

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received APR 13 1982

date entered MAY 20 1982

**1. Name** Tonopah Multiple Resource Area

historic Historic Resources of Tonopah (partial inventory: historical and architectural)

and/or common Tonopah Multiple Resource Area

**2. Location**

street & number (See Section 10 for boundary description) not for publication

city, town Tonopah X vicinity of congressional district Nevada-at-Large

state Nevada code 32 county Nye code 023

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<u>district</u>	<u>public</u>	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>agriculture</u>
<u>building(s)</u>	<u>private</u>	<u>X</u> unoccupied	<u>X</u> commercial
<u>structure</u>	<u>X</u> both	<u>X</u> work in progress	<u>educational</u>
<u>site</u>	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>entertainment</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>X</u> government
<u>Multiple</u>	<u>being considered</u>	<u>X</u> yes: unrestricted	<u>X</u> industrial
<u>Resource Area</u>		<u>no</u>	<u>military</u>
			<u>other:</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple ownership (see attached inventory forms)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Nye County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Tonopah state Nevada 89049

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nye County Historic Property Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1980 no federal no state X county no local

depository for survey records Board of County Commissioners, Nye County

city, town Tonopah state Nevada 89049

## 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 Tonopah multiple resource area falls within a one and a quarter square mile boundary which defines the historic development of Tonopah, Nevada. It encompasses the mining activity and settlement pattern that resulted from the initial discovery of precious metals in the area in 1900 to the evolution of Tonopah as a major mining and financial center. The area contains a collection of buildings constructed primarily during the boom period (1900-1907) which exemplify Tonopah's architectural heritage, or are significant for their association with important events or persons. Within the multiple resource area can also be found a wide range of industrial sites and structures that directly relate to the historic mining activity which motivated initial development of the area and formed the primary foundation of Tonopah's existence.

### Geographic Features

Tonopah is located in the vast desert area of southwestern Nevada best characterized by broad valleys with scant vegetation separated by long, low mountain ranges. The Tonopah townsite and mining district lies on the western slope of the southern edge of one such mountain range, the San Antonio, near the Ralston Desert Valley. That portion of the San Antonio Range is composed of a number of low and detached mountains of volcanic origin having rugged and irregular shapes caused by erosion. The settlement of Tonopah occurred in a small natural basin between two mountains characteristic of the area: the rich ore producing hill called Mount Oddie and the opposite promontory known as Brouher Mountain.

The physical relationship between the development of Tonopah at the foot of these hills and the location of the mining features on the surrounding slopes provide a convenient geographical and historical setting from which the boundaries of the Tonopah multiple resource area can be delineated. The western edge is the north - south dividing line between sections 34 and 35, Township 3N, Range 42E, which also defines the boundary of Nye and Esmeralda Counties. The northern limits take an east - west direction on the north side of Mount Oddie past the Mizpah Extension and Belmont mines, to include all major mining sites on that hill. The southern boundary is an east - west line south of the Brouher Mountain which extends across the peak of Heller Butte. The eastern edge runs between Mizpah Hill and Rushton Hill and encloses the roughly square shape of the multiple resource area. Within the confines of this boundary lies the historic development area of the townsite, the primary geographic features, and all the major mining related industrial sites, which together provide for a comprehensive understanding of Tonopah's historical setting.

Today Tonopah is a community of nearly 1500 people living almost entirely within the boundaries of the multiple resource area. The existing density and development pattern of the residential, commercial, and industrial elements of the community has remained almost exactly as it was during the historic period with most housing extending up the northeast slope of Brouher Mountain, the commercial district at the valley floor, and the mining and industrial features concentrated along the southern and western portion of Mount Oddie.

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Transecting these three physical characteristics in a northwesterly direction is the major transportation artery, U.S. Highway 95. The highway approaches Tonopah from Goldfield on a sweeping curve from the south and continues toward the center of the town past the Nye County Courthouse situated on a small rise known as Gold Hill. To the north on Mount Oddie can be seen the headframes of the Valley View and Desert Queen shafts. The highway passes through the Central strip of historic commercial development highlighted by the towering State Bank and Trust Building and the Mizpah Hotel. To the west, along streets rising parallel with the topography of Brougher Mountain, is the primary residential district of the community. The pie-shaped grids of streets on the hillside reflect both the geographic limitations of the area and the irregular boundaries of mining claims upon which the platted subdivisions were overlayed. U.S. Highway 95 continues north and west through the business district and past a relatively undeveloped area near the abandoned railroad grade. Again to the north are found industrial features including the steel headframe of the Mizpah Mine and the site of the recently burned Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad Depot. Once outside the multiple resource area boundary, the highway stretches toward Hawthorne some 103 miles distant.

The Historic Pattern

The primary focus of physical development in Tonopah took place between the years 1900-1907. During this period the area witnessed its most dramatic increase in population, its strongest economic growth, and the greatest number of mining and commercial enterprises. The height of Tonopah building activity corresponded to this period and within that seven year time frame the townsite evolved from clusters of tents and dugouts to substantial commercial buildings strung along Main Street and hundreds of residential structures built on the hillsides. After 1907 the economy stabilized, and Tonopah endured only periodic resurgences of mining activity and related building development. The evidence of those times however, is greatly overshadowed by the amount of architecture which remains from the boom period.

The initial settlement pattern in Tonopah was tied almost exclusively to the location of the original claims, shafts and other mining operations. Although a townsite was platted in November 1900 which extended westward from the foot of Brougher Mountain up its eastern slope, most of the first building activity occurred on the opposite hillside of Mt. Oddie, closest to the mining ground. During the brief leasing period between the fall of 1900 and December 1901 the majority of Tonopah's population were mines whose attention was focused on the exploration of the mines. Little effort was spent on any substantial building activity and the provision of shelter was only a matter of expediency and availability of materials. Structures consisted of a conglomeration of tents, dugouts, board and batten dwellings, and crude stone cabins, as well as a variety of makeshift efforts such as wood and gunny sack houses, barrel and bottle houses, houses of packed mud or any combination of materials which could be assembled to provide shelter. The distillate oil can became a common building material in

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Tonopah. When filled with sand it could be laid like brick; if flattened out and nailed like shingles, it served as roofing material.

