

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0667978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 2 DATA SHEET

DATE ENTERED

JUL 7 1978

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

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

1 NAME * *

HISTORIC MIZPAH HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON

MIZPAH HOTEL

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
100 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Tonopah

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Nevada-at-large

STATE
Nevada

CODE
32

COUNTY
Nye

CODE
023 ✓

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Scott Corporation ✓

STREET & NUMBER

1 Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Las Vegas, Nevada

VICINITY OF

STATE
Nevada

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Nye County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Tonopah

STATE
Nevada

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE NEVADA HISTORICAL SITES 1968

DATE
1968

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS University of Nevada, Reno, Desert Research Int. Ctr. for Western Studies

CITY, TOWN
Reno

STATE
Nevada

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mizpah Hotel is two buildings. The first building was a three story stone-faced structure built in 1905. Photographs of this original building show the hotel entrance in the center flanked to the north by a brokerage house and to the south by the Tonopah Banking Corporation. A year or so later, the Mizpah Grill, a one story frame building, was built to the south and to the corner of two intersecting streets. Between 1907 and 1908 an imposing five story hotel building of stone and brick replaced the Grill. The 1905 and 1908 buildings were adjoined by a stairway linking the unrelated floor levels.

The traditional architectural style common to the two structures has its origin in the Italian Renaissance period. As American architecture began to take itself seriously, many buildings in the United States incorporated details from this self-assuring style.

A strong influence of the past demanded the use of rough cut, coursed stone. The entire front of the three story building is rough cut stone. The columns of the five story structure are also rough cut stone. The second story of the 1908 structure is faced with vigorous horizontal lines of cement plaster simulating smooth faced stone—a feature of the Renaissance style. Two horizontal bands of moldings define the floor line of the second and third floors. From the third floor to the cornice of the top of the structure, the walls of the third, fourth and fifth stories are faced with smooth tan colored brick. The two horizontal bands and the elaborate cornice are formed of tin to simulate stone carvings originating with the European style. The use of tin was prevalent in the second half of the 19th century in many American adaptations. Metal cornices, now a lost art, copies faithfully the details of a cut stone of the past. These were hung, so to speak, on the street sides of buildings. They were not built on the walls on the inside or alley sides of the buildings—again typical of the western adaptation. The use of cast iron columns was popular during the 1870's through 1910. Such use was natural to find its way to Tonopah. Handsome fire escapes adorned the two street sides of the five story building designed as balconies using lacey metal railings and open decks supported by simple iron brackets with a ladder centered down the middle of a pair of windows. It is evident that they were designed to adorn the building and not as afterthoughts. The windows of the first floor between the stone columns of the five story structure were originally plate glass designed as a pair with an iron colonnette in the middle. Above each plate glass are wooden frames with fixed transoms glazed with translucent leaded glass. the glass between the lead muntins is 3½" square.

Originally the front sidewalks sloped with the street and steps were built from the floor level down to the front on Main Street. Sometime after 1967 an ordinance was passed requiring the owner of any structure selling intoxicating liquor to abandon the steps and build ramps to the street. At present an ugly ramp serves the requirement. Bracketed lamps once flanked the front entrance. Shallow balcony railings, with its balusters designed in the shape of a Union Jack, accent the two street entrances.

Inside there is a rather handsome wooden stairway joining the two buildings above which is a skylight. Some of the outside rooms had private baths, others shared down the hall toilet rooms and bathrooms. Originally each had, and still have, ceramic tile floors in hex or square patterns, wood wainscotings and originally high stand chain flushing toilets. Lavatories were wall hung. The heating

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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 8/18/1905 & 11/17/1908
to present BUILDER/ARCHITECT M.J. Curtis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architect for the Mizpah Hotel was the renown Morrill J. Curtis, who was also the architect for such famous buildings in Nevada, as the 2nd Riverside and Overland Hotels in Reno, the Grand Opera House, Golden Block Hotel, Nevada Block Hotel, a number of the University buildings on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno and the Public School Building in Carson City, Nevada.¹ The Mizpah Hotel is a landmark in the town of Tonopah. Tonopah was the financial center of the State of Nevada.²

The Mizpah opened as a saloon in 1901,³ and was the first permanent structure built in Tonopah. In 1905 it opened as a three story hotel and on November 17, 1908, the five story structure opened its doors at a cost of \$200,000.⁴

