

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
P.O. Box 1014
Nevada County, California 95959

RECEIVED

AUG 30 2017

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 25, 2017

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

Re: Request for approval of the W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital, 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945: 17-02

Honorable Chairman and Board Members:

The Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission respectfully recommends that the Board of Supervisors enact a resolution designating the W. C Jones Memorial Hospital as a historical landmark.

In 1905, Dr. John Taylor Jones of Grass Valley purchased the house for use as the county's first private hospital. He named it the Dr. W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital for his father, who was a well-known physician and surgeon in the nineteenth century. The hospital opened its doors on January 30, 1907, and continued as a major medical facility until 1968, 60 years later.

Along with a staff of physicians, the hospital could serve 20 patients, aided by a nursing staff of five. It was the scene of thousands of operations and numerous births. Today, the building, now called the Swan-Levine House, operates as an arts academy and bed and breakfast.

The hospital will be added to our operating interactive Map on line. The Map locates each historic site and provides photography and information.

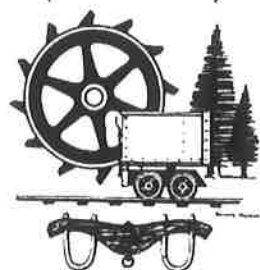
Attached are the required historic and legal documents necessary for marking. We request, as part of the approval process, that the Board of Supervisors forward its designation to the Assessor's Office for recordation.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to call me at 530-273-0502. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully submitted,



Elinor Barnes, Commissioner
Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission





1851

**COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark**

Name of proposed landmark: Swan Levine House/W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital

Location: 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Name of Applicants: Howard and Peggy Swan Levine

Address: 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

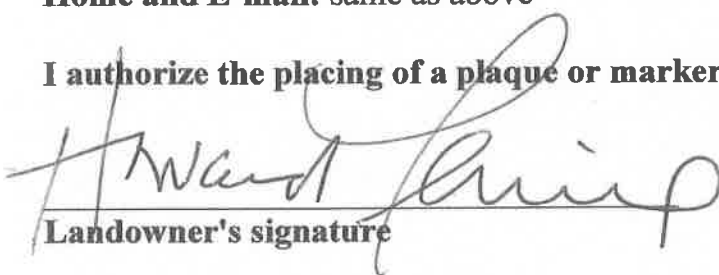
Home and E-mail: [REDACTED]

Name and Address of Landowner upon whose property proposed landmark is located, if owner is not applicant: Owner is applicant/ same as above

Address: same as above

Home and E-mail: same as above

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


Landowner's signature

6-07-2017
Date

**Brief history and description of proposed landmark:
(attach additional sheets as necessary)**

The story of the W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital, known in 2017 as Swan Levine House, begins with the Fahey family. The Faheys, owners of the Allison Ranch mine, built the original house at 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley in 1867. In the 1870s the home was purchased by William Campbell, a native of Scotland who came to California in 1851 and settled in Grass Valley. With a partner, and eventually on his own, he operated a store in Boston Ravine from 1856 until his death in 1903. Through his strict adherence to business and shrewd investment in mining, he amassed a fortune and was recognized as one of the wealthiest men in the county. He was a benefactor of the Ladies' Relief Society, Sisters of Mercy, Grass Valley Congregational Church, and the libraries of rural public schools. Campbell's house was pictured in Thompson and West's 1880 *History of Nevada County*. The structure acquired its modified-Queen Anne character following a fire in 1895.

In 1905 - 06 Dr. John Taylor Jones of Grass Valley purchased the Campbell home for use as the county's first private hospital. He named it the Dr. W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital for his father, who been the most prominent physician and surgeon in the county in the 19th century. After several years of planning, the facility hosted a grand opening on January 30, 1907, attended by 2,500 people. Dr. John was the first to install X-ray equipment in the county and served as county health officer. After his untimely death in 1917, his practice and hospital were continued by his younger brother, Dr. Carl Powers Jones. The hospital could serve more than 20 patients and usually had a nursing staff of five nurses and a kitchen staff of three. It included a surgery, wards and private rooms. During most of its operation, the hospital was the principle medical center in Grass Valley, the scene of thousands of operations and countless births.