The exception to the disorganized array of miners cabins on the hillside was the initial commercial development undertaken by early merchants and businessmen. From the beginning the commercial center of Tonopah was Main Street (U.S.95) located along the longitudinal axis of the small valley between Brougher and Oddie Mountains. Here frame business buildings lined both sides of the roadway in regimented fashion and extended sporadically toward the south. Roofs were gabled, and most had false front facades. Major frame structures from this period included H. C. Cutting's Tonopah Stock Exchange, the two story Miners Exchange, and the original Mizpah Grill. At the same time many of Tonopah's first frame buildings were transported from the fading mining camps of Candelaria and Belmont. All of these original frame commercial buildings no longer exist, the result of fires or replacement with more substantial structures. However, the Golden Block and the Wieland Brewery, both constructed of stone, still remain as evidence of the early commercial period.

Tonopah's initial settlement followed a pattern not unlike most mining boom camps; the first building efforts were inherently temporary in nature until the value of the mines could justify a permanent community. Once the wealth of Tonopah's mines had been established, the expansion of the town took tremendous proportions. Between 1902 and the coming of the railroad in 1905 the population grew quickly and a prolifery of residential structures dotted the western slope of Brougher Mountain. Various additions to the original townsite were platted in rapid succession with lots averaging 100 feet deep with 30 foot frontages. Due to the terraced topography of Brougher Mountain blocks were long and narrow and usually extended only the depth of one lot.

As Tonopah emerged from mining camp to city its pattern of development solidified. The boundaries of the commercial district expanded one block on each side of Main Street from Oddie Avenue to Everett Avenue. The major cross streets of Brougher and Bryan Avenues extended up the hillside to the prestigious residential locations known as California Heights and University Heights. The area in between, from Prospect to St. Patrick was the setting of a more modest residential district integrated with boarding houses and churches. Another moderate neighborhood developed north of the Nye County Courthouse along Florence and Belmont Avenues. Company housing was concentrated around the mining operations, most noticeably the Tonopah Mining Company houses on the upper south slope of Mt. Oddie. The red light district was compressed into an area west of lower Main Street near the commercial district, and extended along Corona and Oddie Avenues up to Water Street.

The architectural appearance of boom period Tonopah is best characterized by the interface of stylistic treatment with construction materials on the various building types. Although board lumber was not consistently available until the railroad was built, frame

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dwellings were the most abundant form of housing. They were modest in size with shiplap or board and batten siding and simple gabled or hipped roofs.

More attention was paid to house format and symmetry than to extemporaneous ornamentation. Buildings range from the large well crafted residence, to the utilitarian board and batten miner's cabin. The most readily available building materials however, were those extracted from the earth; locally quarried stone, and an "adobe" mixture of mud and rubble. Tonopah's stone buildings are the most characteristic elements of the community's architectural heritage. Stone as a building material is found in all major construction efforts, both public and commercial, and was widely used in residential architecture. The methods of construction show varying degrees of refinement from uncoursed rubble in a chink and mortar matrix to the well executed craftsmanship of cut and dressed stonework. Buildings of earthen wall construction, dubbed "adobe", were built of a mud composition tamped into forms and finished with an exterior plaster. The material was used primarily in a residential format, usually covered with hipped roofs, and featured additional stylistic applications such as scored plaster to simulate ashlar construction.

Prefabricated building materials, in particular corrugated and pressed metals, are also seen, especially on commercial buildings. Expansive wall surfaces are also covered with sheets of metal pressed into configurations of stone or brick. Other common early twentieth Century building materials such as brick and rusticated concrete block received little attention from local builders and architects. The relatively few examples of buildings constructed of these materials can be attributed to both expedience and economics: although a brick kiln was in operation locally, stone at the quarries was advertised as free for the taking and required no time for manufacture.

Stylistic characteristics, regardless of the materials used in construction, are almost exclusively derived from the Neo-Classical Revival or the Neo-Colonial mode of the Georgian Revival.

Residential architecture in Tonopah takes the basic format of the Neo-Colonial style with rectangular plans and symmetrical massing. Roofs are hipped or double pitched and their eaves are detailed with Classical cornice molding. Entrance porches are either inset so as not to detract from the overall symmetry, or extend uniformly along the front facade supported by simple Classical columns. The wide range of residential building typology includes single family houses, row houses built up to the front lot line in a rhythmic pattern along the street, large boarding houses with dormered roofs and extensive verandas, and miners cabins of simple rectangular, utilitarian shapes.

Tonopah's commercial buildings are all derivatives of the Neo-Classical Revival style although the more formal elements and detailing are somewhat subdued. Most obvious is the attention to symmetry at the facades articulated either by uniformly located openings or pilaster strips between bays. All have some form of pediment, usually a stepped portion of the parapet, and each building features a pressed metal Classical cornice.

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Almost all of the commercial buildings extend to the front property line and are full width of the lot.

Other historic styles evident in Tonopah include eclectic combinations of the Neo-Colonial format with Queen Anne elements or Victorian detailing. The Eastern Shingle Style is visible in only two residential structures and other twentieth century styles, such as the bungalow, make no significant appearance.

Archaeology

Potential archaeological sites within the multiple resource area can be classified in one of two categories: historic archeology and industrial archeology. Of the two, industrial archaeological sites associated with mining activity are the most common and include mine headframes, hoist houses and other outbuildings. Mill sites of the Tonopah Extension Mining Company and the Tonopah - Belmont Mining Company are also included within the multiple resource area. Other industrial archaeological features include the extensive Tonopah Foundry, electrical power plants and substations, warehouses, and portions of the historic railroad grade.

Historic archaeological resources consist primarily of building sites or ruins, trash dumps and privy pits. Many sites have not been rebuilt upon and may likely yield important documentation concerning Tonopah's past. Potential historic archeological sites include the first Grammar School and the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad Depot which was destroyed by fire in August 1980.

