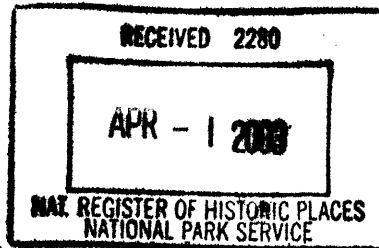


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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 any 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: Gardnerville Branch Jail
other names/site number: Old Jail

2. Location

street & number 1440 Courthouse Street not for publication N/A
city or town Gardnerville vicinity N/A
state Nevada code NV county Douglas code 005 zip code 89410

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald A. Jones, SHPO 3-19-03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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):

Edson H. Beall 5/16/03

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: GOVERNMENT Sub: Correctional Facility/Jail

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: SOCIAL Sub: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/No Style/Utilitarian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Concrete
walls Asphalt Shingles
other Iron exterior and interior jail doors and cells on first floor

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See 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 a 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)

LAW
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance 1910-1915

Significant Dates 1910, 1915

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Louis Springmeyer, Architect/Christensen & Madsen, Builders

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite 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: Town of Gardnerville, Nevada

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .09 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>262370</u>	<u>4313660</u>	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___
	___	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 Jim Park/Town Manager
organization Town of Gardnerville date December 15, 2002
street & number 1407 Highway 395 telephone 775-782-7134
city or town Gardnerville state Nevada zip code 89410

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Gardnerville
street & number 1407 Highway 395 telephone 775-782-7134
city or town Gardnerville state Nevada zip code 89410

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Gardnerville Branch Jail, Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

7. Description

The 1910 Gardnerville Branch Jail fronts east to Courthouse Street across from Heritage Park in downtown Gardnerville, Nevada. The original building is in good condition having only relatively minor alterations. The Gardnerville Branch Jail is a two-story somewhat rectangular building. The walls are reinforced poured concrete and the building has a modified hipped roof finished in composition shingles. The building is devoid of architectural detail or ornamentation.

Entrance to the lower floor is made from the east side of the building at ground level through a steel jail door. Above this entrance is a padlocked transom vent that can be opened to allow air passage. A secondary steel grate door may also be locked open at the entrance for circulation. On the north and south sides of the first floor are small windows with iron bars to prevent escape. The interior floor and walls are bare concrete, and numerous initials with dates have been scratched into the wall surfaces, presumably by prisoners who spent time in the jail.

There are two steel jail cells located in the southwest corner of the first floor. Each cell has a two steel fold-down bed frames, and the doors are simply secured with padlocks. In the northwest corner a wood-burning stove was used to provide heat during the winter months. The remainder of the first-floor interior space was used by prisoners as a "day room." The ceiling is bare concrete with massive concrete beams to support the weight of the second floor Justice Court room. A toilet was once located in the northwest corner of the lower floor, however it was removed within the last decade apparently due to sewer pipe failure within the concrete building slab.

On the south side of the building exterior is a simple wooden staircase. Prisoners were brought up the staircase to appear in Justice Court. There is no other access to the second floor. The original staircase was replaced within the last decade due to age and weathering. The replacement staircase is somewhat similar to the original, however an exterior railing fashioned of unpainted plywood is not in character with original construction and should be replaced with complementary construction methods and materials. The landing at the top of the stairway was also extended approximately eight feet when the stairway was replaced.

The upper floor Justice Court Room was originally one open space. A restroom was added in the northwest corner in the mid-1990s. During this period, the concrete walls were "skim-coated" to preserve the original plaster and painted white. Additional electrical lights and ceiling fans were also installed at that time along with simple cabinetry in the west side of the room. The upstairs window glazing and frames were replaced during this remodeling, however the original interior molding of stained wood were

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7, 8 Page 2

Gardnerville Branch Jail, Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

7. Description, continued

retained. The original door to the Justice Court room was also replaced, and a metal bar security door added. The roofing material was replaced in the mid-1990s with three-tab composition roofing over felt paper as the original roofing was beyond its useful life.

The original Gardnerville Fire House was located on the property just south of the Gardnerville Branch Jail building. This wooden building is no longer present, having been removed in the mid-1990s due to neglect.

8. Significance

The Gardnerville Branch Jail, built in 1910, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, for its significant role as a government correctional facility, serving as Douglas County's only jail from approximately 1910 to 1915.

