

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FILED

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RECEIVED **AUG 22 1975**
DATE ENTERED **SEP 5 1975**

**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 U.S. Mint at Carson City, Nevada

AND/OR COMMON
Mint Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 600 North Carson Street

CITY, TOWN Carson City VICINITY OF Nevada

STATE Nevada CODE 32 COUNTY Carson City CODE 025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of Nevada

STREET & NUMBER
Capitol Building

CITY, TOWN Carson City VICINITY OF Nevada

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carson City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Carson City STATE Nevada

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1972 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS HABS * National Register of Historic Places
18th & C Streets, N.W.

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

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

(As prepared for the Historic American Buildings Report No. Nev-13-22 by Harley J. McKee, Supervising Architect, National Park Service, August 1972.)

"A. General Statement: The old Mint at Carson City is a late nineteenth-century building of a type which is very rare. It is largely preserved in its original state. The condition of the fabric of this two-story, cruciform-plan building is good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main building is 58' (five bays) x 88' (seven bays), with a 12' x 15' entrance porch. The original west wing is 27' x 86'.
2. Foundations: The foundations are about six feet high constructed of rock-faced random ashlar sandstone laid in four courses including a plain projecting water table.
3. Walls: The random ashlar sandstone is mostly rock-faced but dressed in some areas. Edges are drafted. Near the corners, the courses vary in height from about 1'-0" to 1'-3" infilled occasionally with smaller courses.

A string course at the second floor level consists of a rock faced course with a beveled moulding beneath it.

Projecting gabled central pavilions are on the east and west elevations through that of the west is nearly hidden by a modern addition.

4. Entrance Porch: The single bay porch located at the center of the east front and is one story high above a platform having eight granite steps on each of three sides. At each front corner a massive pier, L-shaped in plan is composed of coupled Tuscan pilasters, with echinus moulded capitals, on rock-faced pedestals. The piers, are spanned by a stilted segmental arches on each elevation. Between the Tuscan capitals and the cornice the wall is plain. The cornice consists of a corona supported by a bevel moulding which conforms to the height of the string course along the main wall. Above the corona there is a simple three-part parapet without pedestals. The stonework of this porch is dressed, except as noted. The ceiling is matched and beaded boarding.
5. Chimneys: A number of chimneys once projected above the roof, along the perimeter of the building, as seen in old photographs. These have all been removed above roof line. There was also a

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 checked="" 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 1869 to present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Abraham Curry/Alfred B. Mullett

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building has regional significance as the first structure to be constructed from the plans of Alfred Bult Mullett (1834-1890), who served as Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department from 1866, until 1874.* "His tenure of office coincided with an accelerated government building program following the Civil War, and Mullett was responsible for the design of many public buildings in cities and towns throughout the country. The buildings erected by the Treasury Department while Mullett held the office of Supervising Architect are unexcelled by any American structures of their time in scale and solidity of construction."

Other structures in the West designed by Mullett were the Custom House in Portland, Oregon, and the old San Francisco Mint.

The building has local significance in its relationship to the mining boom on the Comstock. As the outpouring of precious metals increased, problems in its transportation to the nearest mint arose. The solution was the construction of a U.S. Mint in the tiny hamlet of Carson City. The transportation problem centered on the risks and high cost of sending large amounts of bullion by wagon and train to San Francisco. Again, the Superintendent of Construction, and later the Mint's first Superintendent was Abraham Curry, the founder of Carson City.

*Page 25, HABS report number 14.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hickson, Howard, Mint Mark CC (Popular Series No. 4, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, Nevada - Nevada State Museum, 1972
 Thompson, Thomas H. & West, Albert A., History of Nevada - Howell North, Berkeley, Ca., 1958. (Facsimile reprint of original edition published in 1881.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.43 (Block 65 - 170'x170')

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	216,110,000	4,313,818,000	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	NA	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. E. Wieprecht, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Nevada State Park System

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

201 South Fall St., Nye Bldg. Rm. 221

TELEPHONE

702-885-4370

CITY OR TOWN

Carson City,

STATE

Nevada

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Eric Conhite 8-7-75

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/5/75

ATTEST

DATE

SEP 4 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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massive tall chimney on axis on the west wall; this, too is no longer visible, although the lower portion remains, at the first story inside the building.