It is anticipated that a second phase of historic property survey work will concentrate on historic sites and structures of an archeological nature.

Survey Methodology

The survey of the Tonopah Multiple Resource area was begun in July 1980. The boundaries were delineated according to the historic development area of Tonopah in anticipation of a nomination to the National Register, as well as future survey work.

The bulk of the survey was undertaken by a team of professionals which included an architectural historian, historian architect and historian. An initial visual survey and inventory of potential historic properties was conducted and historic building files set up for each property. The team then proceeded to research and collect specific information about the history of each property. Investigation efforts included newspaper research and indexing, current and historic photograph collection, biographical sketches, oral histories, historic written accounts, and local assessor's records. Other pertinent information such as selected chains of title were research by local volunteers.

Information about each property was then assembled onto historic property survey forms which emphasize the property's physical appearance, a statement of significance, legal information and other data needed for the level of documentation required by the National Register.

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This continuation sheet will serve to combine the Nevada-California Power Co. Substation, and Nevada-California Power Co. Auxiliary Power Building, as submitted separately to the National Register as part of the Tonopah Multiple Resource Area.

As an important ensemble, the two structures are significant for their association with the development of electrical power in Tonopah, and for their relationship to the history of the mining industry in Southwestern Nevada.

There are unknown architects for both structures, and the combined acreage for both structures remains less than one.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1907	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) mining

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<b>Specific dates</b>	Various	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Various
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Tonopah multiple resource area encompasses within its boundaries a majority of the historic resources directly associated with the beginning of Nevada's second major mining boom. The development of Tonopah holds national, state, and local significance for its role in the growth of the state, its resounding economic impacts, contributions to the history of mining engineering, and associations with important political figures. Tonopah's heritage is manifested primarily in its significant commercial and residential architecture, and its mining and engineering sites and structures. They bespeak of a particular place in time when Tonopah not only became the focus of regional mining and financial activity, but also commanded the attention of the nation.

### Historical Overview

Part-time prospector James L. Butler's chance discovery of rich silver bearing ore in the San Antonio Mountains of Central Nevada in May 1900 ended a twenty year depression of the state's mining industry that had followed the decline of the great Comstock Lode in 1878. The discovery of the Comstock in 1859 had brought thousands of people to the region, prompted statehood in 1864, and provided almost the sole source of Nevada's nineteenth century economy. With the decline of the Comstock and the resultant exodus of most of its population, Nevada endured a great deal of national criticism as being a burdensome wasteland; some even questioning the continuance of statehood. Despite the criticism, hundreds of prospectors continued to roam the vast mountain ranges of Nevada in search of a new "Comstock".

James L. Butler was one such prospector. He made his historic discovery at Tonopah in May 1900 while on a prospecting trip to the Southern Klondike in Esmeralda County. In late August, eight locations were recorded by Butler and the Tonopah Mining District was organized. Initial financing was required to develop the claims and Butler enlisted the aid of Wilson "Wilse" Brougher, Nye County Auditor-Recorder, and Tasker Lowndes Oddie, an Austin attorney. The new partnership completed their locations at Tonopah and were able to mine two tons of ore which brought \$500. Also, in November, Walter C. Gayhart, another Austin attorney, surveyed the townsite of Tonopah. By the end of the year, the discovery of a rich mining district in the San Antonio Mountains, as well as the founding of the town of Tonopah, had become official.

The first phase of Tonopah's development was the leasing period which lasted from December 1900 until January 1, 1902. The skepticism in mining investments at the turn of the century which followed the speculative frauds of the post-Comstock era prevented Butler from receiving financial backing from capitalists in San Francisco and elsewhere. As an alternative, Butler sought to stimulate financial interest by proving the value of the mines through limited leasing of the claims to local prospectors and miners. During the winter of 1900-01, news of the Tonopah discovery spread beyond central Nevada to the rest of the state and nearby eastern California. The spring of 1901 witnessed a tremendous influx of people into the isolated camp and over 100 leases were granted by Butler and his partners. By the end of 1901, about \$4,000,000 worth of ore in the district had been extracted by the leasers.

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The first major freight route was a wagon road which linked Tonopah to Sodaville, a small station on the Carson and Colorado Railroad. The first leasers' ore was hauled over this route which also served as the primary access for forwarding operations bringing materials and provisions to the camp. Merchants, supplied by this route, established businesses in the community to profit from the miner's prosperity and by the end of leasing period, Tonopah began to take the formal appearance of a town.

In 1902, corporate mining pushed the prospector and leaser out of the Tonopah Mining District and the second most important phase of Tonopah's development was begun. The previous July, Butler and his partners had optioned their properties to mining promoter Oscar A. Turner for \$336,000. Turner represented a group of Philadelphia capitalists including Arthur Brock who on July 21, 1901 incorporated the Tonopah Mining Company under the laws of Delaware. Butler honored his oral lease agreements and insisted that the leasers be allowed to work their claims until midnight December 31, 1901. A second large mining company, the Tonopah-Belmont, was organized by Tasker Oddie on claims adjoining those of the Tonopah Mining Company. The new company was incorporated in New Jersey on December 15, 1902 with John Brock of Philadelphia as President. From 1901 to 1940, the Brock family, through these two companies, controlled approximately 60 percent of the total Tonopah mine production.

Once mining operations in the area solidified, Tonopah began to progress from a primitive mining camp to a permanent town. Estimates of the number of inhabitants in the community by the fall of 1902 ranged from 2,000 to 3,000. In only the second year of its existence, Tonopah may well have surpassed Virginia City and Carson City to become, after Reno, the second largest town in Nevada. The discoveries at Tonopah sparked an era of prospecting that encompassed nearly all of central Nevada's vast desert. A gold discovery thirty miles south of Tonopah in December 1902 led to the fabulous Goldfield boom. Other new discoveries or rediscoveries followed including Bullfrog and Rhyolite (1904-05), Silver Peak (1905), Manhattan (1905), Round Mountain (1906), Fairview (1906), Wonder (1906) and Rawhide (1906). All of these camps and dozens of others, owed their existence directly or indirectly to Tonopah. For the first ten years of the twentieth century, Tonopah, with its vast hinterland, served as the focal point for mining development in the United States.

With the nationwide visibility given the central Nevada boom, the period up until 1907 was a time of steady growth for Tonopah. By 1902, the town had two established newspapers, a school, telegraph and telephone service, and an organized miners union. In October 1902 the Crystal Water Company piped the first supply of water from a nearby well to Tonopah's commercial district. Two months later, electricity was provided to the Tonopah Mining District by the Tonopah Light and Power Company's power plant. A post office had been established in April 1901 under the name "Butler" but was officially changed in March 1905 to Tonopah.

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The completion of the narrow-gauge Tonopah Railroad in 1904 marked a new era for Tonopah. Growth in the community's population, its buildings, and mining activity were substantially accelerated with a rail link to Reno and San Francisco. In the summer of 1905, a standard-gauge track replaced the inadequate narrow-gauge track, and Goldfield was linked to Tonopah by rail. By 1907 Tonopah had a rail connection to Rhyolite and Los Angeles via the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad, and to Las Vegas and Salt Lake City via the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad.

Tonopah became the official governmental center of Nye County when the county seat was moved by legislative action from Belmont in May 1905. By 1906, Tonopah was Nevada's largest city with a population of nearly 10,000 inhabitants.

The beginning of the decline of Tonopah's boom period was forecast indirectly by the San Francisco earthquake and fire of April 1906. Investment capital from the bay city dried up and, although Tonopah responded quickly by finding other investment sources, the adverse economic impacts of the earthquake were permanently felt. Tonopah's boom period ended a year later with the Panic of 1907. The nationwide bank failure late in the year was an unforecast disaster which forced the closure of two of Tonopah's three banking institutions. Although silver production in Tonopah did not fall off following the panic, but only stabilized, the era of great building activity ceased. Thousands of people moved out of Tonopah and other camps and towns in central Nevada, thus signaling the close of the west's last great frontier mining rush.

The history of Tonopah from 1908 to 1940 is a scenario of gradual decline with an occasional upturn in the local economy. Precious metal production would continue to increase at a stable rate, hitting a peak in 1914 and again in 1918. The town's population, however, declined from an estimated high of 10,000 in 1907 to 3,900 in 1910, 4,144 in 1920, 2,116 in 1930, and 2,471 in 1940. In 1918, at the height of World War I, mineral production set a record for gross yield at \$9,311,560 due primarily to the Pittman Silver Act of 1918, which guaranteed the minimum price of silver at \$1 per ounce. Despite protracted labor disputes in 1919 and 1921, Tonopah's mineral output averaged \$6,000,000 per year between 1918 and 1923. During the same period, the Divide boom south of Tonopah in Esmeralda County accounted for some increased mineral production. In 1923, the Pittman Act was not reauthorized, ending government subsidies of silver prices, and Tonopah's mineral production began to drop off. By 1930, with the depressed price of silver on the world market, local production had reached an all-time low. Tonopah had become a town primarily surviving as the seat of county government and as a supply and service center for the surrounding region. World War II brought a brief resurgence in local economy with the establishment of the Tonopah Army Air Base, but the war's end closed the base and ended local war-time prosperity.

Today, Tonopah is a stable community of nearly 1,500 people sustained by renewed mining interests, nearby military facilities, moderate tourism, and as a stopping point on a major interstate transportation route.

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Association with Historic Persons

The persons most associated with Tonopah during its boom years were a conglomeration of mining men, merchants, professionals, politicians, and adventurers-turned-financiers. Perhaps the most visible of these was James Logan "Jim" Butler. Butler, a native of Logtown, El Dorado County, California, was a rancher in Monitor Valley at the turn of the century. Like many men in Central Nevada during the post-Comstock depression, he pursued more than one occupation. He served as Nye County District Attorney and Superintendent of Schools, and was a part-time prospector. The Tonopah discovery was the result of one of Butler's periodic sojourns in search of precious metals. Although Butler is credited with the monumental discovery and founding of Tonopah, his direct association with the development of the community ended when he sold his holdings to the Tonopah Mining Company in July 1901. Afterward, Butler retired comfortably in California.

Among the most prominent citizens to emerge from Tonopah were those who arrived in the camp during the initial leasing period. They became successful merchants, businessmen, and mining financiers who made significant contributions to the development of Tonopah. Henry C. Cutting was among the first leasers in the district and along with partner B. F. Edwards, operated the second mercantile establishment in the community. That company evolved into the Nye County Mercantile Company, (TON-135) with additional stores established in the other mining camps during the boom period. Cutting founded the first stock exchange in Tonopah in 1902 and his civic involvement included membership on the first school board and the first board of city commissioners. Zebeizer "Zeb" Kendall (TON-113) was another early leaser who also operated the Palace Hotel, the first hostelry in Tonopah. His development of the January lease in Goldfield in 1904 also helped precipitate that district's tremendous mining rush. Uri B. Curtis (TON-111) arrived in Tonopah in 1901 and formed the Tonopah Fraction Company which became one of the most successful producers of silver ore during the Tonopah boom. Curtis also organized the Crystal Water Company and brought the first piped water to the community. J. D. Lothrop and Richard P. Davis established a general merchandise firm in January 1901 and erected the first frame commercial building in Tonopah. Lothrop and Davis also operated the first telephone and telegraph service and their building housed Tonopah's original Post Office. Frank B. Golden, a prosperous jeweler in Reno and Carson City, was one of Tonopah's earliest pioneer businessmen. He was a principal stockholder in the Nye and Ormsby County Bank and was responsible for the construction of the town's first substantial stone commercial building (TON-131). Thomas W. Kendall, like Frank Golden, was among the first businessmen in Tonopah. Kendall operated the Tonopah Club which, at the peak of Tonopah's boom, was one of the largest saloons and gambling parlors in Nevada. Other important merchants to open businesses in early Tonopah included Hiram Albert McKim (TON-136), whose dry goods firm in Tonopah had become, by 1907, the largest store of its kind in central Nevada. Roger P. Stenson, an Irish immigrant and longtime Nevada businessman, established a branch store for the dry goods firm of Ryan and Stenson in Tonopah in 1901 which he continued to operate until 1919.