Carson Valley

Carson Valley was first explored by Captain Joseph Walker, who passed thorough in 1833 with a party that was trapping along the streams and tributaries of the West. He plotted a route over the Sierra Nevada range that crossed the mountains between Carson Valley and Placerville, California. Walker's trail became the principal route for the great western movement that came a decade and a half later.

The first settlement in Nevada was a trading post established in Carson Valley at the base of the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. In 1851, Mormon settlers under the direction of Colonel Reese, built a store, hotel, and farm to serve the pioneers and gold-seekers crossing the mountains. The place was first called Mormon Station, but in 1855 it was renamed Genoa.

The Mormons began to cultivate the fertile valley, but in 1857 Mormon leader Brigham Young recalled Mormon settlers to defend Salt Lake City from federal troops. The Mormons left behind their ranches and farms to be taken over by others. In addition to the Mormons, Carson Valley was settled by a number of German farmers from the Westphalia region of Germany, who established ranches to the east and southeast of the first settlement in Genoa, and contributed to the later development of the valley's other towns of Gardnerville (1879) and Minden (1905). Carson Valley agriculture received a big boost from the discovery of the Comstock Lode in 1859 and the resulting demand for food supplies for the mining towns that sprang up in western Nevada. During the Comstock boom years of 1860-1879, agriculture in the area flourished.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Gardnerville Branch Jail, Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

8. Significance, continued

Genoa was the county seat of Douglas County, and was an important transportation hub until the advent of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, which crossed the state from east to west north of Genoa at Reno.¹ Between 1869 and 1905, when the Virginia and Truckee Railroad made it south to Minden, Genoa was a major stopping place for the north-south stage lines and an important provisioning point for the gold mines in Bodie, California. The first Douglas County courthouse and jail building was built in Genoa in 1865.

The town of Gardnerville, located southeast of Genoa in an area designated as the East Fork Township, was established by Lawrence Gilman. Gilman purchased a tract of land along the East Fork of the Carson River from John and Mary Gardner in 1879. Gilman moved a building, known as the Kent House, from its original location between Genoa and Wally's Hot Springs. He changed the name of the Kent House to the Gardnerville Hotel, and added a blacksmith shop, and a saloon to serve the surrounding ranches. In 1881, Gilman purchased another tract of the former Gardner property from Henry Van Sickle, and began selling parcels. Gilman named the town Gardnerville after John Gardner. The Gardnerville post office opened on June 28, 1881, with Gilman as postmaster. The new town, which was also located along the Esmeralda/Bodie road, thrived. By 1899, Gardnerville's Main Street boasted several hotels, shops, and saloons, livery stables, and other businesses. As well as being a center of commerce, Gardnerville was also a social center for the German and Scandinavian ranchers. The Valhalla Society was formed in Gardnerville in 1885 to disseminate information to immigrants to the area (Rocha 2002).

Gardnerville and Genoa were the two main communities in the Carson Valley until 1905, when H.F. Dangberg, Jr, son of a German settler and rancher, established a "planned" community centered around the proposed location of a depot for the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, which was pushing south from Carson City. Gardnerville had been considered for the railroad terminus, but the cost of acquiring land for a depot there was prohibitive. The Dangberg Company finally agreed to donate land for the railroad depot. This resulted in the establishment of the town of Minden, an immediate rift with Gardnerville, and the ultimate usurpation of power from Genoa. The railroad assured Minden's success and prosperity. Carson Valley agricultural products were shipped from Minden to the new mining boom areas of Tonopah and Goldfield. Within ten years, Minden managed to wrest county seat status from Genoa, over complaints from Gardnerville, largely through the efforts of H.F. Dangberg, Jr. In order to placate Gardnerville, the county high school was located there.

¹ Genoa is a National Register Historic District, listed in 1975.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Gardnerville Branch Jail, Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

8. Significance, continued

A number of Minden's buildings, including the 1916 Courthouse, are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Nevada's pre-eminent architect Frederic DeLongchamps designed many of the town's public and commercial buildings, as well as the Douglas County High School in Gardnerville.