6. Openings:

- a. Entrance doorway: The high opening is spanned with a segmental arch and is framed by wooden architrave trim. The jambs and soffit are faced with plain wooden paneling. The double doors below a wooden transom bar, are recessed and are modern replacements.
- b. Windows: First and second story windows are similar with semicircular-arched openings. The voussoirs bond with the ashlar of the wall. Sills are plain and are dressed on the face with a wide 9 or 10-toothed chisel. The lower sash contains six lights; the upper sash, extending into the arched head, contain eight lights. The one at the center has a round head below the top two quadrant lights. The basement windows openings, which are segmentally arched, are blocked with masonry.

At the central pavilion of the east elevation the windows are grouped in pairs. A lunette window is in the pediment of this pavilion.

7. Roof:

- a. The roof shape and covering is hipped with gables at the east and west pavilions. It is covered with composition shingles.
- b. Cornice: A bracketed cornice consists of a plain projecting course of dressed sandstone below the lower end of dressed stone, cyma reversa profile brackets, two courses of rock-faced stone high. The brackets have a small ovolo-moulded cap which receives the cornice of a conventional form: a cyma recta above a corona.
- c. Cupola: A brick cupola above the roof is placed on the main axis somewhat forward (east) of the secondary axis of the building. Three semicircular-arched windows on each elevation contain double-hung sash with six over four lights.

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It is crowned by a large wooden cornice, with a prominent dentil course, and a low pyramidal roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Plans:

- a. First Floor: The plan is symmetrical; a series of rooms around the perimeter are served by a rectangular central stair hall, which is entered on the east through a large vestibule. The function of these rooms is given on a floor plan displayed in the museum, showing the location of spaces between 1866, and 1878. The treasurer's office was just south of the vestibule. This office connected with the first of three rooms, the deposit weighing room along the south side. To the west were the deposit melting room and the melter's and refiner's office.

On the north side of the vestibule was the paying teller's office, which opened into the first of three rooms, the coining room, along the north side. Behind the coining room was the whitening room, then the coiner's office. At the center of the west side, behind the stair, were two rooms; the north annealing and rolling room; and the south gold and silver melting room.

- b. Second Floor: The floor plan is similar except that there was a room above the entrance vestibule, and a single room, the refinery, is at the west.

At the center of the east side was the clerk's office; adjoining this to the north was the superintendent's office, and to the south the watchman's room. Along the south side were the assayer's weighing room, the assayer's cupelling and boiling room, and the humid assay and store room. Along the north side were the adjusting room, cabinets, and store room.

- c. Basement floor: This layout was similar to the others.
- d. West wing: This wing was a single story in height. It contained an engine room, boiler room, carpentry shop and store room.

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2. Present state of the interior: The rooms described above are still intact. The refinery on the second floor has been divided by a partition. The space has been adapted to museum displays, so that a number of walls and openings have been hidden from view; modern doors and lighting have been installed though very little of the original building has been removed. The basement is occupied by a display mine.
3. Stairway: This is a straight flight of twenty-eight risers, each 7" in height. The floor to floor height is approximately 16'-4". The steps are solid granite with moulded nosing. There is an open string. A very large moulded handrail is supported on heavy, turned balusters, two per tread. The railing continues around the stair well at the second floor and terminates at the first floor at a large round newel. Below the stair is an enclosed basement stairway.
4. Interior finish: Old photographs on display in the museum indicate that office walls were plastered and that the stonework was exposed in the refinery and similar work rooms. Except for the walls in halls, which are plastered, the other rooms have composition board covering the walls and ceilings today. Floors are covered with modern composition tile. Visible original trim consists of a wide wooden base, 1'-1" high with a moulding above a plinth; architrave trim resting on a plinth and paneled door reveals; cavetto-moulded caps above windows; moulded window stools; vertical matched and beaded wainscoting with moulded cap rail (the height is about 4'-6" in the hall), plain trim on some second-floor doorways; iron or steel interior shutters, many of which remain; and heavy iron or steel vault doors in various offices.

D. Site and Surroundings:

This building occupies an entire block and faces east on North Carson Street. The area is commercial. The terrain is level."

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Wodehouse, Lawrence, "Alfred B. Mullett and his French Style Government Building" in Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, March, 1972, Vol. XXXI, No. 1.