

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

11 Prop.

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps

AND/OR COMMON
N/A

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
See individual inventory forms N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
See Forms N/A VICINITY OF 2
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
Nevada 32 See Forms 031

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME See Individual Inventory Forms

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. See Individual Inventory Forms

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE See Individual Inventory Forms

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 type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | See Individual Inventory Forms. | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SUMMARY

The Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps represents the work of Nevada's most prolific twentieth century architect. During the course of his career (1907-1965), DeLongchamps' architectural firm was responsible for the designs of over 500 buildings as well as numerous additions and alterations to existing structures. Five-hundred-and-fifty-eight of the architect's projects are documented through the firm's drawings now housed at the Special Collections Department of the University of Nevada-Reno, University Library. This collection reflects the scope and evolution of the architect's work. Represented are designs for public, commercial and residential buildings in a variety of styles and economic programs. Although examples of the architect's work can be found in California, Oregon and Wyoming, the vast majority was undertaken in his native state of Nevada. The eleven buildings included in this nomination exemplify the architect's public and commercial work in the northern Nevada communities of Minden and Reno during the period 1910 to 1934. These buildings constitute the first phase in an on-going project to identify and nominate surviving, intact examples of the architect's work in the state.

Buildings were selected for nomination based upon integrity, location and common architectural and historical themes. Although several of the structures have been modified since their construction, all retain their overall architectural integrity and cohesion as a group. All of the buildings occupy prominent sites integral to the architectural character of their respective communities. In addition, the structures share secondary historical associations with the commercial and urban development of the area.

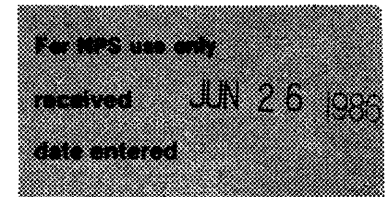
METHODOLOGY

Frederick J. DeLongchamps has long been recognized by the Nevada architectural and preservation community as exerting a major influence upon the state's architectural development. A systematic assessment of the architect's work was begun in 1981 by the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology (HP&A) with research into the architect's career as a whole. An overall evaluation of the architect's work was made possible in 1984 when the Special Collections Department of the University of Nevada-Reno, University Library completed an ambitious project to curate and index drawings related to 558 jobs completed by the architect's firm between 1907 and 1964. This project, funded through HP&A, made possible the retrieval of drawings by building name, client, location, date of construction, building type and drawing type. Using the above information to establish a context from which to evaluate the architect's work, two comprehensive architectural surveys in northern Nevada were evaluated to identify surviving DeLongchamps' buildings. Survey data was field checked by HP&A staff during the summer of 1985 to insure the accuracy of survey data. Buildings were then reviewed against the Standard Criteria for Evaluation to the National Register of Historic Places.

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The six buildings located in downtown Reno were identified as a result of a 1983 comprehensive architectural survey of the city's original commercial and civic core. This survey was undertaken by the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology and the City of Reno, Nevada. Survey work was completed by Rainshadow Associates, a Nevada-based historic preservation consulting firm. The five buildings located in Minden were identified in 1981 through a comprehensive architectural survey of the Carson Valley undertaken by the Douglas County Planning Department and the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology. This survey was completed by the Douglas County Planning Department staff.

ELABORATION

The early twentieth century was a period of expansion and development in Nevada. The state's great gold, silver and copper mining booms were accompanied by a growing population and diversification of support industries. New towns appeared and established communities replaced "first period" buildings with substantial structures reflecting their prosperity and permanence. Demand increased for a variety of public, commercial and residential buildings.

As part of Nevada's small architectural community, Frederick J. DeLongchamps maintained a diversified architectural practice providing a full range of architectural services. The architect was responsible for work in a wide range of building types and economic programs. DeLongchamps' body of work is characterized by its integrity of design. His work employs a conservative design approach which incorporating influences found in the mainstream of American architectural theory.

The architect favored monumental Neo-Classical designs for his public and commercial buildings although isolated examples of Gothic Revival, Moderne and Art Deco designs can be found in his work. These commercial and public buildings are frequently symmetrical and enlivened by elaborate ornamentation. In contrast, DeLongchamps' residential buildings often draw inspiration from the eclectic revivals popular for suburban dwellings of the period. Among these designs prototypes are English Cotswald cottages, French Vernacular architecture, Mediterranean Architecture, Spanish Colonial architecture and American Colonial Revival architecture.

