

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

P.O. Box 1014

Nevada City, California 95959

August 29, 2016

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Request for approval of the John Boardman House, 523 West Broad Street, Nevada City, as a Nevada County Historical Landmark

Honorable Chairman and Board Members:

At the August 19, 2016 meeting of the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, a motion was passed unanimously to approve the application for registration of the John Boardman House, located at 523 West Broad Street, Nevada City, as a Nevada County Historical Landmark.

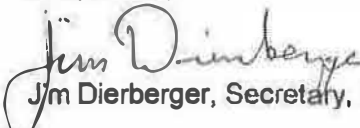
The land at 523 West Broad Street was purchased by John Boardman in 1873, and he constructed a home in 1874. John Boardman was a friend of Mark Twain, and during Twain's two visits to the Nevada Theatre, the men would tell stories and entertain each other about their times on the Mississippi River. The home suffered several fires and the property was sold to Thomas Savory Ford. The building that exists today was rebuilt in 1890-1891.

The present property owners, who are the applicants, [REDACTED] support the historical designation of this property. They have provided an exemplary level of research and documentation to accompany their application.

We request further that, as a part of the approval process, the Board of Supervisors forward their designation to the Assessor's office for recordation.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to call me at 273-6093. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,


Jim Dierberger, Secretary, NCHLC

COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARKS COMMISSION

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF HISTORICAL LANDMARK

Name of Proposed Landmark JOHN BOARDMAN HOUSE

Location 523 WEST BROAD STREET
NEVADA CITY, CA. 95959

Name and Address of Landowner upon whose property Landmark is proposed JAMES

Name and Address of Applicant [REDACTED] Phone No. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Bus. Phone No. _____

BRIEF HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LANDMARK (see also other side)

JOHN BOARDMAN -

NATIVE OF LONDON ENGLAND, BORN 1828, EARLY 49er, PIONEER, MINE OWNER, ORIGINAL GRASS VALLEY POSTMASTER AND NEWSPAPER MAN.
MIGRATED TO CALIFORNIA ALONG WITH 5 OTHER NEWSPAPER MEN IN OCTOBER 1849 BY COVERED WAGON VIA THE SANTA FE TRAIL. THE TRIP, ORIGINATING IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE WITH 2 WAGONS, 8 OXEN, FOOD SUPPLIES COST \$51. ARRIVED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AT NYE'S RANCH (NOW MARYSVILLE) JANUARY 2, 1850 AND NEVADA COUNTY MARCH 20, 1850 AND ASSISTED IN BUILDING MARYSVILLE ITS NAME. BOARDMAN SURVIVED MANY LOCAL INDIAN ATTACKS AND LOST SEVERAL OF HIS CHILDREN TO HOME FIRES.
ORIGINAL HOME LAND TOOK PLACE BY RICHARD WHITE IN 1867 FOR A \$1000 BAG OF GOLD. ORIGINAL PROPERTY DEEDED AS PART OF CITY OF NEVADA'S (NOW NEVADA CITY) STATE GRANTED LAND IN 1856.
BOARDMAN PURCHASED THE LAND FROM WHITE 4.4.1873 AND CONSTRUCTED THE HOUSE IN 1874. THE HOUSE SUFFERED SEVERAL EARLY FIRES AND WAS REBUILT AS IT STANDS TODAY IN 1890.
BOARDMAN WAS A FRIEND OF MARK TWAIN AND DURING TWAIN'S TWO VISITS TO NEVADA CITY TREATRE THE MEN WOULD SHARE STORIES AND ENTERTAIN EACH OTHER ABOUT THEIR TIMES ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

Applicant's Signature [Signature]

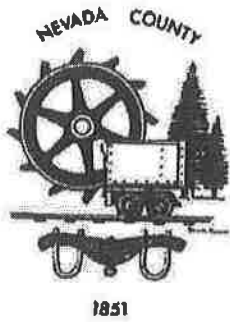
Date 6.24.2016

This form and all related correspondence is to be sent to the

NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARKS COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 1014, NEVADA CITY, CA 95959 c/o Chairman

An application must be considered solely on its historic or architectural merits and not for commercial gain, political benefits, or other non-historical reasons.

An individual Commission member can advise and counsel an applicant, but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session.



County of Nevada
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark JOHN BOARDMAN HOUSE

Location 523 WEST BROAD STREET, NEVADA CITY

Name of applicant ROBERT & CHELSEA NIENABER

Address [REDACTED]

Home or work phone [REDACTED] cell phone [REDACTED]

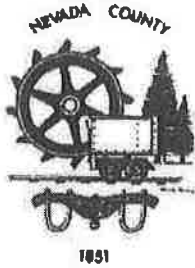
Name and address of landowner upon whose property proposed landmark

is located, if owner is not applicant [REDACTED]

I authorize the placing of a plaque or marker on site.

[Handwritten Signature]
Landowner's signature

6.24.2016
Date



Brief history and description of proposed landmark

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

EARLY PIONEER'S HOME DOWNTOWN NEVADA CITY.

Unique aspects or properties of proposed landmark

THE HOME HAS BEEN KEPT AUTHENTIC,

How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

BY PROPERTY OWNERS LIVING AT THE LOCATION.

Bibliography. Cite or attach available books, records, articles or other materials pertaining to the proposed landmark.

Books and articles:

SEE ATTACHED.
PROPERTY DEEDS
NEWS PAPER ARTICLES
COUNTY RECORDS
NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MINING RECORDS
SEARLS LIBRARY
2014 landmark app. revision



Historical or civil records: (e.g., ownership, assessments etc.)

COUNTY/CITY (NEVADA) DEEDS RECORDED IN COUNTY
RECORDS IN RECORD CENTER,
NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Other: (e.g. photographs, prints or drawings. Please list and attach separately)

Applicant's signature

6.24.2016

Date

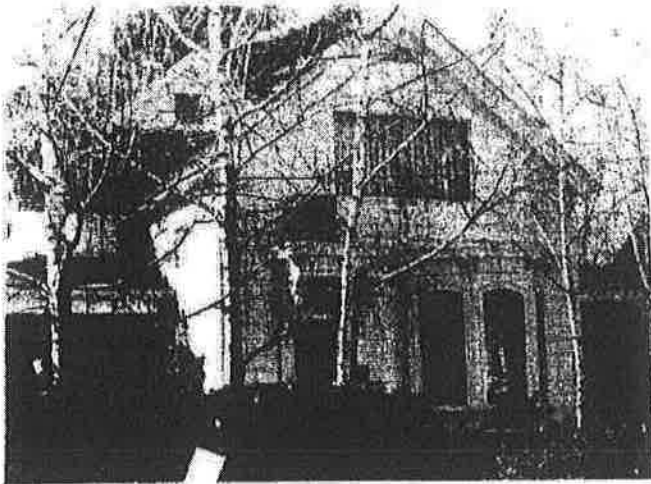
=====
This completed form and all related documents shall be sent to the:

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Attention: Chairman
P. O. Box 1014, Nevada City, Cal. 95959

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An individual Commissioner can advise and counsel an applicant, but all applications must be considered by the full Commission, meeting in regular session.

houses



523 West Broad Street, Nevada City

At 523 West Broad Street, it shares many similar characteristics with other houses along the same quiet lane; it's very old, in extremely good repair and is painted the familiar crisp white. Yet this house is definitely out of the ordinary, for Miss Savory Ford was born in it and excepting her years at Cal Berkeley when the century was young, it is the only house she has ever lived in.

One could say she knows it well.

A house once stood where the Ford house stands now, owned by the Boardman family. After a tragic fire devastated the structure, the property was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Savory Ford and their three children. The present house was built in 1890 or 1891 and shortly after the family took up residence there, Miss Savory Ford was born.

