

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nevada	
COUNTY: Nye	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Belmont

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Same

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
46 miles N.E. of Tonopah via U.S. Hwy <sup>6</sup>95, State 8 - A & 82

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tonopah, District

STATE Nevada	CODE 32	COUNTY: Nye	CODE 023
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Mining

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Multiple ownership, public and private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Nevada	CODE 32
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Nevada	CODE 32
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Nevada Historical Sites

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
University of Nevada, Desert Research Institute, Center for Western Studies

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Stead Facility

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Nevada	CODE 32
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present and original appearance.

Ore discoveries, the convenience of wood and water, and a naturally fine location caused the selection of the town site. It is situated just inside the Toiyabe National Forest on a sloping plateau of the Toiyabe mountain range at an altitude of 8000' in picturesque surroundings. There are also some BLM holdings and some patented mining claims. Access is by dirt road, State Route 82, approximately 25 miles from its intersection with State Route 8A.

The town's 3 miles of streets, with wood and stone sidewalks, were partially shaded by maples, locusts, and balm of Gilead trees. Spring water was and is abundant for all purposes and nut-pine, cedar and mountain mahogany are found within 8 miles of town.

With the ample supply of wood, water, rock and clay the townspeople constructed many substantial stone and fireproof brick buildings. The town contained 4 stores, 2 saloons, 5 restaurants, 1 livery stable, a post office, an assay office, bank, school, telegraph office, 2 newspapers, and a blacksmith shop. The town of 2000 people (1874) supported its own race-track, Monitor Park.

The town now contains the ruins of mills, stores, and residences. A small population lives there today.

The immediate need is for protection from further destruction and/or deterioration. The entire townsite of 440 acres is included in this request.

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 checked="" 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) 1865 to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input 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             | <u>Mining</u>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" 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

Belmont, County seat of Nye County, Nevada, from 1867-1905, contains some of the best remnants of Nevada's early days.

Abundant spring water, available pine nut trees, and a nearby petroglyph site indicate a probable prehistoric habitation site. Historically, it was a gathering place for Indians from neighboring valleys who came on horseback to participate in rabbit drives and festivals. A sizeable Shoshone Indian population lived with the Europeans in Belmont.

The mining town was settled as a result of a silver strike in 1865. It soon had a recorded population of over 2000 persons. The early population included many immigrants, and Belmont had one of the most prolonged English-Irish feuds in Nevada history.

The high grade surface ore yielded from \$200 to \$3000 a ton. Quartz veins are found between slate and propyry, which formation runs north and south the veins running with it and dipping easterly at an angle of 37 to 45 degrees. The ore was base, containing copper, lead and antimony and was worked by milling and roasting.

Five sawmills and three stamp mills served the mines of the Belmont area which were about 1 mile east of town. Freight was teamed from Austin 90 miles away from Eureka, 109 miles away at the rate of \$2-3 per 100 lbs.

With numerous mines in the vicinity and rapid developments that were being made, Belmont attracted wealth and population. By the time Belmont became the county seat in 1867, it had become an important mining and milling area and trading center for settlements in a radius of 100 miles. In 1868 it was the most flourishing town in eastern Nevada.

The combination of declining ore values and new discoveries in White Pine County reduced the population at Belmont. It declined until rich discoveries in 1873 again caused another boom.

Production continued until 1887 when most of the mines were shut down. By 1900 only a few businesses and a score of people were left. In May, 1905, the county seat was moved to Tonopah. The extensive Belmont dumps were re-worked in 1907-08 and production during the WWI years fed the new Highbridge Mill. Over \$6 million in ore was processed at Belmont.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Angel, Myron F. *Reproduction of History of Nevada, 1881*, Thompson & West Berkeley, Howell-North, 1958.

Pahr, Stanley, *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*, Howell-North, 1970

Nevada Historical Sites, Mordy & McCaughey, University of Nevada; 1968.

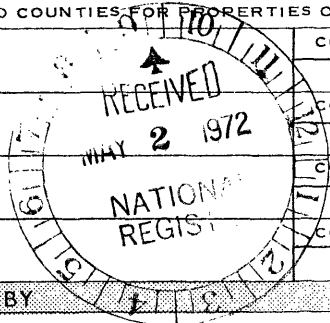
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	38°	35'	58"	116°	52'	21"			
NE	38°	35'	58"	116°	52'	11"			
SE	38°	35'	07"	116°	52'	11"			
SW	38°	35'	07"	116°	52'	21"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 440

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA		NA	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO  
UW  
CE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Wilbur E. Wieprecht, Recreation Park Planner

ORGANIZATION: Nevada State Park System      DATE: June 28, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
201 S. Fall Street, Room 221, Nye Building

CITY OR TOWN: Carson City      STATE: Nevada      CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: [Signature]

Title: Assistant to U.S.P.S.

Date: 2-2-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/13/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Nevada	
COUNTY	
Nye	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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(Number all entries)

(Statement of Significance continued)

The following buildings are the best remaining structures.

Courthouse: This building was constructed in 1874 for \$34,000. It is a red brick structure of two stories, with a cupola on top. The bricks used in its construction, and the large stones making up the foundation, were both local products. It is in fairly good condition, but some deterioration has occurred. The high glass windows are gone, as well as all interior furnishings. The courthouse is an interesting example of nineteenth century architecture. Historically, it is one of the few remaining unoccupied courthouses of the period. A prime threat to this structure is the present commercial value of used red brick.

Cosmopolitan Saloon: This wooden structure, built around 1870 stands on Main Street, opposite the courthouse. Besides being a saloon, it was used as a music hall and many performers appeared there.

Monitor-Belmont Mill, and Combination Mill. The most outstanding feature of the two mills are their smokestacks. These are of brick and reach fifty to sixty feet into the air.