Throughout his career the architect favored stone, brick and terra cotta as building materials. To enliven a facade, DeLongchamps' would employ bricks of contrasting colors set in a variety of patterns. He used terra cotta tiles both as a building face and a decoration. Its highly flexible properties allowed application in intricate patterns. He is the only Nevada architect identified to date to make extensive use of terra cotta as a building material.

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Although similar in use, DeLongchamps' public and commercial buildings in Minden and Reno illustrate the architect's response to two vastly different architectural programs. The planned community of Minden, Nevada was organized as an agricultural shipping center for Carson Valley. With the exception of the Douglas County Courthouse (1915-1964), the remaining buildings: the Minden Inn (1912-16), the Minden Wool Warehouse (1915), the Minden Butter Manufacturing Company (1916), and the Farmers Bank of Carson Valley (1916-18), were commissioned by the locally prominent Dangberg family, the founders and principal promoters of the town. The Minden buildings, designed during the first full decade of the architect's career, are located in the commercial core of the town and establish the community's design character through scale, massing, materials and architectural style.

The buildings can be stylistically divided into two groups according to function. The Minden Inn, the Douglas County Courthouse and the Farmers Bank of Carson Valley are low scale, Neo-Classical style buildings distinguished by their symmetrical compositions, restrained ornamentation, and use of locally fired, yellow brick. The Minden Wool Warehouse and the Minden Butter Manufacturing Company are functional in design and derive their restrained Utilitarian style from form embellished with minimal ornamentation.

The Minden Inn, the Douglas County Courthouse and the Farmers Bank of Carson Valley are "boxy", rectangular buildings. The yellow brick facing is laid to enhance the design of the structures. The Farmers Bank of Carson Valley includes a projecting parapet banded by brick laid in soldier courses. The Minden Inn incorporates banded brick on the first story which extends to banded quoins and pilasters on the upper stories. Brick pilasters and a visual water table accent the Douglas County Courthouse. All three buildings include terra cotta ornamentation used to define their Neo-Classical design.

Locally fired, red brick, laid in contrasting bands are incorporated in the Minden Butter Manufacturing Company and the Minden Wool Warehouse. The Wool Warehouse is a story-and-one-half brick building supported by a raised, cement-parged basement. The gable ends of the structure include corbelled brick raking courses and paneled brick corner towers. The exaggerated central parapet of the Minden Butter Manufacturing Company included decorative brick panels and brick pilasters.

In contrast, the six Reno buildings, the Washoe County Courthouse (1910), the Reno National Bank (1915), the California Apartments (1922), the Riverside Hotel (1926-7), the Bell Telephone Office (1929), and the Reno Post Office (1934) were individual commissions designed for an existing urban center. The buildings are architecturally sophisticated and exhibit similarities in style, proportion, massing and materials. With the exception of the Gothic Revival style, Riverside Hotel, the buildings are interpretations of Classical Revival design and represent a stylistic progression from the Beaux Arts-influenced Washoe County Courthouse to the restrained Moderne design of the Reno Post Office.

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All of the Reno buildings are constructed in masonry accented by contrasting masonry or terra cotta ornamentation. The buildings are characterized by their regular massing and symmetrical disposition of bays. While the two-and-one-half-story California Apartments adopt a low, residential scale reinforced by a shallow, hipped roof with projecting eaves, the remaining buildings are monumental in scale. The designs of the buildings are formal compositions characterized by raised basements, symmetrical facades with highly defined entries and diminished roofs marked by wide cornices.

The Bell Telephone Building (1929) integrates original terra cotta ornamentation. The building includes fluted terra cotta pilasters topped by rectangular panels decorated with a foliated motif surrounding a central bell shape, the symbol of the Telephone Company. DeLongchamps served as supervising architect for this building as well as designer.

The influence of the Beaux Arts School is evident in much of DeLongchamps' work. It is especially visible in his designs in the Classical Revival style for the Washoe County Courthouse (1909-1910) and the Reno National Bank (1915), prominent downtown buildings. The Courthouse is a dramatic building, large in scale and formally composed. Attention is focused on the center of the building with its massive columned portico monumental stairway and heavy central dome. Pilasters articulate the walls and ornamentation is heavy and profuse. Here DeLongchamps made extensive use of intricately detailed, cast terra cotta for the facade. The overall elaboration of this building typifies this stage of his career.

Smaller or more modest buildings designed by the architect during this same period often employ only a few elements of the Classical Revival. Usually, a small Classical portico and cornice are the building's only style features. An example of this design treatment is the California Apartments. The building exhibits the same formal symmetrical plan seen in the architect's larger works, enhanced by careful attention to detail.