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Businessmen and professionals who established themselves in the community also had a substantial impact on the development of the region. Irving McDonald (TON-112) was a mining engineer who also served as land attorney for the State of Nevada and eventually held extensive mining interest in Manhattan and other nearby towns. Arthur Raycraft (TON-106) was cashier for the Nye and Ormsby County Bank, Treasurer of the Jim Butler Mining Extension Company, and President and General Manager of the Manhattan Dexter Mining Company. Cada C. Boak (TON-149) opened a brokerage house in Tonopah in 1904 and held important mining interests in Manhattan and Round Mountain where he served as President of the Round Mountain Antelope Mining Company. William W. "Billy" Booth, who established the first newspaper in Tonopah in 1901, did much to promote the area and helped organize the construction of the first school in the community.

When news of the Tonopah boom had spread nationwide by 1902, a considerable number of Tonopah's new citizens arrived from the dwindling gold rush areas of the Yukon Territory and Alaska. Key Pittman, the first city attorney of Nome, would become a U.S. Senator from Nevada and serve as President pro tempore of the Senate from 1933 until his death. The passage of the Pittman Silver Act was significant to the economic stability of Tonopah during the first World War. Others who followed the migratory mining frontier from Alaska to Tonopah included Samuel C. Dunham (TON-125), editor of the Tonopah Miner and important promoter of mining activity in the west, Wyatt Earp, former gunfighter and proprietor of Tonopah's Northern Saloon, and Emory Willard Smith, Tonopah's most prolific photographer.

An impressive number of national, state and local political figures emerged from Tonopah's boom period. Vail Pittman, Key Pittman's younger brother, arrived in Tonopah in 1904 and became an influential newspaperman associating himself with the Tonopah Miner and the Ely Daily Times. He was elected state Senator from White Pine County and served as Governor of Nevada from 1945 to 1951. Clarence Dunn Van Duzer, an early Tonopah resident, was U.S. Congressman from Nevada between 1903 and 1907. Zeb Kendall (TON-113) also served terms from 1909 to 1917 as state Senator in 1933. Tonopah attorney Patrick A. McCarran served as Nye County District Attorney, Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, and was elected U.S. Senator in 1933. George A. Bartlett (TON-104), an attorney, served the state as its lone Congressman from 1907 to 1911 and later became the leading divorce court judge in Nevada.

George Wingfield arrived in Tonopah in early 1901 and was employed as a card dealer in the Tonopah Club. He parlayed a part-interest in the club's gaming concession and his winnings as a professional gambler, to become the most powerful economic figure in Nevada between 1908 and 1932. Wingfield, together with U.S. Senator from Nevada George S. Nixon, controlled most of the producing mines to Goldfield through the Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company and were the primary financial backers for the Mizpah Hotel (TON-138) and Tonopah Banking Corporation (TON-137).

(See Continuation Sheet)

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Tonopah Multiple Resource Area

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Perhaps the most outstanding figure in Tonopah's history was Tasker Lowndes Oddie (TON-147) whose association with Tonopah began in 1900 as one of Jim Butler's original partners. He became manager of the Tonopah Mining Company and the Tonopah-Belmont Mining Company, and his political career included terms as state and U.S. Senator and as Governor of Nevada.

Architecture and Building Technology

The historic buildings in Tonopah are most noteworthy for their use of local building materials and adherence, almost exclusively, to the elements of the Classical Revival styles popular at the beginning of the Twentieth Century. Residential buildings range from simple board and batten cabins to more refined structures of stone or milled lumber. Almost all assume at least the basic format of the Neo-Colonial mode of the Georgian Revival. Commercial architecture, the second major category of building type in Tonopah, derives its stylistic influence from the Neo-Classical Revival. Most were architect designed and executed by skilled craftsmen.

The types of residential architecture, especially single family houses, show a vernacular attention to modesty and simple methods of construction. The majority are single story with rectangular symmetrical floor plans, and are built of either wood framing, formed "adobe", or locally quarried stone. The Uri B. Curtis/Tasker Oddie house (TON-147) is a unique local example of simple pitched roof house forms stacked linearly to provide for a larger dwelling. The Tonopah Mining Company cottage (TON-126) is one of the earliest frame dwellings typical of the period: rectangular with a single hipped roof form and simple detailing. By comparison the E. R. Shields house (TON-122) and the Judge Sawle house (TON-116) are fine examples of frame cottages which show traces of traditional Victorian ornamentation. The stone dwelling of Arthur Raycraft (TON-106) features Queen Anne influenced turrets within its massing, and represents the farthest that a local residential design ventures into the styles of the nineteenth century. The Classical stylistic influence on small dwellings is best exemplified in the frame cottage (TON-114) on Prospect Street with its gabled roof detailed with boxed eaves and returns. Larger examples with more refined detailing include the stone dwellings of E. E. Burdick (TON-120), Irving McDonald (TON-112) and Uri B. Curtis (TON-111), and the well built frame house of Zeb Kendall (TON-113). All have common characteristic elements such as symmetrical facades with a minimum of minor projections, hipped roofs and complimenting dormers, and discrete ornamentation. More utilitarian methods of construction can be seen in the board and batten miners cabin (TON-141) near Water Street, and the Jim Butler Mining Company Houses (TON-121) on Everett Avenue.