The Gardnerville Branch Jail

In 1910, Genoa was still the Douglas County seat and home to the courthouse and jail. Gardnerville was the southernmost community in the valley and quite a few miles from Genoa. The Justice of the Peace of East Fork Township was L.S. Ezell, who had began his term in 1884. Judge Ezell had used his granary building in Gardnerville as a jail for a number of years. Mr. Ezell saw it as a good place for the constable to leave his "customers" until the judge could see them in the morning. As a jail, the granary left a lot to be desired, however. Writing in support of a new jail, the local newspaper said of Ezell's granary: "The vile hole now doing service is no fit place for a human being" (Ellison 2002).

In 1909, Judge Ezell decided to retire and move to the Northwest, and before he left he donated the 61-by-71-foot parcel his granary sat on to the town of Gardnerville for a new jail and firehouse. Judge Ezell had served more than 25 years and over the course of his tenure as Justice of the Peace he witnessed many new law enforcement problems. Whereas Gardnerville had been a center of ranching commerce when it began, the twentieth century brought a number of changes. In 1909, an ordinance was passed limiting motor cars, motorcycles, and automobiles to eight miles per hour in town and 16 on the highway. Judge Ezell charged fines of \$10 to \$15 for violations of the new speed limit (Ellison 2002).

On March 5, 1910, the citizens of Gardnerville petitioned the Board of County Commissioners for the establishment, erection, and maintenance of a branch county jail in their town. When the commissioners met on March 23, the town of Minden railed against the plan. It seems the new community had secret plans to secure the county seat from Genoa. It was feared that a jail in Gardnerville might tip the scales away from Minden. H.F. Dangberg, Jr. immediately circulated a petition against the jail accusing Gardnerville of trying to gain county seat status. At the April 10, 1910 commissioners meeting, Dangberg, William Dressler, and H. Park appeared in person to complain about the establishment of the jail. They offered a petition they claimed had been signed by the majority of county taxpayers requesting that the commissioners reverse their approval of the jail. The commissioners gave the petition fair hearing, but in the end proceeded in favor of the jail. Louis Springmeyer was given the contract to draw the plans and specifications for the building. For this service, he charged \$25 (Ellison 2002).

The bid notice for the construction of the jail read: "Sealed bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, at Genoa, Nevada, up to the hour of 10 o'clock a.m. Monday, May 9th, 1910, for building and completing a reinforced concrete Branch County Jail, size 22 feet by 30 feet and

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Gardnerville Branch Jail, Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

8. Significance, continued

one story high, and furnish all necessary labor and material for same, in accordance with plans and specifications on file in the office of the County Clerk, at Genoa, Nevada, on the lot occupied by the present town jail” (Ellison 2002). The second floor justice court was not reflected in the bid, but was added to the construction contract, paid for by the town’s general fund. The construction of the adjacent firehouse was conducted under a separate contract. The contracting firm of Christensen & Madsen won the contract for the jail and immediately set to work (Ellison 2002).

The new jail was pressed into service even before the finishing touches were completed. On June 28, 1910, a disastrous fire struck Genoa, destroying the county courthouse and jail. The county’s sole prisoner was chained to a post until he could be transported to the unfinished Gardnerville branch jail. The new jail was officially placed into service when the county commissioners met during the first week of August and decreed that all persons charged or convicted of misdemeanors in the East Fork Township be imprisoned in the branch county jail in Gardnerville (Ellison 2002).

When the town of Gardnerville petitioned the County Commission for a new jail in March 1910, they also asked for a stipend to support the local deputy sheriff, in addition to a justice court, so local legal issues could be handled without expensive and time-consuming travel back and forth to the county seat. With the completion of the new building, staffing it became a priority and Albert Daudel was appointed deputy by Sheriff E.L. Wyatt. Daudel was given compensation of \$2 per day for those days there were prisoners in confinement, and \$4 per a day if he was required to work them as a chain gang on the public roads. The county’s other lawmen were paid only for their mileage, the papers they served, the arrests they made, and their appearances in court—all of which were financed out-of-pocket until they billed the county at the end of the month (Ellison 2002).