In the 1920's and early 1930's, DeLongchamps made use of Period Revival motifs in many of his designs. His Period Revival buildings tend to be rich in texture and inventively detailed. An example is the Riverside Hotel (1927), a red brick building with extensive terra cotta detail in a Gothic Revival motif.

In the mid-1930's, DeLongchamps incorporated Art Deco and Art Moderne motifs in public buildings such as the U.S. Post Office Building (1934). These buildings are formal and symmetrical in layout with a low massing and compact, blocky shapes. Articulation takes the form of slight offsets in the wall surfaces. Vertical groups of large plate glass windows with metal moldings and frames are separated by geometric motif spandrels. Ornamentation is flat and geometric. Interior ornamentation is often elaborate.

DeLongchamps' buildings can be described as stately, dignified, and balanced; skillfully enlivened through the use of thoughtfully applied ornamentation.

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In addition to sharing a common architectural theme, several of the nominated structures share common, secondary historical associations. The California Apartments (1922) and the Riverside Hotel (1926-7) are both associated with Nevada's early 20th century divorce industry. In the early decades of this century, Nevada's liberal divorce laws and minimal residency requirements fostered an economic boom in Reno's service and housing sectors. Both the California Apartments (1922) and the Riverside Hotel (1926-7) were constructed to fill the need for temporary housing generated by divorce law residency requirements.

The Riverside Hotel, along with the Reno National Bank (1915) are also associated with the historically significant financier and political figure, George Wingfield, who was responsible for their construction. The significance of Wingfield to Nevada history is explored below.

Both the Washoe County Courthouse (1910) and the Reno Post Office (1934) are associated with the City's early 20th century attempts to establish a civic identity in the community. Diagonally sited on opposing blocks of North Virginia Street within sight of the Truckee River, the buildings originally formed a visual anchor for the City's principal commercial artery.

The following inventory forms describe and discuss the significance of each of the buildings. Individual forms are keyed to the accompanying maps.

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 checked="" 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 See Forms

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederick J. DeLongchamps

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The eleven buildings encompassed in this nomination are representative of the commercial and public work of prominent Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps in the northern Nevada communities of Reno and Minden during the period of 1910 to 1934. DeLongchamps, who maintained an architectural practice in Reno from 1907 to 1965, is significant to the architectural development of Nevada for the volume of work completed during his career, its range in terms of building types and its quality of design. Noted for his Neo-Classical buildings, DeLongchamps also designed period revival residential structures and utilitarian commercial buildings. During the course of his career he was responsible for introducing current American architectural theory to the state. This nomination is the first phase of an on-going project to identify and nominate significant, intact examples of the architect's work. The Minden and Reno structures are also significant to the historical development of their respective areas. The buildings located in Minden, Nevada, are associated with the locally prominent Dangberg family, the founders and principal promoters of the town of Minden. The DeLongchamps buildings in Reno are prominent structures located in the commercial core of the city. In addition, the Washoe County Courthouse, the Riverside Hotel and the California Apartments are associated with Reno's twentieth-century divorce industry.

Frederick J. DeLongchamps (Criteria C)

During the fifty-eight years that Frederick J. DeLongchamps practiced architecture in Nevada, the architect and his firm were responsible for the designs for over five hundred buildings. The five-hundred-fifty-eight projects credited to the architect's firm played a significant role in molding the architectural character of the state. The impact of the architect's work becomes apparent in light of Nevada's topography and historical development. Seventh largest of the fifty states, Nevada remains sixth lowest in population. With its arid, high desert climate and basin and range topography, Nevada was inhospitable to many of the agriculturally-oriented settlers migrating west in the nineteenth century. The state has consistently relied upon mining and associated boom cycles as the mainstay of its economy. It was not until the first quarter of the twentieth century that the availability of water, improved transportation, gaming and developments in mining technology made much of the state attractive to long term settlement and permanent development. Frederick DeLongchamps became the principal architect in the state during this period.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY See Inventory Forms

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | |
|---|-------|---------|----------|
| A | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | _____ | _____ | _____ |

| | | | |
|---|-------|---------|----------|
| B | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | _____ | _____ | _____ |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Inventory Forms

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathryn M. Kuranda, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

201 South Fall Street

TELEPHONE

(702) 885-5138

CITY OR TOWN

Carson City, Nevada 89710

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 6/12/86

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

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

See Continuation Sheet for Justification

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

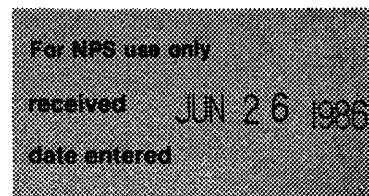
ATTEST:

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The son of French Canadian immigrants, Frederick DeLongchamps was born in Reno on June 2, 1882. After securing a degree in mining engineering from the University of Nevada-Reno in 1904, DeLongchamps briefly pursued a mining career. Physical limitations forced the future architect to revise his career objectives, although he retained a life-long interest in mining engineering. After briefly serving as a draftsman for the U.S. Surveyor's Office in Reno, DeLongchamps moved to San Francisco in 1906 and served an apprenticeship in architecture. Although the architect with whom he studied is, unfortunately, unknown, his early work is strongly influenced by the formality and classicism characteristic of Ecole des Beaux Arts training. In 1907, DeLongchamps returned to Reno and entered into an architectural partnership with Ira W. Tesch, a former colleague at the U.S. Surveyor's Office. The architectural firm won commissions for approximately thirty buildings between 1907 and 1909.

DeLongchamps' solo career dates to 1909 in which year he won the design competition for the Washoe County Courthouse (1910). The next ten years were a prolific period in the architect's career; resulting in the designs for 103 buildings. An indicator of the architect's popular success during the period can be seen in his commissions for the Nevada buildings at the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco and the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego. According to the architectural themes selected for these expositions, DeLongchamps employed the Classical Revival style for the Panama-California Exposition and the Spanish Colonial Revival style for the Panama-California. DeLongchamps was awarded a silver medal by the Board of Consulting Architects of the Panama-Pacific Exposition for "having planned a structure that far surpasses those of many states." The architect was also one of eight finalists in the San Francisco Civic Center state building competition. DeLongchamps' drawings were published in March 1917 in the San Francisco-based journal, The Architect and Engineer of California.

Although DeLongchamps designed buildings in California, Florida, Wyoming and Oregon, the majority of his work was executed in his native state. His identification with the state increased in 1919. In April of that year, the Nevada Legislature appropriated \$520,000.00 for a capital building campaign and authorized the appointment of a Supervising Architect. Later that month State Engineer Scrugham appointed DeLongchamps State Architect. The position of State Architect was abolished in 1921. DeLongchamps was reappointed State Architect in 1923 when the office was reestablished and remained in the position until 1926 when the office was again abolished. As Nevada's only State Architect, DeLongchamps was responsible for the design of numerous state buildings. Among his notable state buildings are: the Nevada Industrial School, Elko (1919), the Nevada State Hospital, Sparks (1920), the Heroes Memorial Building, Carson City (1920), the Nevada State Building, Reno (1926) and the State Supreme Court Building, Carson City (1936). During the 1920's DeLongchamps continued to expand his private practice. One-hundred-and-thirty buildings have been identified as DeLongchamps' designs from this decade and include buildings in English Country, Mediterranean, Tudor Revival, Gothic Revival and Neo-Classical Revival styles.

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The 1930's witnessed a slight decline in the volume of DeLongchamps' work. Approximately 86 buildings have been identified as DeLongchamps' designs during this period, many of which integrate Neo-Classical forms with Moderne ornamentation.

In 1939 DeLongchamps entered into a partnership with architect George L.F. O'Brien. This partnership made permanent a professional association begun in 1916. The DeLongchamps & O'Brien partnership continued to the architects' concurrent retirement in 1965.

One of the few architects to practice in Nevada in the early twentieth century, DeLongchamps is the only one to leave a substantial body of work. City Directories for Reno, the state's major urban center of the time, list ten architects in 1912. The number had fallen to two in 1920-21 and included four in 1930-31. Throughout his career, DeLongchamps collaborated with many of Nevada's small architectural community. He was closely associated with George O'Brien as a partner from 1939-1965. He collaborated with architects George Ferris and son, Lehman Ferris, on the Nevada State Building, Reno (1926). Lehman Ferris received some of his professional training in DeLongchamps' office where he worked as a specifications writer in the late teens. While DeLongchamps' served at State Architect, Lehman Ferris was employed by his office as a specifications writer and building inspector.

DeLongchamps was active in community and professional associations. He was a chapter member of the Reno Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and served as its first president in 1949. He maintained memberships in the Reno Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and the Elks Club. He served as president of the University of Nevada Alumni Association in 1918 and 1919. DeLongchamps was awarded the University of Nevada-Reno's Distinguished Nevadan Award in 1966. The architect died in Reno on February 11, 1969.

