

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 5 1980
DATE ENTERED	JUL 18 1980

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC William Spence House  
AND/OR COMMON N/A

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 308 South Thompson Street N/A  
CITY, TOWN Carson City VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2  
STATE Nevada CODE COUNTY Independent Municipality CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Menna & Peter Jaquette  
STREET & NUMBER 308 South Thompson Street  
CITY, TOWN Carson City VICINITY OF Nevada STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carson City Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER 198 North Carson Street  
CITY, TOWN Carson City STATE Nevada

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Carson City Cultural Resource Inventory  
DATE 1980  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Carson City Planning Office  
CITY, TOWN Carson City STATE Nevada

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William Spence House is a two-and-one-half story, brick veneer dwelling constructed in 1875 by William Mortimer Spence, an English cabinetmaker employed by the Virginia & Truckee Railroad in Carson City. The assymetrical dwelling incorporates a Greek Revival, side-hall form with Italianate detailing. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity and its original use as a private, single-family residence.

The William Spence House occupies an eighty-five by one-hundred-and-two foot lot located at the corner of 4th and Thompson Streets in Carson City, Nevada. The dwelling is a contributing element to the Carson City Historic District, a local historic district certified by the National Park Service as meeting National Register criteria. The building is oriented along an east-west longitudinal axis fronting Thompson Street. The front third of the dwelling's landscaped lot is delineated by a simple wrought iron fence secured to a cut granite base. The remainder of the lot is enclosed by a contemporary, vertical-board fence which incorporates simple brick pillars.

The Spence House is a vernacular dwelling incorporating a simplified Greek Revival form with Italianate detailing. The building is of frame construction and is faced in locally produced, brick veneer laid in stretcher bond. The structure is supported by a cut granite foundation and terminates in a gable roof punctuated at the ridgeline by a straight stack, brick chimney with corbelled cap. The roof line includes projecting eaves which are accented by a simple molded cornice and plain raking board. The two-bay-by-two-bay, double pile building is defined by a narrow, sandstone water table. Window openings are marked by cut sandstone lintels and slightly projecting sandstone sills which are supported by simple, sandstone consoles. Windows are two-light-over-two-light, wooden sash enframed by simple, molded surrounds. Upper story windows are flanked by contemporary, single-panel blinds.

The principal entrance to the building is located on the east, gable-end elevation and includes a three-panel door with a single, narrow, arched light enframed by an arched molding. The slightly recessed door is enframed by a molded surround. The entry includes a flat roofed door hood incorporating a full cornice. The door hood is supported by elaborate consoles with turned finials. The entrance is reached by way of an open, single-bay porch which is defined by a sawn balustrade. The south bay of the east elevation is occupied by a projecting bay which is constructed in wood and includes four, one-light-over-one-light, sash windows.

A single story, wood frame barn is located to the rear of the dwelling. This service structure terminates in a gable roof clad in tin sheet. Barn elevations are sheathed in vertical, board and batten cladding. The structure includes double, gable-end loading doors.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Mortimer Spence

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Spence House is an architecturally significant dwelling representative of transitional designs common to Carson City, Nevada, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The building is also significant for its association with the early residential development of Carson City.

The Spence House was constructed in 1875 by William Mortimer Spence, a cabinet-maker and piano wright who was born in London in 1822. Spence and his wife, Penelope, emigrated to the United States in 1860. Initially settling in Wisconsin, the Spences moved west to Carson City in 1873. William Spence secured employment with the Virginia & Truckee Railroad at their round house in Carson where he rose to the position of car builder.

Although Spence deeded the Thompson Street dwelling to his four children in 1920, he retained residence in the structure until his death in 1924. Bertha Spence Collins gained control of the property and its furnishings from the remaining Spence heirs in 1925. The dwelling remained in the Collins family until 1955, at which time the house and furnishings passed to John Meegen and his wife, Harriet. Under the Meegen ownership improvements were made to the building's mechanical systems. The Spence House remains a single-family residence as of 1984.

The William Spence House is an intact example of local transitional design incorporating a simplified Greek Revival form with Italianate detailing. This integration of earlier stylistic forms with later, elaborate ornamentation is indicative of Carson City architectural development in the late nineteenth century and is most commonly found in residential structures whose designs reflect a survivalist architectural vocabulary in terms of massing, scale, proportion and plan. These forms are commonly embellished by elaborate, often standardized, architectural and ornamental components. The Spence House exhibits this later phenomenon in its elaborate entrance treatment and the application of the slightly over scaled, east elevation bay.

The Spence House is also associated with the residential development of southwest Carson City in period of construction, building orientation and division of site into primary residential area and rear service area. Evidence of this primary and secondary lot division can be seen in the location of dwelling and barn.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Humphreys, Noreen I.K. "William Spence House". unpublished research. (1984).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY <1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1   1	2   6,0   6,2,0	4,3   3,8   2,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate in Carson City, State of Nevada, described as follows:

Beginning at a point which is 60 feet West of the Southwest corner of Block Number 30 in Sears, Thompson and Sears Division of Carson City; thence North with and along the West line of Thompson Street 85.4 feet; then at right angles West 102 feet; thence at right angles South 85.4 feet to what would be the line of Fourth Street in Carson City, and thence East with said line 102 feet to the beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathryn M. Kuranda, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nevada Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology

DATE

10 December 1984

STREET & NUMBER

201 South Fall Street

TELEPHONE

(702) 885-5138

CITY OR TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada 89710

## 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Kerold M. [Signature]*

TITLE

*Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*May 20, 1985*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol D. [Signature]*

DATE

*7-18-85*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER