

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 24 1979
DATE ENTERED	AUG 24 1979

**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 Watson Log Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

560 North Lake Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tahoe City

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

One

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Placer

CODE

061

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 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 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:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Tahoe City Public Utility District

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 33

CITY, TOWN

Tahoe City

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 95730

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Placer County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Placer County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

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

The Watson Cabin is the oldest house in Tahoe City that has retained the original architecture and is well preserved as it was built in 1908. It is the only log structure in the North Lake Tahoe area.

The house is built on a cliff above the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. The back of the house faces the water and the entrance faces on the main street of Tahoe City. The garage and tool house (not attached to the house) was built in 1916.

The log cabin is built from a local product, hand hewn logs, and is unique in the area. It's overall dimension is: 17' x 26' = 442 sq. ft. and the front entry is 6' x 12' = 72 sq. ft. and the addition is 12' x 12' = 144 sq. ft. The foundation is of native stone and cement and the wall construction is of logs well preserved and put together with cement. It has wooden window and door frames.

It has a covered entryway over the front door and the gable ends under eaves are designed with small polished logs and formerly had deer horns. The fireplace is of native stone and cement. The roof is shingled with steep gables to shed the snow. The living room and kitchen are the two main rooms downstairs. There are three rooms and a bathroom upstairs. The enclosed sun porch located at the rear of the structure was added in 1914. A wood storage area was added off the kitchen area in 1920 and was enclosed by a commercial tenant in 1940. One stairway with trap door leads to the upstairs.

Two pine trees and three North American Poplars and three Lilac bushes were planted in 1908. All are still growing. The bird bath and fountain of natural colored rock are from the Truckee River area and was added later. Ground cover of clover and native wild flowers grow in the yard.

The cement and stone foundation was installed about 1914. The front porch was replaced with native slate about 1918 and the bathroom was installed in 1914.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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      1908      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Robert Montgomery Watson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Watson Log Cabin was built with logs which were cut and trimmed by hand in the wooded area northeast of Tahoe City where the cabin is located. The logs were secured and made weatherproof with the cement chinking placed between the log sections. Robert Montgomery Watson, noted trailblazer of the surrounding Sierras and prominent lumberman, built this home for his son, Robert, and daughter-in-law, Stella.

Robert Montgomery Watson was the only log cabin builder in the North Lake Tahoe area. He built only one other log structure during that time period (1908 - 1910), the Gatekeeper's Cabin. This cabin was destroyed by fire in 1978.

Robert and Stella were very involved in community growth. Robert became an important lumberman like his father, Robert Montgomery, and assisted the new population coming to Lake Tahoe by supplying lumber to build homes and public buildings being constructed. Stella Watson drove the school bus for 14 years. Robert Montgomery Watson, his son Robert, and Stella Watson are buried in the family plot in the Tahoe City Cemetery.

The Watson Log Cabin is the only log structure which still remains in the North Lake Tahoe area. Several older members of the community would like to see the Watson Log Cabin restored and allowed to remain a monument to "Old Tahoe".

The Watson Log Cabin is an excellent example of the nostalgic "rustic" architectural trend which prevailed in the early 1900's. The cabin's architect/builder, Robert M. Watson, was a noted trailblazer of the Tahoe area and was considered a "pioneer" by the local citizens. His appreciation of the natural beauty of Lake Tahoe influenced the design of the Watson cabin which looks out onto the lake's shoreline.

The Watson Log Cabin, with hand-hewn logs and deer horn embellishment, stands as a monument to the "old days" when nature and man co-existed harmoniously. Native stone and cement were used for the foundation, logs from trees of the area make up the walls, even the ornamental bird bath was made from local, natural materials.

The Watson Log Cabin is a well-preserved structure that depicts the romantic feeling of wilderness appreciated. Throughout the years Tahoe City has grown and, one by one, modern-shaped buildings replaced small cabin structures. This development has depleted Tahoe City of all but one example of the old days. The Watson Log Cabin must be preserved to remind all of us of Tahoe's romantic past.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Saga of Lake Tahoe, E. B. Scott  
 The Lake of the Sky, George Wharton James, 1915, L. C. Page & Co., Boston, Mass.,  
 1921, Radiant Life Press, Pasadena, Calif.  
 Placer County Assessor's No. 094-090-17, Por. Sec. 6, T15N, R17E, MDB & M,  
 Zoned - C1, Commercial (see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.116 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Tahoe City, California

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 247170 4339490  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                 
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(see continuation sheet)

That certain parcel of land situate on the East side of Lake Street and extending back easterly to the Bluff overlooking Lake Tahoe and bounded North by lot 2 Block 5

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bruce Shindler, Director of Parks, Recreation and Engineering June 13, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Tahoe City Public Utility District

DATE

(916) 583-3796

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 33

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Tahoe City

STATE

California 95730

# 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

*Kenneth E. ...*

TITLE

DATE

7/17/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol Shindler*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8-24-79

ATTEST:

*W. Ray Force*  
 for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

8/23/79

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 24 1979
DATE ENTERED	AUG 24 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET 1 ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

---

Personal Interviews:

Judge Vernon	May 23, 1979
Florence Mortag	May 23, 1979
Lillian Farr	May 24, 1979
Robert Pomin	May 1, 1979