Development of Minden (Criteria A)

The five DeLongchamps buildings located in Minden, Nevada are associated with the early development of the town and with its founder and principal promoter, H.F. Dangberg, Jr. Minden was established in 1905 as an agricultural shipping center and railhead for Carson Valley. Although proposals for the construction of a railroad to serve the area were circulated as early as 1876, limited support for the project was enlisted until the turn of the century. The selection of a terminal site became a major community controversy once the decision to extend rail service to the Valley was made. Originally, the town of Gardnerville was considered for the depot, however, land prices proved prohibitive. In 1905, H.F. Dangberg, son of the founder of the locally prominent Dangberg Land and Live Stock Company, donated a terminal site two miles northwest of Gardnerville to the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. The Dangberg family were among the first settlers of the Carson Valley. H.F. Dangberg, senior settled in the area in 1856 and founded the region's largest cattle ranch. By 1905, the Dangberg Land and Live Stock Company encompassed 48,000 acres. The significance of the family to the development of the Carson Valley was recognized in 1980 when the 33.7 acre, Dangberg home ranch was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Shortly after donating the terminal site to the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, H.F. Dangberg, Jr., founded the town of Minden adjoining the railroad right-of-way. Unlike many western towns, Minden, named for Minden, Germany, was a planned community. A town square was laid out and distinct residential and commercial districts established. Free lots were offered to businessmen willing to relocate in the new community.

Over the next ten years, the Dangbergs continued to shape the development of the community. Towards the end, the architectural services of Frederick J. DeLongchamps were retained to design four prominent buildings associated with the Dangberg business interests. These buildings, the Minden Inn (1912-16), the Minden Wool Warehouse (1915), the Minden Butter Manufacturing Company (1916), and the Farmers Bank of Carson Valley (1916-18) are the most substantial commercial structures in the community and define its architectural character. H.F. Dangberg, Jr., also influenced the relocation of the Douglas County seat from Genoa to Minden in 1916. DeLongchamps was also selected to design the Douglas County Courthouse in that year.

Reno Divorce Industry (Criteria A)

In addition to being significant for their association with DeLongchamps, three of the six Reno buildings are significant for their historical associations with Reno's early twentieth century divorce industry. These structures are the Washoe County Courthouse, the Riverside Hotel and the California Apartments.

The City of Reno, Nevada was founded in 1868 as a railhead for the Central Pacific Railroad. Reno was an important transportation center for the Comstock mining district in the 19th century and continues to serve as an important regional distribution center in the 20th century. Easy rail access was instrumental in fostering Reno's development as a center for Nevada's early 20th-century divorce industry.

The first divorce decree in Nevada was granted on November 5, 1859, in the town of Genoa, while the State was still part of the Utah Territory. Relatively few divorces were granted in the State until the early 1900's when the Nevada Legislature liberalized its divorce residency requirements to six months. Northern Nevada soon became a popular and well-publicized center for obtaining a divorce as the result of its liberal divorce requirements in comparison to other states and due to the publicity generated by prominent social figures.

Reno attracted national attention with the Corey divorce of 1906. In July of that year, the wife of U.S. Steel Corporation president, William Ellis Corey, sued for divorce in Washoe County. Actress Mabell Gilman was named corresponding defendant in the suit. The publicity from the case won Reno the national reputation as a divorce capitol.

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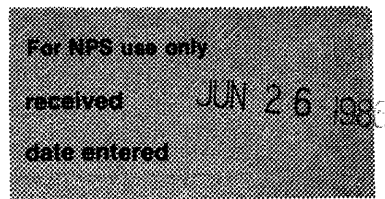
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As a result of the minimal requirements necessary for obtaining a divorce decree, northern Nevada experienced an economic boom in the service and short-term housing sectors. In 1928, Pittsburg Press columnist, Max Stern, estimated that Nevada's temporary residents contributed over \$5 million a year to Reno's economy. Reno divorces became even more fashionable in 1919 when the State's residency requirements were reduced to three months, and again in 1931 when the requirements became six weeks. By 1931, 4,800 divorce suits were filed in Washoe County. The Washoe County Courthouse served as the center for this activity. In Reno, housing for the State's temporary residents was provided by boarding houses, guest ranches (divorce ranches), apartment houses such as the California Apartments and hotels with casinos such as the Riverside Hotel.