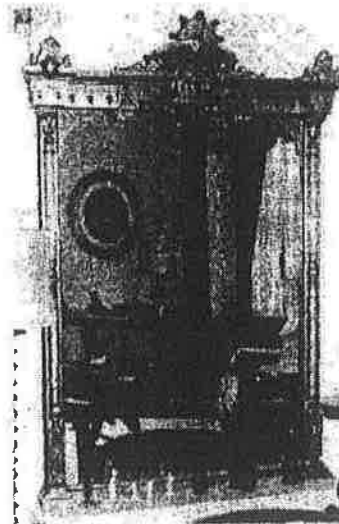
Following the death of her father in 1910 - he was a prominent attorney in town - her mother had the house remade into apartments in 1915 to aid the family's financial situation. The Fords lived downstairs, and the upstairs - complete with another kitchen - was rented out for several years. It is now occupied by Miss Ford's sister, Wilts.

Photographs of family members decorate most walls in the two-story home. Over her bed hangs a stunning hand-colored photograph of Savory Ford taken at age 5, pipe-curls falling softly down her back. Moore studio of Nevada City was the photographer.

A lovely photograph of her mother, Sallie Hill Ford, who was born in 1866 in a house where the new Sheriff's annex now stands, is one of her favorite mementos.

Steeped in Ford history, the house and its furnishings point to the family's pioneer past. Her mother's cradle - brought from Maryland around "The Horn" - has rocked each successive generation of new Fords.

In perfect condition upstairs is a seven piece set of rosewood and velvet parlor furniture - a sofa and six chairs in all. It was her grandmother's.



As is the upstairs, the downstairs where Miss Savory Ford resides is filled with family furniture and treasured heirloom pieces. A towering mirror with marble base looms in one corner of the front room. Miss Ford recalls it has been there ever since she can remember.

During her 41 year career as a teacher at Nevada City Elementary School, she lived in the home of which she is now so proud and which has been such a big part of her life. "I think it looks pretty good after all these years, don't you," she asked.

It probably has never looked better!

John Boardman House – 523 West Broad Street

Native of London England, born 1828, early 49er, pioneer, mine owner, original Grass Valley Post Master and newspaper man.

Migrated to California along with 5 other newspaper men in October 1849 by covered wagon via the Santé Fe Trail. The trip originating in Memphis Tennessee with 2 wagons, 8 oxen, food and supplies cost \$51. Arrived in Northern California at Nye's Ranch (now Marysville) January 2, 1850 and Nevada County March 20, 1850 and assisted in giving Marysville its name. Boardman survived many local Indian attacks and lost several of his children to home fires.

Original 523 West Broad Street land purchase took place by Richard White in 1869 for \$1000 bag of gold. Original property deeded as part of City of Nevada's (now Nevada City) state granted land in 1856. Boardman purchase the land from White in 1873 (4/4/1873) and constructed the home in 1874. The home suffered several early fires and the building as it sits today was rebuilt in 1890.

Boardman was a friend of Mark Twain and during Twain's two visits to Nevada City Theatre the men would tell stories and entertain each other about their times on the Mississippi River.

BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES - elected May 1, 1854; W. B. Alban, A. B. Gregory, James H. Helm, C. W. Young and G. W. Dickinson.

Elected May 1, 1855 - S. S. Hussey, W. K. Rigby, A. A. Sargent, B. H. Collin and Z. P. Davis; Recorder T. W. Colbum, Marshal C. P. Evans, Assessor W. R. Coburn and Treasurer A. W. Potter.