By 1915, Minden’s attempt to wrest county seat status from Genoa had been successful, and the new county courthouse in that town was nearing completion. In 1916, the Pauly Jail Company installed the cells in the basement of the new courthouse. In June of that year, the county commissioners ordered “that hereafter all county prisoners be confined in said jail at Minden and that the branch county jail at Gardnerville be discontinued” (Ellison 2002). The rivalry between Minden and Gardnerville was so strong, however, that for a period of time the order was ignored. The Constable still used the Gardnerville for another four decades, as did other officers. At the time, the Gardnerville fire bell, which hung next to the jail, was rung every night at 8 o’clock as a signal to all Indians to be out of town. It was a time when any farm laborer without a job was ordered out of the county, and any unemployed person was considered a vagrant and taken off the streets for the night. Few citizens thought it inappropriate to lock up certain individuals over night for the safety of the community and then release them without a trip to the judge. After 1915, the Gardnerville jail served this purpose, as well as a resting place for drunks, Indians, and Chinese (Ellison 2002).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, 9 Page 6

Gardnerville Branch Jail, Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

8. Significance, continued

By the end of World War II, changes began to take place in Gardnerville. The firehouse, next door to the jail, was dismantled and moved to William Parker Lyon's famous western museum in Arcadia, California in the 1940s. It is not known when the Gardnerville branch jail was last used in an official capacity, but it may have been as late as the mid-1950s. There was a request to use the building for restroom facilities posed by the Douglas County Commissioners in the early 1920s, however the Commission was not supportive of that idea because of the estimated costs to equip the building for such use.

The site is currently owned by Douglas County and is leased to the Town of Gardnerville. The Town has subleased the site to the Carson Valley Active 20/30 Club, a service organization. The lower level of the jail is currently used by the 20/30 Club for storage. The club is also using the upper floor as their club meeting and office space. The Town is pursuing the utilization of the first floor jail area for a local law enforcement museum, and the 20/30 Club is interested in working cooperatively toward that goal. The 20/30 Club has also expressed interest in depicting the upper floor justice court as it might have appeared during actual use in 1910.

The jail remains in its original location, as an excellent example of turn-of-the-century jail architecture. The steel cages, using large hasps and padlocks, locked in the prisoners for the night. The bullpen was in front of the cells, with its wood stove for the prisoners' daytime use, and a vent over the main door for the exchange of summer air. The plain, thick, reinforced cement walls kept the prisoners from digging through the barriers as they had in Genoa's brick jail.

9. Bibliography

Dangberg, Grace

1991 *Carson Valley Historical Sketches of Nevada's First Settlement*. Carson Valley Historical Society.

Douglas County Planning Department

1981 *The Architectural Heritage of Carson Valley*. Douglas County Planning Department, Minden.

Ellison, Robert W.

2002 The Gardnerville Jail. Unpublished manuscript generously provided by the author.

Record-Courier

1909 Commissioners Hold Meeting. November 5, 1909. Gardnerville.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 7

Gardnerville Branch Jail, Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

9. Bibliography, continued.

1910 The Petition Granted by the Commissioners. March 11, 1910. Gardnerville.

Branch Jail for East Fork. April 8, 1910. Gardnerville.

Half of County Seat Town Reduced to Charred Ruins—Carlesness (*sic*) of Poor House Inmate Responsible for Fire. July 1, 1910. Gardnerville

1915 Minden Becomes County Seat Tomorrow. December 31, 1915. Gardnerville

Commissioners Hold Monthly Meeting. June 10, 1910. Gardnerville.

County Board Hold Meeting. August 5, 1910. Gardnerville.

Rocha, Guy L.

2002 "Town Named After Couple, not Businessman." In *Reno Gazette-Journal*, December 22, 2002.

10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The National Register boundaries of the Gardnerville Branch Jail include the 0.09-acre parcel identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 1320-33-402-014, Douglas County, Nevada, located in Section 33, T.13 N, R.20E, MDM.

Boundary Justification

Resource boundaries include all land commonly associated with the lot identified as Douglas County, Nevada APN. 1320-33-402-014.

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs Page 8

Gardnerville Branch Jail, Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada

Photographs

Photograph 1

Property Name: Gardnerville Branch Jail
Property Location: Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada
Photographer: Mella Rothwell Harmon
Date: January 22, 2003
Location of Negative: State Historic Preservation Office
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada
Description: South and east elevations, facing northwest

Photograph 2

Property Name: Gardnerville Branch Jail
Property Location: Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada
Photographer: Mella Rothwell Harmon
Date: January 22, 2003
Location of Negative: State Historic Preservation Office
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada
Description: North and east elevations, facing southwest