

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Olcovich/Meyers House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 214 West King Street not for publication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 Medina JHPO 6/17/93
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:)

Signature of the Keeper Patrick W. Andrews Date of Action 7/29/93

Olcovich/Meyers House
Name of Property

Carson City, 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	
One Two		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
One Two		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

none

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 Victorian/Mixed

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone & concrete

walls weatherboard & brick

roof asphalt 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)

Ethnic Heritage/Other (Jewish)
Architecture

Period of Significance

1874-1875

Significant Dates

1874-1875

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Joseph Olcovich

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:

Olcovich/Meyers House

Name of Property

Carson City, Nevada

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 1 2 6 0 8 9 0 4 3 3 8 4 4 0
Zone Easting Northing

3 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 Ronald M. James and Michelle McFadden, State Pres. Officer and Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation date February 25, 1993

street & number 123 Nye Lane, Room 208 telephone 702-687-5138

city or town Carson City state NV zip code 89710

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 Angelo and Mary DeFelice

street & number 214 West King Street telephone

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.

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The Olcovich/Meyers House, constructed in 1874-1875, is one of the few residences in Carson City which survives with Gothic-influenced architecture. Italianate and Eastlake architectural styles are evident as well. The building, constructed by Joseph Olcovich for his brother Bernard, has served as a residence for almost 120 years. A later owner, George Meyers, probably added late Victorian details in the late 1880s. The house, restored in 1991, retains its historic integrity.

The Olcovich/Meyers residence, a corner lot at 214 West King Street, is located just one block off of the primary thoroughfare through Carson City, Carson Street. State office buildings, including the State Capitol and the Supreme Court Building, are a few hundred feet from this residence. The neighborhood also includes other houses from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as well as churches and some commercial establishments in converted residences. King Street, now one way, runs from east to west, and parking is available on both sides of the street.

The one-and-a-half story wood frame house has a rear brick addition and an intersecting gable roof, and faces south. The T-shaped structure has a stone and scored concrete foundation. The wood siding on the exterior is embellished with an elaborately ornamented front porch, bay windows with panels and brackets under their roofs, and delicate bargeboard ornament in the peaks of the front and side gables. The entry porch has spiral columns, a spooled frieze, brackets, and a balustrade above. The original double-hung windows have segmental arches and the windows in the bays are straight lintels. The original, paneled front door contains a textured glass inset.

The porch and bay windows were added about 1886. The rear brick addition was added in 1948, and contains a kitchen below and bedrooms above. The picket fence which surrounded the house, seen in historic photographs, has been removed. Composition siding has been removed from the front elevation but remains on the two side elevations. The property has been carefully restored by its current owners.

A small frame garage, originally a carriage house, also survives on the northwest corner of the lot.

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The Olcovich/Meyers house of Carson City, Nevada is significant under criterion A for its association with the mercantile history of Carson City and for association with local Jewish history. In addition, the building is significant under criterion C as a vernacular expression of Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Eastlake architectural elements in Carson City. The Olcovich/Meyers house was constructed between 1874 and 1875 and served as home to Joseph and Bernard Olcovich, prominent Jewish merchants of Carson City. Perhaps as early as 1885, George H. Meyers, also a merchant, purchased the structure and modified it to a certain extent. Its nineteenth-century form remains intact with a high degree of integrity.

Criterion A

The Olcovich/Meyers House is significant for its association with the local Jewish community and the growth of mercantile enterprise because it stands as an excellent, general expression of Jewish immigration into the region and the growth of the infrastructure needed to support the mining industry. The building was built by Joseph Olcovich in 1874-1875. One year later, he sold it to his brother and business partner, Bernard Olcovich. Together with two other brothers, the Olcovichs owned a mercantile store on Carson's main street and were early members of the Jewish community of the capital city. Hyman Olcovich, one of the other brothers, built his house one year later and the building remains standing a few blocks to the north at 412 N. Curry Street. Bernard Olcovich sold his house, the subject of this nomination, to George H. Meyers about 1885. Meyers, also a merchant continued the association of the house with that profession.

The Olcovich brothers played an important role in the Jewish community and the commercial aspect of Carson City. The Olcovich/Meyers house can be regarded as a significant expression of their contribution to the community and to the important role which members of the Jewish faith played in developing a diverse, rich culture on the western frontier. Similarly, it serves as a reminder of the importance of commercial enterprise on the mining frontier. Although the house was built during the heyday of the Comstock Mining District, it is important to remember that the mining frontier was more than mining and that it was dependent on an infrastructure and associated community. Carson City played

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this role, and the Olcovich/Meyers house stands as testimony to the contribution that Carson City's commercial interests made to the famous Comstock. Its association with members of the Jewish faith means that this house is also significant as an expression of diversity in the mining West and of the important contribution made by members of the faith in the development of its communities.

