, Louisa Keyser is very culturally significant to the Washoes of today. She served as an inspiration not only to other Washoe women, but to all Native American basketweavers, many of whom became very fine weavers themselves. She is also an inspiration to the Washoe women and girls of today who wish to learn the fine art of basket weaving. This is of the utmost importance as basketweaving is fast becoming a dying art of the Washoe Indians.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 4

Dat So La Lee House, Carson City County, NV

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barber, Amy
1992 Personal communication. Woodfords, California.
1993 Personal communication. Carson City, Nevada.
- Carson City Assessors Office.
1914 Book of Deeds. Book 36, page 414.
- Cohn, C. Amy
1909 "Arts and Crafts of the Nevada Indians," Nevada Historical Society Biannual Report 1, Reno.
- Cohodas, Marvin
1979 B Degikup: Washoe Fancy Baskets 1895-1935.
Vancouver: Fine Arts Gallery, University of
British Columbia.
1983 Washoe Basketry. American Indian Basketry and
Other Native Arts No. 12. Portland.
1992 Louisa Keyser and the Cohns: Mythmaking in the
American West. Ms. in possession of author,
Department of Fine Arts, University of British
Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., Canada.
- Collings, Jerold L.
1975 "Arizona's Treasury of Prized Indian Baskets,"
Arizona Highways, July: 16, 33.
- Gigli, Jane Green Hickson
1967 "Dat So La Lee, Queen of the Washoe Basketmakers,"
Nevada State Museum Anthropological Papers No. 16:
1-27.
1992 Telephone communication. Markleeville, CA.
1993 Personal communication. Markleeville, CA.
- Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
1975 Wa She Shu: A Washo Tribal History. Reno:
Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada.
- James, Winona
1992 Personal communication. Carson City.
- Mighles, Harry
1993 Telephone communication. Carson City.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 5

BIBLIOGRAPHY (continued)

Price John A.

1980 "The Washo Indians: History, Life Cycle, Religion, Technology, Economy, and Modern Life." Nevada State Museum Occasional Papers No. 4. Ed. Donald R. Tuohy. Nevada State Museum. Carson City.

Ross, Christopher

1989 "Dat So La Lee and the Myth Weavers," Nevada Magazine, September/October: 32-37.

Simpson, James H.

1983 Report of the Explorations Across the Great Basin in 1859. University of Nevada Press. Reno.

Taylor, Maude Sawin

1965 "My Memories of Dat-So-La-Lee." From My Nevada Notebook. Western Printing & Publ. Co. Sparks.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The west 68 feet of lots numbered 2 and 3 in Block numbered 15 of Proctor and Green's Division of said Carson City, Nevada; being a frontage of 68 feet on the east line of North Division Street, and extending easterly along the south line of West Proctor Street from the northwest corner of said Block No. 15, 68 feet.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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