

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **DEC 6 1983**
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

William H. Berg House

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner Mariposa & Davis Sts

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Round Mountain VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Nevada

CODE

32

COUNTY

Nye

CODE

023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Karl W. Berg

STREET & NUMBER

Corner Mariposa & Davis

CITY, TOWN

Round Mountain N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Nevada

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Nye County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

McCulloch Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tonopah

STATE

Nevada

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Janus Associates

DATE

September 1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology

CITY, TOWN

Carson City

STATE

Nevada

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Summary Paragraph

The William H. Berg House nomination includes three structures, the main house (1914-1915) and two utilitarian outbuildings; a root cellar (n.d.) and an ice house (1924). The W. H. Berg House is a one-story, rectangular, hipped roof structure built of rusticated concrete blocks, revealing a Bungalow design influence. The root cellar is a gable roofed structure partially sunken into the ground, with walls constructed of bottles imbedded in concrete. The ice house is a one-story gable roofed, wood frame, shiplap-sides building with a partially stuccoed exterior. Together, these three buildings form a compact group of architecturally interesting related structures. The house remains in good condition while the outbuildings are in good to fair condition. The Berg family still resides in the home.

Site: Immediate and General

The Berg House and its outbuildings are situated on a small city lot, .16 acres in size. A variety of fence types surround the property including vertical wooden posts with horizontal wooden rails, wooden posts with wire strung in between, and random stone walls. The property is landscaped with many large mature trees on the north side of the house. The house faces north. The root cellar is located immediately west of the house while the ice house is located just east of the main house.

Round Mountain lies at the mouth of a canyon on a broad alluvial fan. Round Mountain is a town and mining district discovered by Louis Gordon in 1906. It is sixty miles north of Tonopah and twenty miles north of Manhattan, on the west slope of the Toquima Range. The town of Round Mountain derives its name from the nearby humpbacked oval hill of porphyry and rhyolite which rises nearly a thousand feet on the east side of Smoky Valley, near the base of the Toquima range.

Architectural Description

The William H. Berg House is a one-story, rectangular house constructed of textured or rusticated concrete blocks, all identical in pattern. The house is covered with a broad, asphalt shingle, hipped roof, with overhanging eaves ornamented with a simple cornice, paired brackets, and a plain encircling frieze board. A small, centrally-placed, gable roof dormer projects from the main roof, above the facade. A shallow hipped roof porch runs across the full width of the facade, which is located on the north side of the building. Four concrete elephantine posts resting on concrete block piers support the porch roof, which is embellished with a plain cornice and frieze. Between these piers is a porch wall constructed of textured concrete blocks set in a solid and void pattern. Two concrete steps lead up to the concrete porch floor.

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 1914-1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT *William H. Berg*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Paragraph

The William H. Berg House Complex has both architectural and historical significance. Architecturally, the house is an excellent example of concrete block construction. The root cellar is a unique example of bottle construction while the ice house is a good example of its type. Historically, these three buildings gain significance from their association with an important pioneer Round Mountain family, the Bergs.

Architectural Significance

The William H. Berg House is a good example of concrete block construction. Around the turn of the century, concrete block gained popularity as a solid building material which was fire proof and required little upkeep. Concrete blocks were most efficiently formed by pouring a liquid solution of concrete into a mold to harden. The aim of early concrete manufacturers was to produce an inexpensive building material that was cheaper than bricks and more durable than wood frame or traditional earth construction. While some architects and manufacturers thought that concrete blocks were not presentable without a coating of stucco, others felt that the blocks could be presentable when textured or patterned. Within certain limits, the proportions of the block were variable, and the sides of the mold in which it was made could be designed with almost any pattern. By the early 1900's dozens of concrete blocks with surfaces textured or mottled to imitate stone were on the market. Concrete block had only a relatively short period of popularity. As the use of concrete increased, it was found to be more economical to produce larger precast components such as entire floors, walls and roofs, rather than small units which competed with brick.

The Berg House was built in 1914-1915 by William H. Berg of concrete block which he manufactured himself. The plans and interior wood work were done by Don Thomas, a brother-in-law, who was a building contractor in Los Angeles. The Berg House was designed in an unpretentious Bungalow derived style with flat horizontal lines, a low-pitched overhanging hipped roof, and a broad front porch with elephantine posts. It is one of two examples of concrete block construction in Round Mountain, and one of few examples of its type in Nevada. The house has been maintained in good and original condition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mitchell, Stan and Jacqueline. Visitors' Guide to Historic Places in Nye County, Nevada.

Paher, Stanley W. Nevada: Ghost Towns and Mining Camps. Howell-North Books, Berkeley, 1970.

Handlin, David P. The American Home: Architecture and Society 1815-1915. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .16 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1, 1</u>	<u>4, 9, 4, 0, 9, 0</u>	<u>4, 2, 8, 4, 4, 4, 0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city lots 1 & 2, Block 45, in Round Mountain, Nevada. This area is 70' x 100'.