The Mizpah Hotel was the gathering point for the mining and political elite of Nevada; ⁵ such prominent people as Tasker Oddie, who became governor of Nevada and later a U.S. Senator,⁶ Wyatt Earp, who was employed by the Tonopah Mining Company, Key Pittman, Nevada's beloved senator, Henry Calvin "Cal" Brougher, who was director of the Mizpah Hotel Corporation of Tonopah. Brougher also built the first mill in Tonopah and had much to do with the development of the Belmont, Tonopah, Midway and Tonopah Mining Company.⁷ He also formed the Tonopah Divide Mining Company and was director of the Bank of Italy of San Francisco. He also owned the Tonopah Banking Corp., which was inside the lobby of the Mizpah Hotel. The bank vault still remains intact.⁸ The Tonopah Banking Corp. was later bought out by George Wingfield. Companies were organized and sold out in the lobby of the Mizpah Hotel in a matter of hours.¹⁰ The Mizpah Hotel has been the center of social and economic activities since the boom days.¹¹

Tonopah laid the foundation for the Nevada today. The main reason for this was due to a fellow named Jim Butler, who founded Tonopah in May 1900. Due to his discovery of silver, a new boom resuscitated the state's economy, rescued it from boredom, attracted to Nevada able young people of all kinds, and laid the foundation of its modern economic and political life. Every last weekend in May the town of Tonopah honors its founder by having Jim Butler Days. Tonopah's production of silver, was second only to Virginia City Mines. Even today, Tonopah is a travellers resting point between Reno and Las Vegas.

The Mizpah Hotel is currently being used as a hotel and its lobby has been converted into a casino. It is owned and operated by the Scott Corporation, out of Las Vegas, Nevada.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Tonopah Sun. "Three story stone building for Tonopah" 3/21/1905, page 4, columns 5 & 6.
2. Atlas of Goldfield, Tonopah & Bullfrog Mining Districts of Nevada, publication by W.H. Shearer Publishing Company, San Francisco, 1905, page 27.

(cont'd.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Tonopah

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 479820 4213180²⁰⁰

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot 1 in Block B, Lot 1 in Block C, the Southerly 17' of Lot 2 in Block C, and Lot 4 in Block C, according to the map entitled, "Official Map of Tonopah, Nye County, Nevada" compiled by the survey notes of W.V. Richardson.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>Not Applicable</u>			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph P. Monteiro, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Scott Corporation

DATE

February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

6121 Borden Circle

TELEPHONE

878-9524

CITY OR TOWN

Las Vegas

STATE

Nevada 89107

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Kimberly Wood

4/27/78

TITLE

Administrator, Div. of Hist. Pres. & Archeology

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

7-7-78

ATTEST:

Charles A. H...
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-5-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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system is steam with ornamental sectional cast iron radiators. Walls were finished in plaster. Floors were, and are, T&G pine. Ceilings of the hotel lobby were decorative tin. An ancient elevator (first in Tonopah) built into the five story structure is still in service.

The structure has masonry bearing walls with steel framing up to the 3rd. floor. From third floor, wood frame coordinates with exterior masonry walls.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 6

3. Weekly Bonanza, March, 1907.
4. Tonopah Miners, August 14, 1909.
5. Reno Evening Gazette, January 18, 1966.
6. Pioneer Nevada, published in Reno, 1951, page 182.
7. Review Journal, Magazine Supplement, September 6, 1959.
8. Nevada State Journal, Obituary, November 7, 1922.
10. Glass, Mary Ellen - Oral History Project, University of Nevada - Reno. Interview with Minnie P. Blair, 1967, "Banking and Farming in Goldfield, Tonopah, and Fallon, Nevada".
Subtitled: Tonopah 1918-1924, page 49.
11. Reno Evening Gazette, January 18, 1966, page 11, column 6.