The Jewish community was established early in the history of Carson City. Even before the creation of the Nevada Territory, with Carson City as its capital, Jews had begun to settle in that remote part of the Utah Territory. With the creation of the territory and then the state (in 1864), the Jewish community continued to grow and play an important part in the commerce and government of the capital as documented by a draft chapter on Jews in Nevada for the Nevada Comprehensive Preservation Plan.

When Israel ben Joseph Benjamin passed through Carson City about 1860, he noted that there were twenty Jews in the community. "Only one of them is married," he added. "They are occupied for the most part with trading and are well-off." (Benjamin, 206-207) In March 1862, the Jewish community organized Carson City's first Hebrew Benevolent Society. Historian John Marschall points out that "by 1876 Carson City had sprouted its own B'nai B'rith Lodge #266, headed by former state legislator Jacob Tobriner." Marschall goes on to note that when Rabbi Isaac Meyer Wise visited Carson City in 1877, "he identified ten youthful [Jewish] families and unmarried men." (Marshall, 67) David A. D'Ancona who visited Carson City about the same time maintained that "there are probably not more than forty Israelites in Carson City, but they monopolize the dry goods trade, and in other callings have their fair share." (31) The Olcovichs were a prominent part of this community and were even mentioned in San Francisco's American Israelite, a newspaper which noted the Carson family's generosity toward the bay city's Hebrew Orphan Asylum. (Marshall, 69) In addition, the Olcovichs were involved in commercial enterprise, typical of the Jewish community as testified by several chroniclers.

In spite of enthusiasm from the Jewish community of Carson City, numbers were never sufficient to found a synagogue. The growing population in nearby Reno ultimately became the hub of the Jewish community of northwestern Nevada, but Carson's Jewish population played a crucial role in ensuring that the few members of the faith had a sense of community and network for mutual support and growth.

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Besides serving as the center of government, Carson City also functioned as a mercantile distribution point for the Comstock. The community included the main shops of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad which became, after its completion in 1872, the chief source of supplies for the more-populated Virginia City and Comstock Mining District. The growing commercial district of Carson City served its own community and also benefited from the market provided by the nearby mining and rural areas of the state. The Olcovich brothers owned and operated a mercantile store which played an important part in the exploitation of this market, providing a crucial component in the infrastructure needed to develop the western Great Basin. Similarly, George H. Meyers who purchased the house about 1885 was a grocer and part, therefore, of the commercial component of the community. When his grandson and commercial entrepreneur, George H. Meyers II, moved into the house in 1935 and lived there for the next fifty years, a century-long association of the structure with the commercial bedrock of Carson City was established. His Meyers Hardware at 202 North Carson C Street remained a prominent commercial establishment in Carson City until it was closed in the 1980s.

Criterion C

The Olcovich/Meyers House one of the few vernacular expressions of Gothic architecture in Carson City. Gothic elements include the cross-gabled roof, arched lintels over the windows, and decorative bargeboards in the gables. The house was later modified by George Meyers who appears to have added Italianate bays to the house in an attempt to get in step with the architectural style of the time. The porch detailing, with spiral posts and a spooled frieze, reminiscent of Eastlake design. A few other houses including the Roberts House on Main Street (listed on the National Register, constructed in Washoe Valley in 1859 and moved to Carson City in the 1870s) show influence from Gothic architecture, but the Olcovich/Meyers house is one of the best examples of the architectural style in the community and remains with most of its integrity as modified in the 1880s.

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Bibliography

Primary Sources:

- Benjamin, Israel ben Joseph, Three Years in America: 1859-1862 (New York: Arno Press, 1975).
- Carson Appeal: August 29, September 4, 5, 14, and 15, 1869; July 23, 1891; November 26, 1896; January 21, 1898; May 26, June 6, June 25, and August 3, 1899; October 4, 1906; May 27, 1913.
- D'Ancona, David A., A California-Nevada Travel Diary of 1876: A Delightful Account of a Ben B'rith, edited by William M. Kramer (Santa Monica, California: Norton B. Stern, 1975).
- Ormsby County Assessors maps on file in the Carson City Assessors Office.

Secondary Sources:

- Historic Environment Consultants, "Carson City Resources Inventory" (On file with the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, Carson City; March 1980).
- Earl, Phillip I., "The Jews of Nevada" draft chapter for the Nevada Comprehensive Preservation Plan ed., by Ronald M. James, (Carson City: Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, 1989 1st edition; 1991 2nd edition).
- Levinson, Robert E., "American Jews in the West," Western Historical Quarterly, 5:3 (July 1974), 285-94.
- Marschall, John P. "Jews in Nevada, 1850-1900," Journal of the West 23:1 (January 1984).
- Rochlin, Harriet and Fred, Pioneer Jews: A new Life in the West (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1984).
- Siegel, Richard L., "The Jews of Western Nevada," Nevada Public Affairs Review 2:1987:64-65.
- Zauner, Phyllis, Carson City (Sonoma, California: Zanel Publications, 1984).

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Verbal boundary description

Legal parcel number 3-215-03

Verbal boundary justification

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