The youngest Jones brother, "Dr. Carl," as patients called him, was at one time nearly everyone's physician in Grass Valley. He also served rural patients outside of town. Dr. Jones upheld professional standards, promoted the latest advances in medicine, and supported public health nursing and other innovations. He developed the Jones-Painter splint for the treatment of patients, often miners, with broken pelvics.

With his long-time friend Errol MacBoyle, owner of the Idaho Maryland mine, he founded the nonprofit corporation that became the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. The Jones Hospital, which remained open after Dr. Carl's death in 1944, and after the opening of the SNMH, continued to serve patients until 1968.

After the hospital closed, the building served as a haunted house for a fundraiser sponsored by the Nevada County Liberal Arts Commission at Halloween 1969. Proceeds helped restore the Nevada Theatre in Nevada City. The home was purchased by the Geist family, who made it their residence and remodeled wards into suitable living space for a family. Mary Geist had organized the haunted house.

In March 1975 Howard Levine and his wife Margaret (Peggy) Swan, artists from San Francisco purchased the house. Before closing the sale, Swan and Levine obtained, through a sometimes contentious process, a boarding house license and city approval to operate the house as an arts academy. The two artists fine arts printmakers earned degrees at San Francisco State University and have exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) and other venues. Native Californians, Howard and Peggy became acquainted with Nevada County through fellow artists and

friends David Osborn and Charles Woods, who suggested Grass Valley as a suitable base for Howard and Peggy.

Howard and Peggy, with the support of artist friends, renovated the house interior for their purposes. The Swan Levine House has served as a center for print making and exhibits for over 40 years. The remodeled carriage house has been in continual use as a teaching studio for many years and as a classroom for students from Sierra College. The main house, filled with original works by Nevada County artists, has been a venue for community events since Howard and Peggy arrived.

Unique aspects of properties of proposed landmark:

In addition to being a significant structure representing Nevada County's mining heritage, the Dr. W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital served as Grass Valley's principal hospital for more than 60 years. The hospital included x-ray and infra-red treatment facilities. (No laboratory facilities have been identified within the hospital.) The hospital included a hydraulic elevator. According to a family history, Edwin James Berryman, machine shop manager at the Idaho Maryland mine, was involved in designing and constructing the elevator sometime after 1926. Berryman had studied hydraulic principles and invented a hydraulic washing machine for use in his home. The hydraulic elevator was working at least through 1957 when a grandchild of Berryman was born in the hospital. After the mines closed, the house reflected changes in the de-industrial era and the blossoming of an arts community in the region.

The following is a partial list of medical doctors who practiced at the hospital:

John Taylor Jones, MD
Carl Power Jones, MD
Vernon W. Padgett, MD
Walton Prescott, MD
David E. McMartin, MD
Harry Benteen, MD

How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

The landmark will be protected and maintained by the Levine family, as they continue to operate their bed and breakfast inn and art studio.

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

Books and articles:

"Up in Smoke: William Campbell Residence Destroyed," *Grass Valley Daily Morning Union & Herald*, 01/09/1895.

"Death Calls Noble Pioneer" (Campbell obituary), *Grass Valley Daily Morning Union & Herald*, 02/07/1903, p 3.

"The Jones Family of Grass Valley," Nevada County Historical Society *Bulletin*, Vol. 6 No. 2, 04/1952

Wanda Geist Dittman, "The Big Spooky House," unpublished recollections, dated 03/2007, scrapbook, Swan Levine House

Dan Gleason, "GV Planners Warned," *The Union*, 02/05/1974

Joan Agar, "People," *The Independent*, 11/19/1975 O'Brien, Tim. "Nevada County Airpark: A Historical Retrospective of a

Gold Country Airport,” Nevada County Historical Society *Bulletin*, Vol. 51, No. 3, 7/1997

