

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JEC 1978

DATE ENTERED MAR 12 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Orion Clemens Home

AND/OR COMMON Mark Twain's Home (sic)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 502 N. Division Street

CITY, TOWN

Carson City

VICINITY OF

--NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Nevada at large

STATE

Nevada 89701

CODE  
32

COUNTY

Carson City

CODE

025 510

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Julian C. Smith and Joanna Smith

STREET &amp; NUMBER

4630 Garnet

CITY, TOWN

Carson City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nevada 89701

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carson City Recorder, File #53094, Book 174, Page 585

STREET &amp; NUMBER

100 N. Carson Street

CITY, TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE Nevada Historical Society  
HABS

DATE

1978 -- 1972

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Div. of Historic Preservation and Archeology

CITY, TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada 89710

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

## ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

Architectural Merit and Interest: A mid-nineteenth century house of sound construction having ten rooms on two floors. Altered in appearance and interior adaptation of rooms.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions 33' x 44'
2. Foundations - raised on timber pedestals with crawlway underneath. Exterior stuccoed to groundline.
3. Walls - wood-framed, originally shiplapped - now stuccoed.
4. Structural System - wood framed; exterior & interior bearing walls.
5. Porches; stoops - covered porch on southeast corner, supported by three columns.
6. Chimneys - three brick chimneys, stuccoed; one interior on the south gable; one outer fireplace near the northeast corner and the other centered on the east gable.

### 7. Openings:

- a) Doorways and doors - there are three doorways; one at the front, facing Division Street and two at the rear. The front doorway features a small horizontal transom; the surround is panelled glass; eight vertical panels above and with four stained glass panels on either side. The door is plain/solid; the rear door onto patio is half glass, the other is solid.
- b) Windows - windows are double hung, wood sashes with 6/6 lights. A bay window projects from the front (east) sitting room.

### 8. Roof:

- a) Shape - gable roof in the shape of an ell; gables facing on Division and Spear Streets. Two small gables face west; one over an 8' x 12' room at the southwest corner and a smaller gable at the head of a stairwell center rear. A north sloping stairwell roof completes this feature. A flat roof over an annex on the northwest corner finishes out the roof description.
- b) Cornice - abbreviated eaves supported by double brackets. Boxed on all sides.

### C. Description of Interior:

This was a ten room residence that has been converted into offices for four attorneys, two researchers, a bookkeeper and a receptionist - all occupying separate areas. The kitchen remains a kitchen - as well as do the bathrooms. Period furnishings have been used to a large extent.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1862-1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown/Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1862 by Orion Clemens, an attorney and the first Secretary of Nevada Territory. The Great Seal for the Territory was designed by Orion while he resided in this house. Territorial Governor Nye often travelled from the Territory and on those occasions Orion Clemens was Governor "Pro Tem". Because of Mr. Clemens' often being so designated, the residence became known as the "Governor's Mansion". This particular name has all but virtually disappeared in contemporary works and speech.

A frequent visitor to and oftentimes resident of the home was Orion's brother, Samuel Clemens. Samuel, a U.S. Government employee not allowed to receive pay from other sources, utilized his now famous pseudonym Mark Twain. It is Samuel's pen name rather than his brother's proper name commonly heard as the home's designation.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Sam P. ed. The History of Nevada. Reno: The Elms Publishing Co. , 1913.

Storey, Ormsby, Washoe and Lyon Counties Directory, 1871-77, Sacramento: M.S. Croker and Co.

Thompson, Thomas H. and Albert A. West. History of Nevada, Berkeley, CA: Howell-North, 1958 (Facsimile reprint of this volume which was originally printed in 1881.

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/5 acre  
 QUADRANGLE NAME Carson City QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES  
 A | 11 | 26.0 | 8.0.0 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 7.2.0 | B | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 E | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 G | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 H | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

#### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Southeast corner of Block 59 of Proctor and Green's division to Carson City. Bounded by Spear Street on the South and Division Street on the East.

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

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

### 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Margaret DeVita, Business Manager, Smith and Gamble, Ltd.  
& W. E. Wieprecht, Historic Preservation Specialist, H.P.& A.

ORGANIZATION Smith and Gamble, Ltd. DATE  
Div. of Historic Pres. and Archeology 8/2/78

STREET & NUMBER 502 N. Division St. TELEPHONE (702) 883-3200  
201 S. Fall St., Rm. 113 (702) 885-5138

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 Patricia Howell

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 11 November 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 3/12/79  
 ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 3/12/79  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 5 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAR 12 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

D. Site and Surroundings:

The house sits on a tree-shaded corner lot in a residential area. The area is level. The area has recently been zoned for limited commercial use and many of the larger, finer homes have been or are being converted to professional offices. This whole section however, retains its atmosphere of a residential neighborhood. The Clemens property has a 20' x 40' addition located on the Northwest corner abutting the north property line.

Orion Clemens was the first and only Secretary of the Territory, a status that was to last for three years from 1861 to 1864. Orion Clemens was appointed to his position by Territorial Governor James W. Nye on March 27, 1861 at a time when the development of Nevada was in its infancy. No office buildings had yet been constructed in Carson City, the designated seat of the newly-created Territory. Total population for the Territory was less than 10,000 Caucasians. The first Legislature met in an isolated two-story hotel, later incorporated into today's state prison. Secretary Clemens bore the out-of-pocket expenses for furnishing the chambers organized from the bare upper floor of the hotel; the two houses were separated by a canvas curtain and the floor was spread with sawdust for a covering. Such furnishings and the greater cost of printing the House and Senate Journals also came out of the Secretary's pocket. The chambers were donated for use without charge. Some twenty members made up that first Legislature. It is in this light that we honor Orion Clemens and the only physical reminder of his role in the formation of government here.

Unlike the career of his brother, Samuel Clemens, Orion's short reign in Nevada was to be the high point in his life. At the time he occupied the nominated building, he was in fact the governmental leader and social kingpin. This house, at that time, was reportedly the finest in Nevada.

He ran for Secretary of State in 1864 and was defeated when he ran on the side of temperance in a wet state. He then moved from Nevada never to return.

SECTION 8 - SIGNIFICANCE (addendum)

MSW  
2.8.79