Two houses remaining in Tonopah are exceptional examples of the influence of the Eastern Shingle Style. The George A. Bartlett House (TON-104) characterizes that style in its broad, rambling massing, shingles upper walls, and rubble lower walls. The Sam C. Dunham House (TON-125) follows more closely to the Neo-Colonial format but is detailed with shingled walls, a curved veranda, and a massive stone chimney.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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The multiple family housing types in Tonopah include the row house and the boarding house. The boarding houses which remain in Tonopah exemplify utility and function while at the same time feature the elements of the Neo-Colonial mode. Most are large, two stories in height, with multiple dormers projecting from a third attic level. The Gregovich house (TON-115), the Masterson/Champman house (TON-101), the Brann Boarding House (TON-145), and the J. E. Smith Boarding House (TON-124) are the best examples, constructed in either stone or wood. Row houses typify the local response to urban housing patterns influenced primarily from San Francisco. Many of those remaining are built of indigenous materials such as stone and adobe with the surfaces treated in the popular stylistic manner. Cal Shaw's Adobe Row House (TON-107) and Stone Row House (TON-108), the Charles Clinton house (TON-155), and the Combellack Adobe Row House (TON-156) are all built along Central and provide a range of examples of this local house type.

The design of commercial and institutional architecture was derived predominately from the Neo-Classical Revival styles and almost always were constructed of stone. These building types encompass business blocks and hotels, religious, governmental and public facilities. The simplest of these are the Wieland Brewery (TON-143), and the Golden Block (TON-131). They are void of much detailing and lack refinement in their stone workmanship. As architects, builders and craftsmen became more accessible with the completion of the railroad, commercial buildings were more richly decorated with elaborate metal cornices, storefront windows, and well executed stone detailing. The best examples of these include the Tonopah Liquor Company (TON-132), the McKim Building (TON-136) and the Brougner-Govan Block (TON-137). The height of progression in local commercial architecture is seen in the State Bank and Trust Building (TON-130) and the Mizpah Hotel (TON-138). Each are built with concrete frame superstructures, stone and brick veneers, and modulated five story facades. The Tonopah Public Library (TON-117) and the Nye County Courthouse (TON-123) exhibit the range in scale, from small to large, of well crafted stone public buildings. A fine example of random ashlar stone construction, complete with Gothic Revival detailing is found in St. Marks P. E. Church (TON-119).

Archeology

Historic and industrial archeological sites are important elements of the Tonopah Multiple Resource area. Both can contribute significantly to the overall interpretation of the history of Tonopah and the development of the mining industry. The presence of industrial archeology in the area is represented by a wide variety of resources which exist in varying levels of integrity. Some are highly visible landmarks such as headframes, others are evidenced only by surface remains and foundation walls, and still others

(See Continuation Sheet)

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continue to function in a contemporary setting including the Tonopah Foundry and the Nevada-California Power Co. Substation.

Aside from being valuable individually for their potential for data recovery, these sites and structures as a whole, embody an historic context for understanding early mining activity and its relationship to the development of Tonopah.

Conservation Activity in The Multiple Resource Area

The most visible signs of conservation activity in Tonopah have taken place only over the last two years. Nomination to the National Register of the Mizpah Hotel (TON-133) and the Brougner-Govan Block (TON-137) in 1979 was followed by the remodeling and reuse of both buildings as the key tourist hotel in Tonopah. An additional individual nomination of the Mizpah Mine has recently been submitted to the National Register. In a more subtle context, the community as a whole has indirectly contributed to the conservation of historic resources over the years. A housing shortage in Tonopah has necessitated the continual use of the existing housing stock which in turn has sustained the historic fabric to a great extent. The most current preservation efforts have focused on the historic building survey within the multiple resource area. The project was sponsored by the Nye County Board of County Commissioners with the assistance of a survey and planning grant-in-aid from the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology. Local citizens, through the Central Nevada Historical Society contributed research time, knowledge of local resources, and access to private collections toward the completion of the project. Their positive response to the identification of the historic resources which exemplify Tonopah's heritage has also stimulated interest in additional survey work in the multiple resource area. Aside from the identification of historic properties worthy of preservation, the project has served as the initial step toward increased attention of both the private and public sectors to the value of historic preservation in future planning and development efforts. Recent mining activity has, and will continue to play an important and sometimes controversial role in conservation activity in the area. Major mining companies have recently recognized the importance of historic preservation not only in terms of the need for coordination of future expansion and development, but also as an integral part of their public relations programs.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheets, Item 9, Page 1-3)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 760 acres

Quadrangle name Tonopah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

Zone	Easting	Northing
A 11	481080	4214060
B 11	481080	4212360
C 11	478950	4212360
D 11	478960	4214060
E		
F		
G		
H		

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The S $\frac{1}{2}$  and the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 35, the W $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, T3N, R42E; and the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 2; and the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 1, T2N, R42E, more or less

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Woodward, Architectural Historian, James Garrison, Historical Architect, Lynn Drobbin, Research Associate, Guy Louis Rocha, Historian

organization Janus Associates for all but Guy L. Rocha, Nevada Historical Society date September, 1980

street & number 2121 S. Priest #127 telephone (602) 967-7117

city or town Tempe state Arizona

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Mimi Rodden*

title Administrator

date 25 March, 1982

For NCRS use only

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

*See inventory sheet for listing*

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Tonopah Multiple Resource Area

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1

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Multiple Resource Area  
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dnr-11

Name Tonopah Multiple Resource Area  
State Nevada

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Bartlett, George A., House ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Brarham 5.20.82

Attest

2. Bass Building ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Brarham 5.20.82

Attest

3. Boak, Cada C., House Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Brarham 5.20.82

Attest

4. Board and Batten Cottage ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Brarham 5.20.82

Attest

5. Board and Batten Miners Cabin Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Brarham 5.20.82

Attest

6. Brann Boardinghouse ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Brarham 5.20.82

Attest

7. Brokers Exchange ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Brarham 5.20.82

Attest

8. Brougner-Gowan Block ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

(previously listed  
as part of Tonopah Hotel)

Attest

9. Brown, Hugh H., House ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

previously listed  
separately.