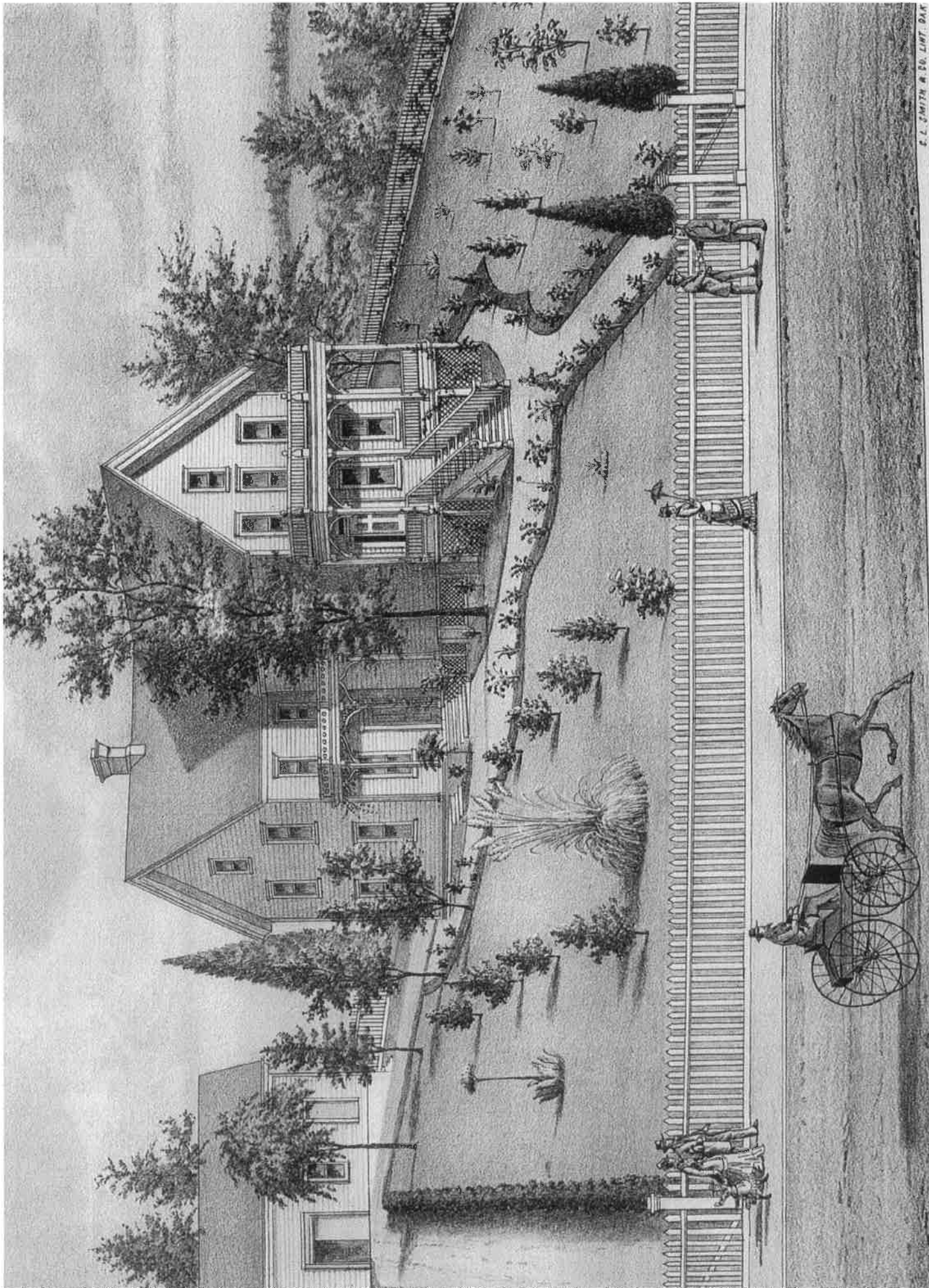
Beth Goulart, “Artists in Residence, *Old-House Journal*, 07-08/2008, p. 63 (www.oldhousejournal.com)

Bob Wyckoff, “Grass Valley’s W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital: A History of Healing,” *The Union*, 09/20/2014 (attached)

Nevada County Landmark Commission, *Exploring Nevada County*, “Dr. W. C. Jones Home Site,” No. 31, 129 S. Auburn Street (now Grass Valley Police Dept, Grass Valley) – Landmark registered 1980 by Nevada County, NEV 29. Description: Dr. W. C. Jones came to Grass Valley in 1874 after serving as physician and surgeon for the Central Pacific Railroad Co. during construction of the railroad between Colfax and Reno. He had three sons, Will, John, and Carl, who along with their father served the community as doctors until the last son died in 1944. In 1904 Dr. John Jones opened the first private hospital in Nevada County—the W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital, Grass Valley. A fourth son, George, became Superior Court Judge of Nevada County, serving from 1908 until 1925 and again from 1938 until he retired in 1947. Note: The city removed the historic house to make room for the police department.” (Excerpt From: David Comstock, “ENC 2017,” iBooks.)