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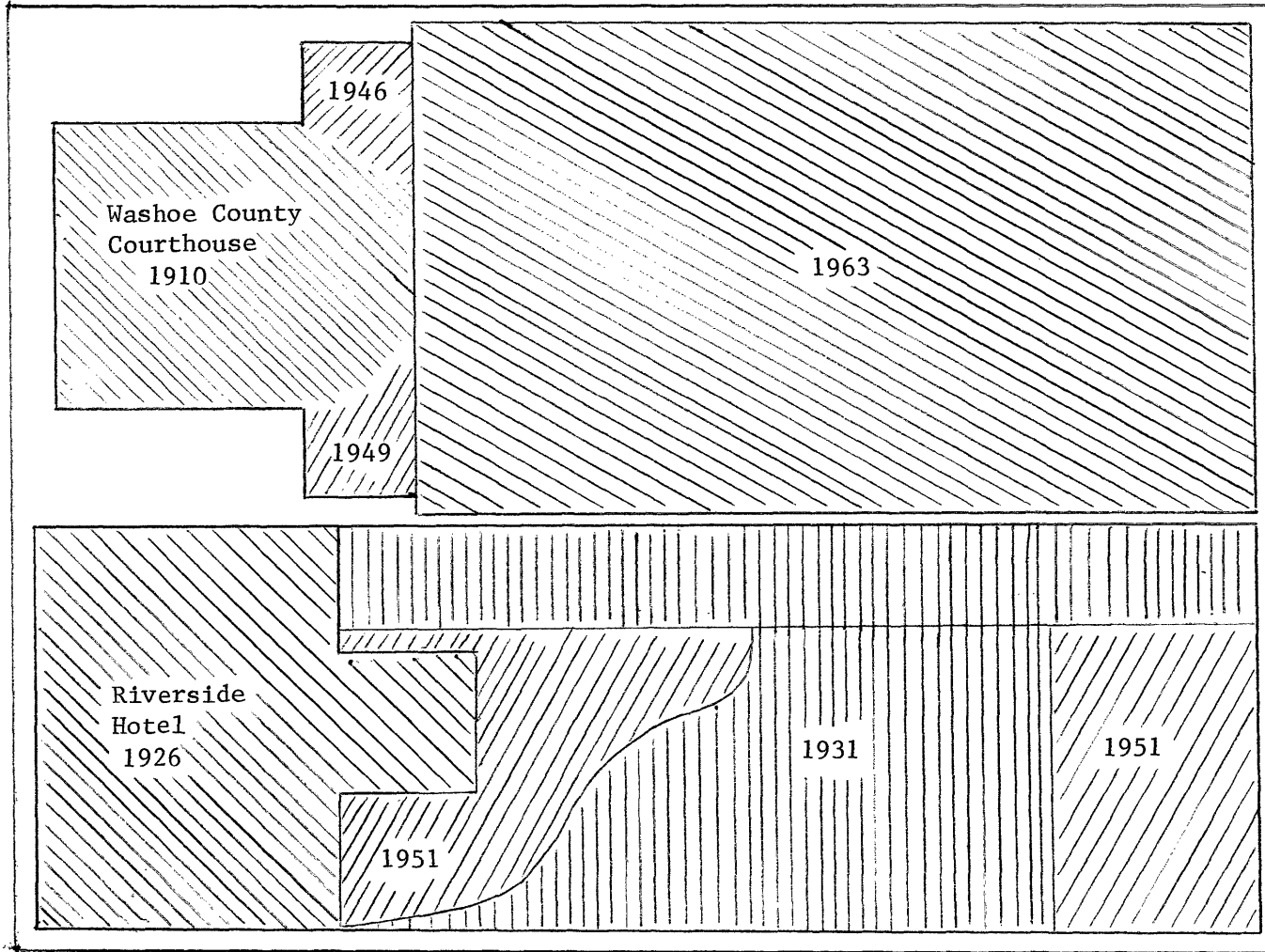
Thematic Nomination of DeLongchamps Architecture
Major Bibliographical



Continuation sheet References Item number 9 Page 1 of 1

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Court Street



Virginia Street

Sierra Street

Island Avenue

JUN 26 1986

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 20 1987
DATE ENTERED OCT -2 1987

**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 Amendment to the Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of
Frederick J. DeLongchamps
AND/OR COMMON
N/A

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Carson Street
CITY, TOWN
Carson City
STATE
Nevada
VICINITY OF
N/A
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2
COUNTY
Carson City
CODE
031
(Independent Municipality)

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Please see continuation sheets

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
STATE
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Carson City Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Carson Street
CITY, TOWN
Carson City,
STATE
Nevada

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
N/A
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three buildings encompassed by this amendment to the Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps are intact examples of the architect's public work in the Nevada State Capitol. The Ormsby County Courthouse (1920-1922), the Heroes Memorial Building (1920-1922) and the Nevada State Supreme Court Building (1935-36) form a unified governmental complex located on Carson City's main street opposite the Nevada State Capitol. All three structures retain their original governmental use. The Ormsby County Courthouse has served as the Carson City Courthouse since the abolition of Ormsby County in 1969 and the establishment of Carson as an independent municipality. The Nevada State Supreme Court building has served as such since its construction while the Heroes Memorial Building has housed the offices of the Nevada Attorney General since shortly after its construction.