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 24 1979

AUG 24 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER 10

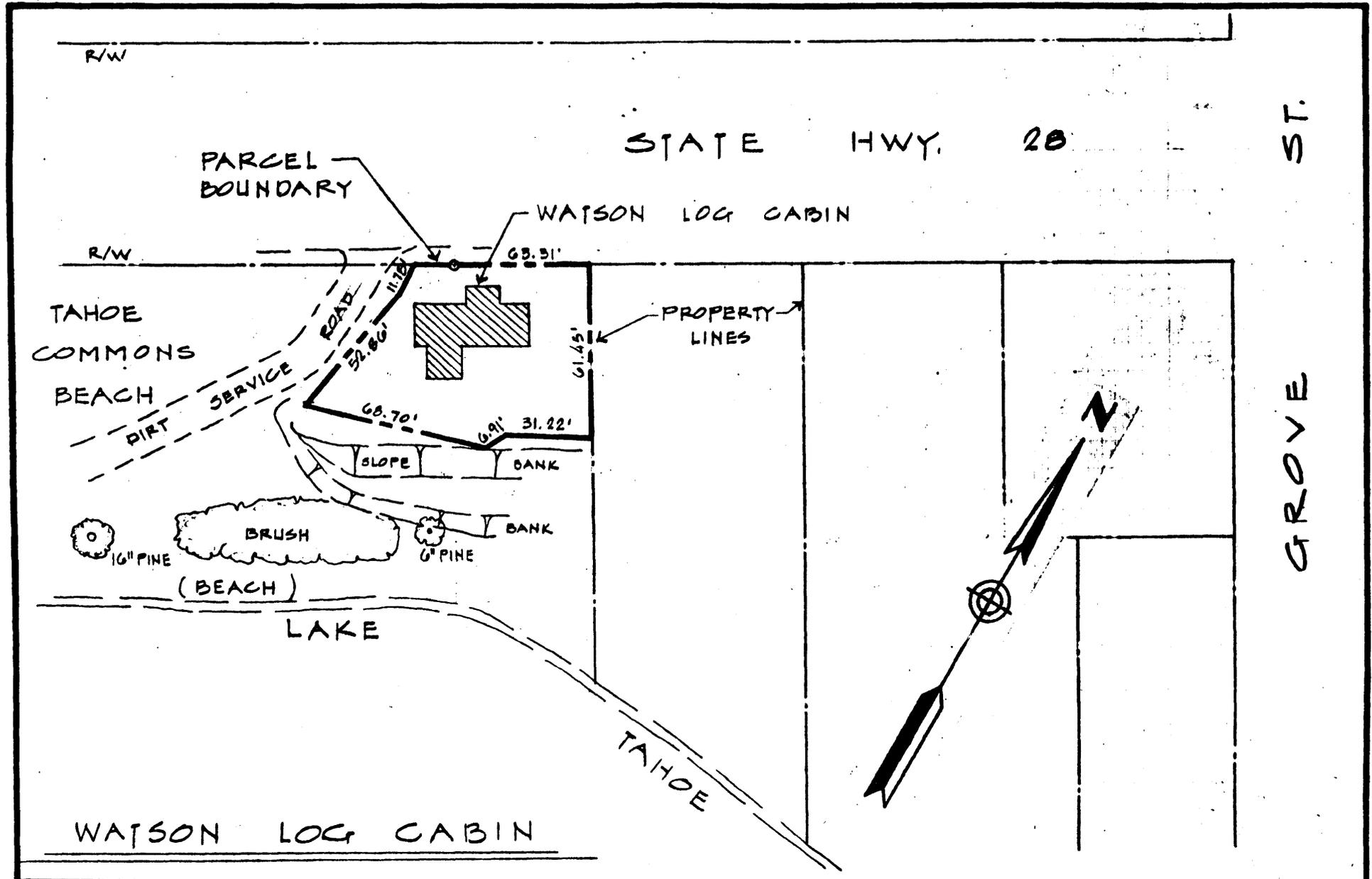
PAGE 1

as per the official Map of Tahoe City, said lot fronting 65 feet more or less on Lake Street and 80 feet more or less on said Bluff, and said property is commonly known as the Robert H. Watson property. OR

A portion of Fractional Section 6, Township 15 North, Range 17 east, M.D.M. BEGINNING at a point on the Southeasterly right of way line of State Highway 111 Pla 39a and from said point, a County of Placer brass cap monument called "FRACTIONAL SECTION CORNER 6-7 T15N-R17E MDM" on Record of Survey filed in Book 1 of Maps at page 35 and "Meander Corner" on record of Survey filed in Book 3 of Maps at page 38, Placer County Records bears the following two (2) consecutive Courses: (1) South 44° 18' West 286.69 feet to a County of Placer brass monument marked "Tahoe Commons No. 2", and (2) South 19° 04' 40" West 646.21 feet; Thence South 14° 50' 10" East from the point of beginning for a distance of 11.78 feet; thence South 04° 14' 40" East 52.86 feet; thence North 57° 02' 50" East 68.70 feet; thence North 16° 56' 20" East 6.91 feet; thence North 43° 49' 50" East 31.22 feet to a point on the Southwesterly line of Lot 2 Block 5, Tahoe City, as said lot is shown on the above mentioned Record of Survey Map filed in Book 1 of Surveys at page 35, Placer County Records; thence North 45° 42' West along said Southwesterly line for a distance of 61.45 feet to the southeasterly line of the Highway right of way; thence South 44° 18' West along the highway line for a distance of 63.31 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 0.116 acres, more or less.

JUL 24 1979



<b>Tahoe City Public Utility District</b>	SCALE: 1" = 50'	CHECKED BY	APPROVED
	DATE: JUNE 1979	DRWG. NO. 79-19-R	_____ ENGINEER
	DRAWN BY: R.D.A.		