Lorin Ellery Berryman, *The Family, Relations and Ancestors of Edwin James Berryman and Caroline Jane Nettell Berryman: A History*, privately printed, Stanford, CA: 1993. (Regarding hydraulic elevator, see page 196.)

Sanborn Map, 1898, page 13 (partial image attached)



C. L. SMITH & CO. LITH. OAK

RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM CAMPBELL, GRASS VALLEY,
NEVADA CO., CAL.

BY THOMPSON & WHEELER

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
 HRI #
 Trinomial
 NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
 Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 1

*Resource Name or #: 328 South Church Street

P1. Other Identifier: West Grass Valley/APN 08-403-05/W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital/Swan Levine House

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County: Nevada

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Grass Valley

Date: 1998 T 16N; R 8E; SE ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec 27; M.D. B.M.

c. Address: 328 South Church Street

City: Grass Valley

Zip: 95945

d. UTM: Zone: 10 ; mE/ mN (G.P.S.)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation:

***P3a. Description:**

Two and a half-story Queen Anne style residence characterized by a complex roof with hip, offset tower, third-story bay window, two opposing second-story bay windows, one with an octagonal roof, cross-gable in the rear, three fireplaces, and a partial wrap-around front porch. The polygonal tower displays interrupted style of shingle belt above and below indicative of the Queen Anne style. Exposed corbels below the upper roof eave and below a series of plain rectangular friezes, Window fenestration is authentic however the windows have been replaced with vinyl and trim replaced. Porch supports have been replaced with sympathetic material. Front door has also been replaced. Addition of outside staircase to second-story. Chimneys are original. Bay window on left corner of second-story. Gabled front dormer with a 1 over 1 light window. Horizontal wood shiplap exterior siding. Addition to rear of building. Property also retains historic carriage house. Known today as the Swan Levine House, the building was constructed by Fahey family, owners of the Allison Ranch Mine in 1867. It was converted to the first Nevada County hospital in 1906 by Dr. John Jones and his brother Dr. Carl Jones. The hospital closed in 1968 and was returned to residential use. The house now functions as a residence and Bed and Breakfast business.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** Single Family Property (HP2)

***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo:

Front façade from sidewalk

January 19, 2009

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**

Historic Prehistoric Both

1867, with rear addition in 1930s and window replacement in circa 2000. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Grass Valley, CA 1891, 1898 and 1912.

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Howard S. and Margaret W. Levine, 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

***P8. Recorded by:**

Gwynn Waldsmith, PO Box 2115, Nevada City, CA 95959

***P9. Date Recorded:** 1/24/2009

***P10. Survey Type:**

Graduate program assignment for HIPR706, Savannah College of Art & Design, Winter 2009.