Boardley, Perry (AKA Commodore Perry) - NT November 18, 1873 p3cl: Died in the County Hospital. Yesterday morning, about 9 o'clock, an old colored gentleman, who was universally known hereabouts as Commodore Perry, departed this life. He was at the time of his death about 74 years of age, and had been a resident of this city since 1851. He was a full blooded negro and full of eccentricities. He was a great favorite with the people of this city and died respected by all. In early days he was a useful man to our people, and his eccentricities brought him into general notice. When he became too old and decrepid to earn his livelihood he was sent to the Hospital. Commodore Perry Boardley was a native of Maryland, and born a slave. After serving his master many years, he bought his own and family's freedom, and then removed with them to this State. We understand he leaves a family of seven children to mourn his loss. His funeral will take place from the A.M.E. Church.

Boardman, Cecelia (Purdy) - wife of John H. Boardman; one son, Lou; served as Secretary of Evangeline Chapter #9 Order of the Eastern Star in 1873-1874, Warder in 1875, '85, '87, and '88; remarried after her husband's death in 1888 (Dickson).

→ Boardman, John Herbert - native of England; arrived in Nevada County March 20, 1850; from Memphis, Tennessee; NCR; T&W p212 native of London; a 49er.

Arrived at Nye's Ranch (now Marysville) January 2, 1850 and assisted in giving that place its present name.

Occupation printer; resumed his work on the YOUNG AMERICA, which afterwards changed to NEVADA DEMOCRAT and became part owner.

1854 purchased half interest in GRASS VALLEY TELEGRAPH, published until the fire of 1855.

Returned to NC worked in NEVADA JOURNAL office, until fire of July 19, 1856.

DEM September 21, 1859: J. H. Boardman purchased the interests of Mr. Roberts in GRASS VALLEY NATIONAL and assumed editorial charge of the paper.

Listed as printer, Transcript Office 36 Commercial Street, NC in the 1861 DIR.

Had a home at 519 Broad Street, which caught fire and three of the children died as a result, four survived and the family moved to 504 Broad Street at the corner of Cottage Street (Lot 1 Block 28 MAP)

Became Postmaster at GV until 1860.

Returned to NC and became connected with the NEVADA DAILY TRANSCRIPT, T&W p212.

DEEDS Book 46 p32 J. H. Boardman to J. T. Canfield, recorded May 21, 1870.

DEEDS Book 46 p30 Nevada City to J. H. Boardman, recorded September 2, 1870.

NT January 16, 1874 p3cl: Desirable Property for Sale. The property owned by J. H. Boardman, situated on Prospect Hill, in this city, is offered for sale. It consists of four acres of ground in a high state of cultivation, having 1,200 choice grape vines, most of them bearing. 100 fine fruit trees, choice gooseberry, blackberry, raspberry, currant and other bushes, and a fine vegetable garden. A one-third water right, giving an abundance of free water all summer long, goes with the property. A nice lathed and plastered house, containing five rooms, a fine well of water, wood shed, chicken, cow pig and other outbuildings are on the place, and everything is in good repair. Mr. Boardman can be found at the TRANSCRIPT office.

NT August 9, 1874: The house and lot on Broad Street known as the Cassin property, purchased by J. H. Boardman. (Lot 6 Block 36 MAP).

INCORRECT
MOVED TO
519 AFTER
503 FIRE

HIS OTHER
PROPERTY

John Boardman House Review

Assessment of Landmark Application

1. Is permission of the property owner included? *Yes*
2. Is permission granted for the placing of a marker or plaque? *Yes*
3. Is reasonable protection and maintenance for the landmark addressed? *Yes*
4. Is the description of the landmark clear and precise? *Yes*
5. Is the history of the landmark comprehensive/complete? *Yes*
6. Are there records to support the statements regarding the landmark? *Yes*
7. Does the landmark have unusual properties? *Yes*
8. Is the bibliography complete enough to enable verification of the statements made in the application? *Yes*
9. Are supplemental materials included, e.g., photographs, prints or drawings? *Yes*

ADAY
Commission member (Evaluator)

7/15/16
Date

Niel Locke
Commission member (Evaluator)

July 15, 2016
Date