Linda McClelland 10/13/82

Attest

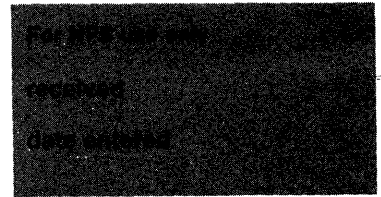
10. Burdick, E. E., House ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Brarham 5.20.82

Attest

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State Nevada

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |   |                    |        |                                  |
|---|--------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| 11. Butler, Jim, Mining Company Stone Row Houses  | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>W.H. Braham 5.20.82</u>       |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |
| 12. Campbell and Kelly Building                   | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>Linda McClelland 10/13/82</u> |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |
| 13. Clinton, Charles, Stone Row House             | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>W.H. Braham 5.20.82</u>       |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |
| 14. Combellack Adobe Row House                    | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>W.H. Braham 5.20.82</u>       |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |
| 15. Curtis, Uri B., House                         | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>W.H. Braham 5.20.82</u>       |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |
| 16. Curtis, Uri B., House (Tasker L. Oddie House) | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>W.H. Braham 5.20.82</u>       |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |
| 17. Dunham, Samuel C., House                      | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>W.H. Braham 5.20.82</u>       |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |
| 18. Frame Cottage                                 | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>William H. Braham 7.26.82</u> |
|   |                    | Attest | <u>Patrick Andrews 7/26/82</u>   |
| 19. Golden, Frank, Block                          | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>W.H. Braham 5.20.82</u>       |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |
| 20. Gregovich, John, House                        | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>W.H. Braham 5.20.82</u>       |
|   |                    | Attest |                                  |

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21. Kendall, Zeb, House

Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bracham 5.20.82

Attest

22. Masterson, Dr. J. R., House  
(Fred Chapman House)

Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bracham 5.20.82

Attest

23. McDonald, Irving, House

Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bracham 5.20.82

Attest

24. McKim, H. A., Building

Keeper

W.H. Bracham 5.20.82

Attest

25. Nevada-California Power Company  
Auxiliary Power Building

Keeper

William H. Bracham 7.26.82

Attest

26. Nevada California Power Company  
Substation

Keeper

Patrick Andrews 7/26/82

Attest

27. Nye-County Courthouse

Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bracham 5.20.82

Attest

28. Nye County Mercantile Company  
Building

Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bracham 5.20.82

Attest

29. Oddie, Clarence, House

Substantive Review Keeper

Ret.

Attest

30. Progress Bakery

Substantive Review Keeper

Ret.

Attest

combined into  
one nomination  
7/26/82

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31. Raycraft, Arthur, House ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bravham 5.20.82

Attest

32. Ross, William and Adella, House ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

Ref

Attest

33. St. Marks P. E. Church ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bravham 5.20.82

Attest

34. Sawle, Judge W. A., House ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bravham 5.20.82

Attest

35. Second Palace Hotel Substantive Review Keeper

Ref

Attest

36. Shaw, Cal, Adobe Duplex ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bravham 5.20.82

Attest

37. Shaw, Cal, Stone Row House ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bravham 5.20.82

Attest

38. Shields, E. R., House ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

W.H. Bravham 5.20.82

Attest

39. Smith Block Substantive Review Keeper

Ref

Attest

40. Smith, J. E., Stone Duplex ✓ Substantive Review Keeper

William H. Bravham 7.26.82

Attest

Patrick Andrews 7/26/82

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Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. State Bank and Trust Company  
Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

42. Stenson Block

Administrative Review

Keeper

Reject

Attest

43. Stone House  
(Charles St.)

Administrative Review

Keeper

At

Attest

44. Stone House  
(University and Tonopah Sts.)

Administrative Review

Keeper

At

Attest

45. Stone Jail Building and Row House

Substantive Review

Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

46. Tonopah-Extension Mining Company  
Power Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

47. Tonopah Liquor Company Building

Administrative Review

Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

48. Tonopah Mining Company Cottage

Administrative Review

Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

49. Tonopah Mining Company House

Substantive Review

Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

50. Tonopah Public Library

Administrative Review

Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

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51. Tonopah Volunteer Firehouse and Gymnasium *Substantive Review* Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

52. U. S. Post Office *Substantive Review* Keeper

Ret.