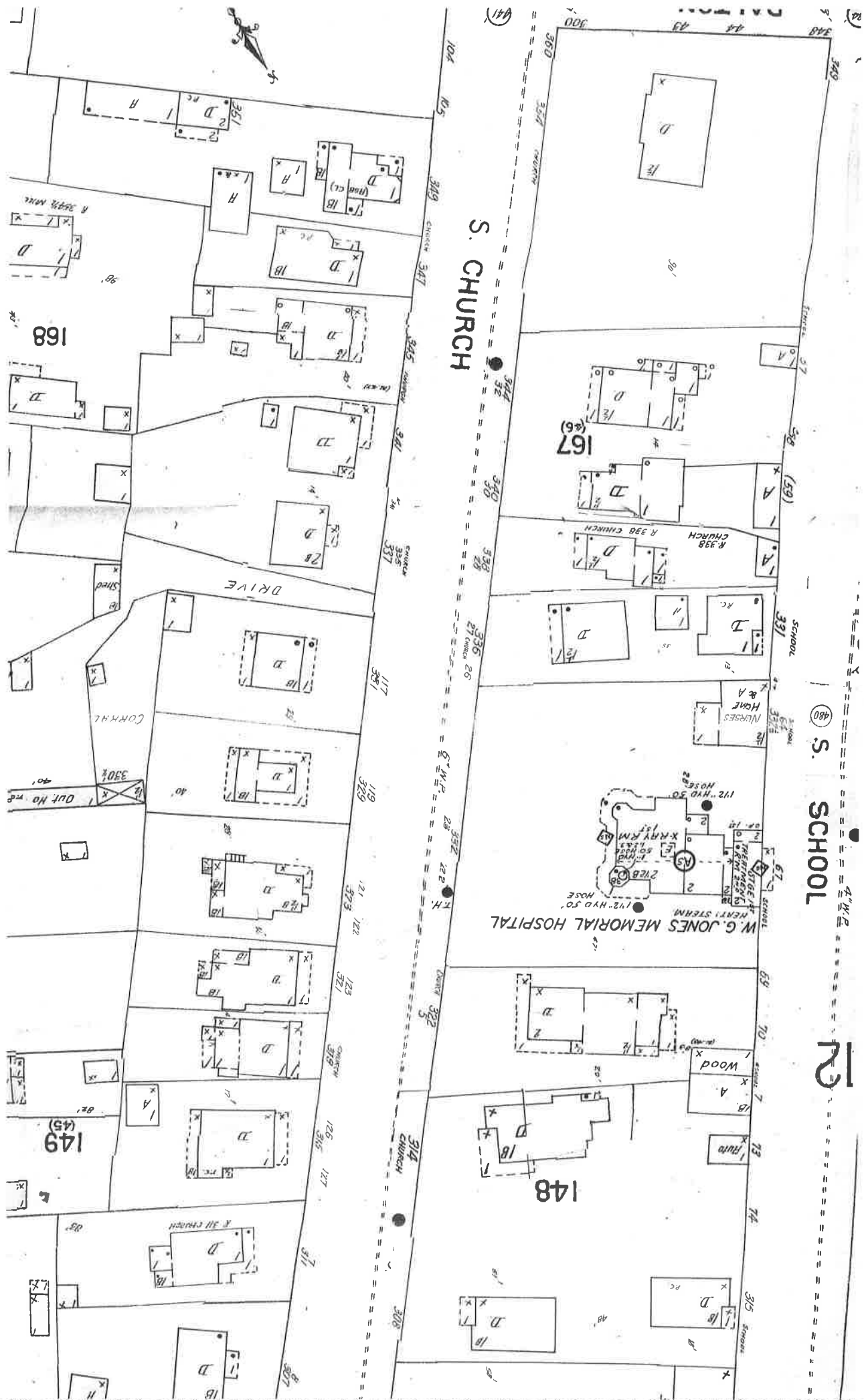
***P11. Report Citation:**

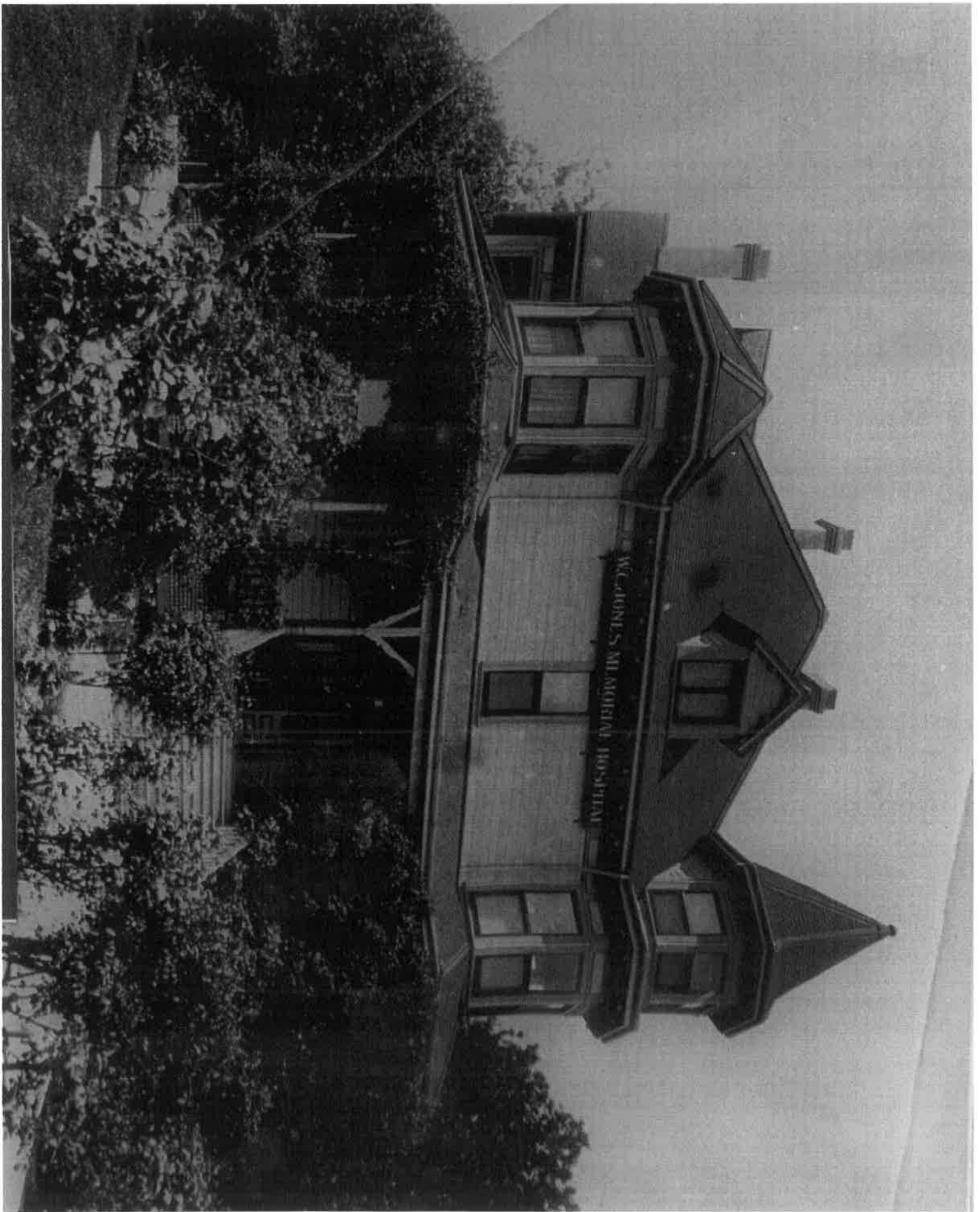
Historic Resource Survey Project for Historic Preservation program through Savannah College of Art & Design, 2009.

***Attachments:** NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List):

APN: 08-403-05-000

Fire Insurance Map, Grass Valley 1912
Sanborn Map Company, San Francisco, Cal





(<http://www.theunion.com/news/the-union-now-live-streaming-from-the-newsroom-2/>)

1907-1908

Grass Valley's W.C. Jones Memorial Hospital: A history of healing

Bob Wycckoff Columnist

December 5, 2014

Editor's note: The following is a column authored by the late Bob Wycckoff, who died in January, that was originally published by The Union and appears in Wycckoff's book "The Way it Was." As part of The Union's 150th anniversary celebration, each month we are sharing some of Wycckoff's work in chronicling the history of our community.

It was the first private hospital in Nevada County when it was dedicated in 1907. The W.C. Jones Memorial Hospital on Church Street in Grass Valley served the community some 60 years before it shut down in 1968.

Jones is the surname of a father and three of his four sons who practiced medicine in Nevada County.

Son Dr. John Taylor Jones was instrumental in founding the hospital as a memorial to his father.

Son Dr. Carl P. Jones was a founding member of the group that eventually built Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, which opened its doors in December 1958.

Jan. 30, 1907 saw a gathering, estimated by the local press at 2,500 persons, tour the brand new W.C. Jones Memorial Hospital on South Church Street.

Newspaper reports of the day glowed. "There have been receptions ... but never in the history of the county was anything of the kind witnessed. (The event) spoke of the interest ... and good feeling toward ... the ambitious young surgeon who made his dream come true ... to Dr. J(ohn) T(aylor) Jones is due the credit of this magnificent institution ..."

