

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nevada	
COUNTY: Washoe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Morrill Hall, University of Nevada/Reno

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
University of Nevada, <sup>campus</sup> Reno

CITY OR TOWN:  
Reno

STATE Nevada	CODE 32	COUNTY: Washoe	CODE 031
-----------------	------------	-------------------	-------------

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
University of Nevada

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Reno	STATE: Nevada	CODE: 0170
-----------------------	------------------	---------------

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Washoe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
South Virginia Street

CITY OR TOWN: Reno	STATE: Nevada	CODE: 0170
-----------------------	------------------	---------------

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

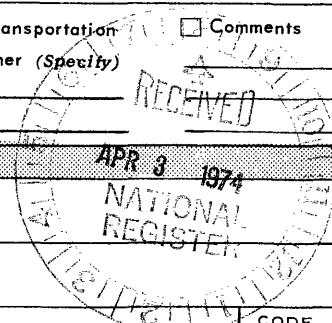
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
The building, ~~per se~~, is not in any existing survey

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
---------------	--------	-------



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

**MAY 1 1974**

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The cornerstone for Morrill Hall was laid September 12, 1885 and the building was ready for occupancy February 15, 1886. The building is of brick construction two stories high with a mansard roof of wood forming the third story. A deep basement provided additional space for classrooms and other uses.

Edward Parsons, distinguished Reno architect, describes Morrill Hall in these terms.

"It's a classic example of Italianate Victorian architecture. It is dignified with a wood shingled mansard roof and full dormer windows. Its central bell tower has a Gothic arch. The grand mahogany stairway dominates the central hall. Doorways, heavily cased in molded trim, enclose massive four-paneled doors and glass transoms. The door stiles and rails, painted mahogany, contrast with the panels which are skillfully painted imitation Birds-eye maple. Wainscoting surrounding the hall is similarly treated. Walls and ceilings are plaster. Sixteen feet high ceilings are trimmed with plaster-run molds."



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morrill Hall's primary significance lies in the fact that it was the very first building on the University of Nevada-Reno campus, and for a number of years it was an all-purpose building housing the administration offices, classrooms and dormitories.

The founding of the university was established during the Constitutional Convention of 1864, the year Nevada was granted statehood. Nevada historian Samuel Bradford Doten described the document as extraordinary, pointing to its provisions which called for the establishment of a state university... "which shall embrace departments for agriculture, mechanic arts, and mining, to be controlled by a Board of Regents, whose duties shall be prescribed by law."

At the time few state constitutions made reference to the establishment of a state university, and these that did went scarcely beyond mentioning such intentions. By contrast Article II of the Nevada Constitution provided specific and detailed plans ranging through eight separate sections on education.

Morrill Hall, or the State University as it was at the time of its establishment, came into being when Nevada was little more than a collection of rough mining camps and railroad towns. For the next decade Morrill Hall symbolized the determination of the people of those hard times to provide for themselves and their children educational opportunities which they, for the most part, had never enjoyed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

An Illustrated History of the University of Nevada

Samuel Bradford Doten, UNR  
Published May, 1924

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

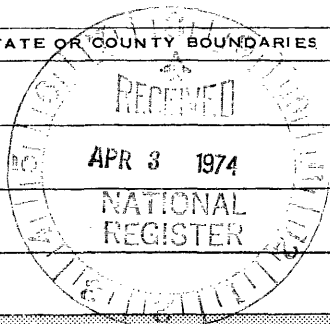
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39° 32' 16"	119° 48' 47"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		<del>39</del> 0 <del>32</del> . <del>16</del>	<del>119</del> 46. <del>48</del> "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
11/258270  
4320000

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4 Acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nick Lauri, Morrill Hall Restoration project director

ORGANIZATION: University of Nevada Alumni Association DATE: 12/19/73

STREET AND NUMBER: Morrill Hall, University of Nevada

CITY OR TOWN: Reno STATE: Nevada CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Eric Condit

Title: S.H.P.O.

Date: 3-23-74

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Mortensen  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

ATTEST: Wm Mustey 2  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.29.74