Attest

53. Verdi Lumber Company Buildings *Substantive Review* Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

54. Water Company of Tonopah Building *Substantive Review* Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

55. Wieland Brewery Building *Substantive Review* Keeper

W.H. Brannan 5.20.82

Attest

56. Mizpah Hotel  
(Previously listed) *Substantive Review* Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

Keeper

Attest

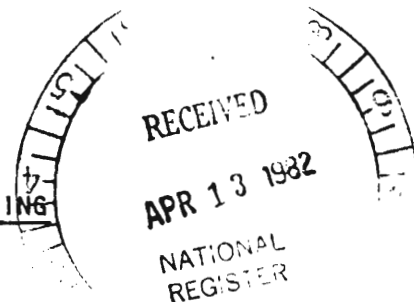
Keeper

Attest

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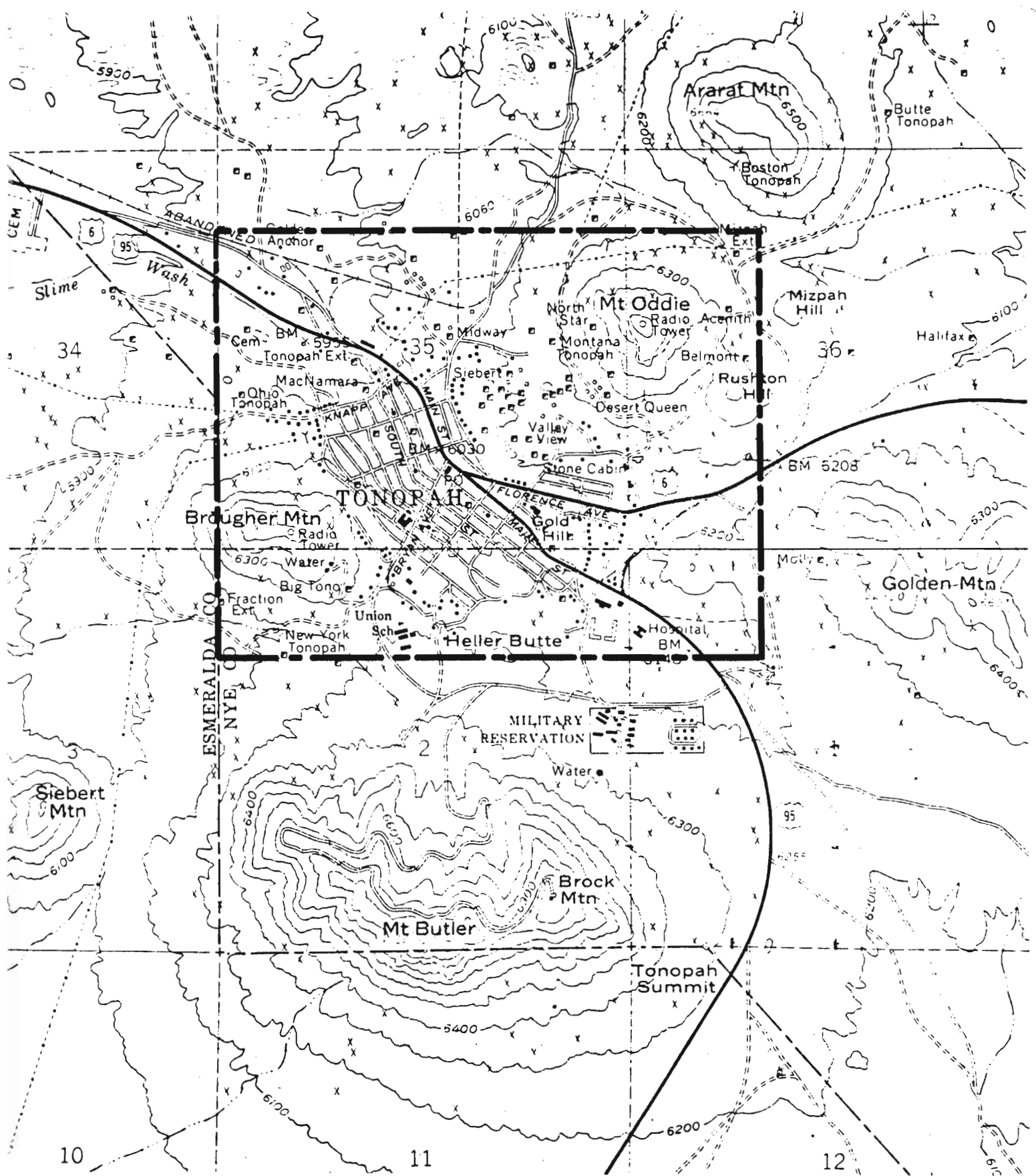
Attest

TONOPAH, NEVADA HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY LISTING  
OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES



The following inventoried buildings appear to be eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Tonopah Multiple Resource Area nomination (partial inventory: historical and architectural).

<u>REFERENCE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
TON-101	Dr. J. R. Masterson/Fred Chapman House	SW Corner Ohio Avenue and Second Street
TON-104	George A. Bartlett House	McQuillan and <del>Booker</del> <i>Brougher</i> Streets
TON-106	Arthur Raycraft House	<del>Booker Street</del> <i>123 Stewart St.</i>
TON-107	Cal Shaw Adobe Duplex	129 Central
TON-108	Cal Shaw Stone Row House	Central Street
TON-109	Brokers Exchange/Tonopah Divide Mining Company Building	209-251 Brougher
TON-111	Uri B. Curtis House	169 Booker Street
TON-112	Irving McDonald House	191 Booker Street
TON-113	Zeb Kendall House	159 University Avenue
TON-114	Frame Cottage	183 Prospect
TON-115	John Gregovich House	101 Summit
TON-116	Judge W. A. Sawle House	155 Central
TON-117	Tonopah Public Library	171 Central
TON-118	Bass Building	119 St. Patrick
TON-119	St. Marks P.E. Church	210 University
TON-120	E. E. Burdick House	248 Prospect
TON-121	Jim Butler Mining Company Stone Houses	314 Everett Avenue
TON-122	E. R. Shields House	351 St. Patrick
TON-123	Nye County Courthouse	McCulloch Avenue
TON-124	J. E. Smith Stone Duplex	415 Florence - <i>demolished</i>
TON-125	Samuel C. Dunham House	Belmont Avenue
TON-126	Tonopah Mining Company Cottage	Queen Street
TON-127	Tonopah Mining Company House	Queen Street
TON-129	Second Palace Hotel	120 Main Street - <i>lacks integrity</i>
TON-130	State Bank and Trust Company Building	102 Brougher
TON-131	Frank Golden Block	NW Corner Brougher and Main
TON-132	Tonopah Liquor Company Building	Main Street
TON-135	Nye County Mercantile Company Building	147 Main Street
TON-136	H. A. McKim Building	SW Corner of Main and Oddie Street
TON-137	Brougher-Govan Block	Main Street
TON-138	Mizpah Hotel	Main and Brougher Streets
TON-139	Tonopah Volunteer Firehouse & Gymnasium	Corner of Brougher and Burro Streets
TON-140	Water Company of Tonopah Building	Corner of Burro and Brougher Avenue
TON-141	Board and Batten Miners Cabin	Oddie Avenue
TON-142	Stone Jail Building and Row House	Water Street
TON-143	Wieland Brewery Building	Mineral Street
TON-145	Brann Boarding House	Bryan Street
TON-147	Uri B. Curtis/Tasker L. Oddie House	Ellis Street
TON-149	Cada C. Boak House	Ellis Street
TON-151	Hugh H. Brown House	129 Ellis Street
TON-155	Charles Clinton Stone Row House	151 Central Street
TON-156	Combella Adobe Row House	Central Street



TONOPAH MULTIPLE RESOURCE AREA Boundaries.