The structures included in this nomination were documented as part of an on going project to identify and nominate buildings designed by prominent Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps. During DeLongchamps career (1907-1965), the architect and his firm were responsible for over 500 designs for a range of public, commercial and residential buildings in a variety of styles and economic programs. The Carson City complex exemplified DeLongchamps' public architecture during the 1920's and 1930's. The structures are sited on a landscaped city block oriented towards the Nevada State Capitol and Carson City's main commercial artery, Carson Street.

The Ormsby County Courthouse and the Heroes Memorial Building were built from identical designs developed while DeLongchamps served as Nevada State Architect (1919-1921). The structures are located parallel to one another and flank the Nevada Supreme Court Building. The three buildings form an open landscaped court focusing upon an ornate fountain given to Carson City in 1909 by the National Humane Alliance. Originally the fountain was sited where the Supreme Court building now stands. It was moved to make way for construction in 1935 and has been at its present location since then. The granite fountain is of particular interest since it provides access to water for both horses and dogs and smaller animals. The Ormsby County Courthouse and Heroes Memorial Building are monumental, Neo-Classical style structures constructed in coursed sandstone and rise two-stories to shallow hipped roofs clad in standing seam tin. The symmetrical, nine-bay, buildings are dominated by central, pedimented porticos which rise the height of the structures. The porticos are reached by way of open, masonry stairs which form a podium for the porticos' Tuscan-Order columns. The structures are banded by molded cornices and incorporate one-light-over-one-light windows enframed by simple molded surrounds. Entries are centrally located, double leaf, plate-glass units enframed by simple masonry surrounds topped by a full entablature.

In contrast, the Nevada Supreme Court Building illustrates the influence of the Moderne style on DeLongchamps' public architecture of the 1930's and is similar in design approach to the Reno Post Office (1934) [See Nomination Cover Form.] The Supreme Court Building is a two-story, masonry structure clad in terra cotta. The seven-bay, symmetrical building terminates in a flat roof delineated by a parapet. A single story penthouse corresponds to the projecting central five bays of the principal (E) elevation. The central pavilion is distinguished from the remainder of the structure by an elaborate cornice incorporating deeply incised Greek fret

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

ornamentation. The central pavilion bays are divided by fluted pilasters lacking bases and capitols. Spandrels are incised with chevrons and stylized sunburst motifs. First story windows are two-light-over-two-light sash with elongated lower lights. Second story windows are two-light. The principal entrance (E) is centrally located and reached by way of an open masonry stair. A concrete, handicapped access ramp was added to the principal elevation c. 1970. This ramp is defined by a pipe railing and does not detract from the overall design of the structure.

Adjoining the rear of the Heroes Memorial Building is a two-story, Art Deco Building constructed in 1935, 1939-40 according to designs by the architectural department of the Nevada Department of Highways. Erected as a free-standing structure, the Materials and Research Laboratory was connected to the rear of the Heroes Memorial Building c. 1950 by a two-story hyphen. Despite this connection, both structures retain their architectural integrity and visually read as two distinct structures.

The Materials and Research Laboratory (now Veterans Memorial Hall) and the National Humane Alliance Fountain are not associated with the work of Frederick J. DeLongchamps and are non-contributing elements to this nomination. The Ormsby County Courthouse the Heroes Memorial Building, and the Nevada State Supreme Court Building are contributing elements to the nomination.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES (1920-21) (1935-36) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frederick J. DeLongchamps

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria: A, C

The three buildings included in this documentation are historically significant for their association with the development of Ormsby County and the state of Nevada. The buildings are also architecturally significant for their quality of design and association with notable Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps.

Frederick J. DeLongchamps (1882-1969) maintained an architectural practice in Reno from 1907 to 1965. During his career, DeLongchamps was responsible for the designs for over 500 public, commercial and residential buildings, the majority of which were constructed in his native state of Nevada. (For a detailed discussion of the significance of the architecture of Frederick DeLongchamps please see the Thematic Nomination Cover Form).