Already listed

NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

PROPERTY NAME:

<i>Historic</i> Mizpah Hotel
<i>Common</i>

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-138
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> Main and Brougner Streets	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Scott Mizpah, Inc. c/o Frank Scott		
<i>Street Address</i> #1 Fremont, Union Plaza		
<i>City</i> Las Vegas	<i>State</i> NV.	<i>Zip</i> 89101

FORM PREPARED BY:

<i>Name</i> Janus Associates	<i>Date</i> Sept. 1980	
<i>Street Address</i> 2121 S. Priest Suite 127	<i>Phone</i> 967-7117	
<i>City</i> Tempe	<i>State</i> Arizona	<i>Zip</i> 85282

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

<i>Historic Use</i> Hotel	
<i>Current Use</i> Hotel	<i>Acreage</i>
<i>Architect/Builder</i> George E. Holesworth, architect and builder	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1908, Remodeled 1979	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July 1980
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<i>View</i> Looking northwest at main facades
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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Mizpah Hotel is a five story block rising some sixty five feet in height at the intersection of Main and Brougner Streets. The building is constructed of a reinforced concrete frame with a brick and stone veneer. Both major facades are symmetrical about vertical axes, with three bays on the Main Street facade and five on the Brougner Street side. Windows are grouped in pairs or triplets along the upper floors and bays along the first level are demarcated by stone piers. A large metal cornice dominates the top of the building proper, and two lesser cornices occur at the first and second levels. Other details include a slightly projecting frontispiece accented with a large arch (originally denoting the entryway) on the Brougner Street facade. This archway and the Main Street entrance both feature balcony balustrades at the second floor line, although not functional. A large, lighted sign extends from the roof designating the Hotel's name. All original storefronts and doorways have been replaced during recent remodelling. Interior configurations and details have also been altered. The building is in sound condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Mizpah Hotel, currently listed on the National Register, is most noteworthy for the continual role it has played as a focal point in Tonopah through both the historic and contemporary periods. It is locally significant for its historic associations with businessmen Cal Brougner and R.J. Govan and regional entrepreneurs George S. Nixon and George Wingfield. The building is representative of the faith in the economic prowess of boom period Tonopah, despite the depression which followed the panic of 1907. Architecturally the five story Mizpah Hotel is a local landmark in Tonopah and the product of important regional architect and builder George E. Holesworth. Construction was begun on the new Mizpah Hotel in March 1907, an enterprise undertaken by original Mizpah owners, Brougner and Govan who also enlisted the investment capital of Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company owners, George Wingfield and George S. Nixon. The building was designed by George E. Holesworth, of Reno who was known variously as an architect, engineer and contractor. Holesworth had a number of buildings in Tonopah to his credit including the Golden Block and the State Bank and Trust Building and was also the architect for the Goldfield Hotel, constructed almost simultaneously with the Mizpah. The design of the hotel employs locally quarried stone, brick and concrete in a Neo-Classical commercial format. The hotel was finally opened in November 1908 despite a construction slowdown during the depression late in 1907. Aside from being the product of some of the regions foremost capitalists, the Mizpah Hotel also attests to the changing local economy during the historic period. It was the last major construction effort undertaken in Tonopah history.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Elliott, Russell R., Nevada's Twentieth Century Mining Boom, U of N press Reno, 1966
Tonopah Bonanza, 1903-1908
Tonopah Daily Sun, 1907, 1908

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Part of Lot 1, Block B, Richardsons Survey 1907

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

Photo By

View

Date

NYE COUNTY HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY

PROPERTY NAME:

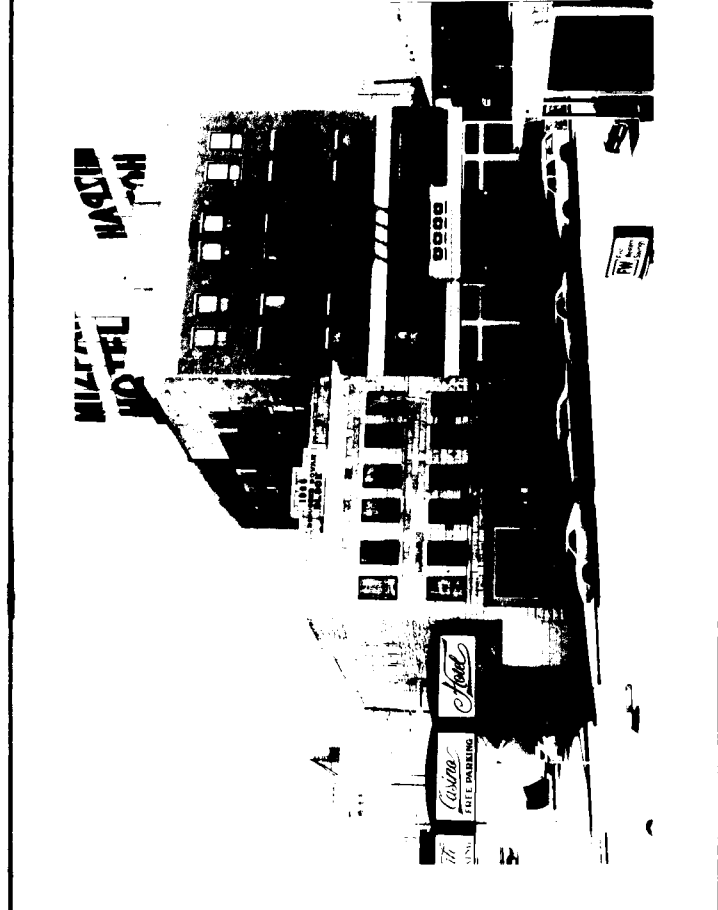
<i>Historic</i> Brouger-Govan Block
<i>Common</i>