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

STATE	<u>N/A</u>	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	<u>N/A</u>	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

KARL W. BERG/OWNER

June 23, 1983

ORGANIZATION

Corner Mariposa and Davis

DATE

(702) 377-2271

STREET & NUMBER

Round Mountain

TELEPHONE

Nevada

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

Ronald M. Jones

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 30 November, 1983

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Wm. Th. W.

DATE

1/11/1984

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The main door, located in the center of the facade, is a simple paneled wooden door pierced with a large rectangular light in the upper portion. Located on either side of the central door is a short, wide, rectangular, single-light window set in a plain wide wooden surround. Built against the west wall of the house is a concrete chimney flanked by small, square, two-light windows. Other window types which pierce the west and south walls include both large and small, single-light, square windows with simple wooden surrounds, and two-over-two-light, double-hung, rectangular windows with plain wooden surrounds. The east wall is solid with no openings.

Attached to the rear of the house is a small, one-story, clapboard-sided addition resting on a concrete block foundation. This addition is covered with a corrugated metal shed roof. It is entered through a paneled wooden rear door ornamented with a multi-light window in the upper half.

Just west of the house is a large one-story, L-shape, root cellar partially sunken into the ground. The walls are constructed of a double row of glass bottles embedded in concrete, with the bottoms facing outward. The dead air space within each bottle is excellent insulation. This root cellar is topped with a low-pitch, double gable roof insulated with sawdust. The original wood shingle covering has been replaced with a corrugated metal roof. The cellar is entered on the north side of the building through a corrugated metal door.

To the east of the house is a one-story, utilitarian, wood frame, rectangular building which was used as a commercial ice house. The floor, foundation and front porch floor are constructed of rock and concrete. The walls are shiplap sided, though the facade and portions of the side walls are still covered with their original stucco covering, which has somewhat deteriorated. The facade is pierced by a single, panel and glass, wooden front door covered by a screen door. A shed roof porch with four square posts fronts the building. Attached to the rear of the building is a small shed roof addition. The ice house is topped with a medium-pitch gable roof with slightly overhanging eaves. Originally this roof was covered with wooden shingles. Currently it is covered with corrugated metal sheets.

(11/78)

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The interior of this building was not available to view.

The Berg root cellar is fairly unique in that it is constructed of thousands of bottles embedded in concrete. It has all the attributes of a good root cellar: it was cheap to construct, frost free, and stands in close proximity to the residence. The double row of bottles are excellent insulation. The root cellar is an excellent example of a building constructed from "discarded" materials rather than traditional building materials, and consequently was inexpensive to construct. The root cellar was used for storing produce grown by Berg on his Smoky Valley Ranch.

The Berg ice house, built in 1924, is a very plain weathered outbuilding and a typical example of its type. The building was constructed with double walls which were filled with saw dust and hay for a very effective insulation. Light colored stucco was applied to the exterior for the purpose of reflecting the sun's heat. In the winter W. H. Berg filled five gallon kerosene cans with water and when frozen solid, he removed the ice blocks and stored them in this building. He then sold ice to the public throughout the summer. At a later date, W. H. Berg installed an ammonia ice making plant which still exists in the rear of the building.

Both outbuildings are in fair to good condition and have not been substantially altered since they were originally built.

Significance of the Round Mountain Area

Gold was first discovered in the Round Mountain area in 1905, but outsiders took no notice until February of 1906 when high-grade ore was found on the south slope of Round Mountain. Miners from Goldfield hastened across the desert to seek wealth. Mining companies by the dozens were organized. By June 1906 the camp had 400 people and numerous wood frame buildings. That same year the town of Round Mountain was laid out with broad streets at right angles. The usual business establishments that catered to miners sprang up: rooming houses, saloons, stores and restaurants.

By the beginning of 1907, two mills had been built to handle the districts ores and by the end of 1908, seven mills were in operation. After 1908 Round Mountain continued to produce large yields of metals especially gold. During the 1920's all claims were consolidated into the Nevada Porphyry Gold Mines. Underground mining ceased by 1935, while the Dodge Construction Company continued surface operations using dirt moving equipment for another five years. Placer Mining resumed in 1950 when a dry land washing plant was built which could process 15,000 tons of gravel daily, but operations were not successful and it shut down about 1957. In the late 1970's, Round Mountain was again the site of one of the largest active gold mines in the United States. Today, Round Mountain is a quiet mining town of less than a hundred citizens.

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Association with the Berg Family

The Bergs are one of the oldest and best known families in Round Mountain. Their home is the most substantial residential structures in Round Mountain and also one of the earliest buildings in the town. It has been continuously occupied by the Berg family since it was built.

William H. Berg arrived in Round Mountain in 1906 and established an assay office here during the town's early boom period. W. H. Berg also purchased and operated the original Shoshone Water System which supplied the town with water. He was a prominent rancher, owning the Logan Ranch in Smoky Valley. William and his wife Lillian raised five children in this house. After they died their youngest son, Karl W. Berg, moved his family into the house and Mr. and Mrs. Karl Berg still reside in this house today.