DeLongchamps holds the distinction of being Nevada's only State Architect. He was appointed to the position on April 10, 1919 and served until the post was temporarily abolished in 1921. DeLongchamps was reappointed State Architect in 1923 and remained in the post until it was permanently abolished in 1926. While State Architect, DeLongchamps began the development of the governmental complex encompassing the Heroes Memorial Building, the Nevada Supreme Court Building and the Ormsby County Courthouse. DeLongchamps position as State Architect as well as one of Nevada's few architects practicing in the state during the early twentieth century, strengthened his position as Nevada's most prolific practitioner of public architecture. He was subsequently the most logical choice for the 1935 Supreme Court commission.

The three structures, the Heroes Memorial Building, the Supreme Court and the Ormsby County Courthouse, dramatically illustrate the evolution of the architect's public architecture between the 1920's and 1930's. While the twin Heroes Memorial Building and the Ormsby County Courthouse are monumental, Neo-Classical style designs, the Supreme Court Building is a compatible, distinctively Moderne design. Through the use of similar scales, proportion and materials the three structures are unified in a cohesive complex.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Thematic Nomination Cover Form

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES See continuation sheet.

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Real Property located at 19 N. Carson Street and 100 S. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. Parcels 3-218-01 and 3-218-02 Proctor and Green's Addition, inclusive.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathryn M. Kuranda, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Nevada Division of Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

201 South Fall Street, Room 106

CITY OR TOWN

Carson City,

DATE

7/23/87

TELEPHONE

(702) 885-5138

STATE

Nevada 89710

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, Deputy

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/3/87

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Sandra McCalland

DATE

Oct. 2, 1987

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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In addition to their architectural significance, the three buildings share historical associations with the development of Carson City and the state of Nevada.

The Ormsby County Courthouse has served as the local administrative center for the community since its construction in 1920. The building replaced an 1860 hotel adapted in that decade as a courthouse by the county.

The Supreme Court building has housed the highest court in the State since its construction in 1935. In that year, the Nevada Supreme Court moved from its single room quarters in the State Capitol building across the street. The original Supreme Court room in the Capitol is modified and used for meetings.

The Heroes Memorial building provides office space for the Attorney General. Originally designed to house general state offices, the structure has been used by the Attorney General since the late 1930's.

While not associated with the career of Frederick J. DeLongchamps, the National Humane Alliance Fountain provides a visual focus for the placement of the DeLongchamps' buildings. The simple granite fountain is a rare Carson City example of the type of civic improvement associated with the early twentieth century, city beautiful movement. Veterans Memorial Hall, which adjoins the rear elevatoin of the Heroes Memorial Building was constructed in 1935 by the Nevada Department of Highways to house their Materials and Research Laboratory. The structure reads as a distinct building from the Heroes Memorial Building and is not associated with Frederick J. DeLongchamps. The National Humane Alliance Fountain and the Veterans Memorial Hall are not contributing elements to this nomination.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet Item number Page

Multiple Resource Area dnr-11
Thematic Group

Name DeLongchamps, Frederic J., Architecture Thematic Resources
State ~~Douglas~~ Washoe County, NEVADA

Conn _____

Nomination/Type of Review Date/Signature

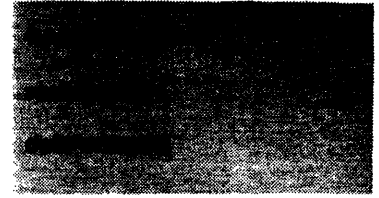
- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Barengo Building | Substantive Review | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| R - 2. Bell Telephone of Nevada | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 8/6/84</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| R 3. VIA CHINA APARTMENTS - California Apartments | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 8/6/84</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. Frandsen, Andrew, Apartment Building | Substantive Review | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| R - 5. Reno National Bank | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 8/6/84</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| R - 6. Riverside Hotel | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 8/6/84</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| R - 7. Washoe County Courthouse | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 8/6/84</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| R 8. Pearson and Cafferata Building | Substantive Review | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. St. Thomas Aquinas Rectory and School | Substantive Review | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. <i>(already DOE 3/7/83)</i> | Substantive Review | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name DeLongchamps, Frederick J., Architecture TR
State Douglass and Washoe Counties, NEVADA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11. Douglas County Courthouse | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 12. Farmers Bank of Carson Valley | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 13. Minden Butter Manufacturing Company | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 14. Minden Inn | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 15. Minden Wool Warehouse | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 8/6/86</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 16. Reno Main Post Office | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Ret</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 17. Carson City Public Buildings | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 10/2/87</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 18. Douglas County High School | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>3/9/92</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 19. Washoe County Library--Sparks Branch | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>3/9/92</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |
| 20. Immaculate Conception Church | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>12/23/92</u> |
| | Attest | _____ |