<i>Township/Range/Section</i>	<i>Inventory No.</i> TON-137
<i>Quad/County Map</i>	<i>Classification</i> Building

LOCATION:

<i>Street Address</i> Main Street	
<i>City</i> Tonopah	<i>County</i> Nye

CURRENT BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPH



CURRENT OWNER:

<i>Name</i> Scott Mizpah, Inc. c/o Frank Scott		
<i>Street Address</i> #1 Fremont Union Plaza		
<i>City</i> Las Vegas	<i>State</i> NV	<i>Zip</i> 89101

FORM PREPARED BY:

<i>Name</i> Janus Associates	<i>Date</i> Sept. 1980
<i>Street Address</i> 2121 S. Priest Suite 127	<i>Phone</i> 967-7117
<i>City</i> Tempe	<i>State</i> Arizona
	<i>Zip</i> 85282

PROPERTY INFORMATION:

<i>Historic Use</i> Commercial	
<i>Current Use</i> Hotel	<i>Acreage</i> less/one
<i>Architect/Builder</i> M.J. Curtis Architect	
<i>Construction/Modification Dates</i> Built 1905, Remodeled 1979	

<i>Photo By</i> Jim Woodward	<i>Date</i> July 1980
---------------------------------	--------------------------

<i>View</i> Looking east at front facade

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Brouger-Govan Block is a three story stone building of rectangular massing measuring 60' across the Main Street facade and 100' in depth. The three part symmetrical facade is executed in coursed ashlar stone and topped with a modest classical metal cornice. The flat parapet is broken by a central stepped pediment. The second and third floors feature flat headed window openings in pairs emphasizing the three parts of the ground floor bays. Original decorative cast iron columns flank a central entryway. The two opposing bays contain non-original glazing and plaster infill simulating stone construction. An additional entry on the north wall is also not original. Historic interiors have been modified and the building is currently used in conjunction with the recently remodeled Mizpah Hotel.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Currently listed in the National Register as part of the Mizpah Hotel nomination, the Brougher-Govan Block is important for its historic associations with the early banking and financial development of Tonopah; and as the only structure extant in Tonopah designed by important Nevada architect, Morrill J. Curtis. The building was constructed in the summer of 1905 by prominent businessmen, Cal and Wilse Brougher and R.J. Govan. It was to house the newly organized Tonopah Banking Corporation for which Cal Brougher was vice-president. Major interest in the bank was also held by George Nixon and T.L. Oddie. Senator Nixon and his partner George Wingfield held controlling interests in the mines at Goldfield and played an important financial and political role in Central Nevada's early development. R.J. Govan, co-owner in the building was also a prominent figure in both Goldfield and Tonopah, owning the Esmeralda Hotel in the former and the Mizpah Hotel in the latter. Until 1907 the Brougher-Govan Block was used as offices on the upper levels and the bank quarters on the first floor. By 1909, after completion of the Mizpah Hotel, the second and third floors had been annexed as additional hotel rooms. M.J. Curtis, prominent Reno architect designed the building in the Neo-Classical Revival tradition, with the stonework executed by San Francisco stone masons C. Campbell, John Stoefell, and J.J. Barrett.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Nevada State Journal, 1925
Tonopah Bonanza 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907
Travers, James W., Tonopah, Past, Present, and Future, n.p. 1902

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Part of Lot 1, Block B, Richardsons Survey, 1907

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPH

Photo By

View

Date