Dedication ceremonies included the obligatory address by Mayor C.E. Clinch and a selection by the Nevada City Orchestra. Additionally there were songs by the Grass Valley Carol Choir, a vocal solo by Berniece Glasson and a reading by Kathleen Murphy.

Mayor Clinch told the audience: "Realizing ... what this hospital will mean to the city in its future growth ... as an adjunct ... will ... direct here those who are seeking medical treatment in a climate noted for his healthfulness and living-giving properties; its establishment is an indication of the faith the doctor has in the permanency of (Grass Valley)."

Dr. J.T. Jones was in overall charge of the facility, while Kate Hansen was head nurse. The rules seemed simply by today's standards:

A patient could have his own physician, and doctors must wear sterilized gowns during an operation or while attending a patient with a contagious disease. Steam sterilizing ovens provided a ready supply of gowns.

The founding father of the Jones medical dynasty, after whom the hospital was named, was born in Athens, Tenn., in 1833. As was the custom in those days, W.C. studied (or "read") medicine in the offices of Drs. Collins and Parker near his home.

The young man, however, was soon infected with gold fever, and in 1857 struck out for California and fortune.

After a disappointing two years with little to show for his efforts, he left the Gold Country and headed to San Francisco, where he enrolled in Cooper Medical College.

In 1869, he attended Bellevue College in New York, graduating the following year.

The new Dr. Jones again headed west and was employed as a surgeon with the Central Pacific Railroad on the line from Colfax to Reno during construction. In 1873, he moved his family from Truckee to Grass Valley, where he began practicing.

Jones and his wife had six children: two daughters and four sons.

Three sons followed their father into medicine, while son George went into law and was elected Nevada County District Attorney in 1902 and Superior Court Judge in 1908. The daughters never married.

All of the sons who became doctors attended Cooper Medical College in San Francisco. C.W. "Will" Jones was joined by brother John Taylor, and together they practiced with their father until his death in 1900.

Will died in 1907 and John Taylor, while only in his 40s, died in 1917.

The surviving Dr. Jones, the youngest son, Carol Power Jones, continued the family tradition of practicing in Grass Valley.

In 1934, Dr. Carl, along with the Idaho-Maryland Mine owner Errol MacBoyle and Judge Edgar Zook, formed the Grass Valley Memorial Hospital Corp., which became the nucleus of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital.

World War II and the closing of the mine intervened, and the SNMH project became a reality when Jones Hospital closed its doors on Dec. 28, 1958. Dr. Carl lived to see it.

Today, the old hospital at 328 S. Church St., now called the Swan-Levine House, continues to serve the community as a bed-and-breakfast.

Co-owners Peggy and Howard Levine have saved the old surgery scrub-sinks, and many medical artifacts have been returned.

"I found out from city hall that the original house was built on this lot in 1867," Peggy said.

The house was remodeled after a fire 1895. The owner at the time was Charles Campbell, a merchant with a store at Boston Ravine, or "South Grass Valley," as some references called the area.

Dr. J.T. Jones purchased Campbell's home in 1900 and adapted it to be a hospital, which it remained until closed and purchased by the Levines in 1975.

Bob Wyckoff was a former newspaper editor, author of local history, a lifetime student of California history and a longtime resident of Nevada County. Visit TheUnion.com for more of his stories and photography on western Nevada County history.



1975 - present

Swan Levine House

since 1975

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An Unique Bed and Breakfast Inn Located in Grass Valley, California, The Heart of the Gold Country

The Swan Levine House plays significantly into the history of Nevada County. It was built in 1867 by John and Catherine Fahey, who were partners in the Alison Ranch Mine. They sold it to William Campbell, a local merchant who made his fortune selling mining equipment.

Campbell remodeled the house in 1895 after a fire to its present Queen Anne style. After his death, the house was acquired by brothers, Doctors Carl and John Jones, they opened it as a hospital and named it after their father, Dr. W.C. Jones.

The inn keepers, Howard and Margaret (Peggy) have degrees in Fine Art Printmaking. Howard teaches drawing and printmaking locally for Sierra College, and is the Executive Director of the Grass Valley Downtown Association. Both are active in the community and serve on local arts boards.

Howard Levine and Margaret Warner Swan purchased the house after the hospital closed; renovating it as a guest house with a focus on their

