

# COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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**Julie Patterson Hunter**,  
Clerk of the Board

## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** October 10, 2017

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution endorsing and certifying the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission's designation of the W.C. Jones Memorial Hospital, also known as the Swan Levine House, located at 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley, California 95945 (APN 08-403-05-000) as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV17-02.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Request by Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission to approve the designation of the W.C. Jones Memorial Hospital, also known as the Swan Levine House, located at 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley, California 95945 (APN 08-403-05-000) as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV17-02.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

At its meeting on August 18, 2017 the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission unanimously approved the application submitted to the Commission by Howard and Peggy Swan Levine, for registration of the W.C. Jones Memorial Hospital, also known as the Swan Levine House, located at 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945 (APN 08-403-05-000), and recommends that the Board of Supervisors designate this site as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV17-02.

The current property owners, Howard and Peggy Swan Levine, submitted an application to designate the W.C. Jones Memorial Hospital, also known as the Swan Levine House, on June 9, 2017. The building was originally built in 1867 by the Fahey's, owners of the Allison Ranch Mine who later sold the property to a prominent financial tycoon and investor William Campbell in the 1870s. William Campbell was a benefactor of the Ladies Relief Society, Sisters of Mercy, Grass Valley Congregational Church and the libraries of rural public schools. The property was then sold to Dr. John Taylor of Grass Valley in 1905-1906 for use as the County's first private hospital which was named the Dr. W. C. Jones Memorial Hospital after his father who was a prominent doctor and surgeon in the County in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The hospital's grand opening was attended by more than 2,500 people on January 30, 1907. Dr. John Taylor served as the County officer and installed the County's first x-ray equipment. The hospital served more than 20 patients with a nursing staff of five (5). Dr. Carl Jones (Dr. Carl) subsequently took over the hospital in 1917 following the death of his brother, Dr. John Taylor, where he promoted the advancement of medicine technologies, public nursing and even developed the Jones-Painter splint for broken pelvis.

Dr. Carl and Idaho Maryland Mine Owner Errol MacBoyle founded the nonprofit organization that eventually became the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital. The W. C. Jones Hospital remained open as a private hospital until 1968, when it was purchased by the Geist family who used the facility to fundraise proceeds to restore the Nevada Theatre in Nevada City. The building was subsequently purchased by Howard and Peggy Swan Levine in 1975 where it now serves as a teaching studio, classroom for Sierra College students and bed and breakfast inn.

The Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission submitted a letter to the Board of Supervisors on August 30, 2017, requesting the Board of Supervisors approve the designation of the W.C. Jones Memorial Hospital, also known as the Swan Levine House, located at 328 South Church Street, Grass Valley, California 95945 (APN 08-403-05-000) as Nevada County Historical Landmark 17-02.

**Item Initiated by:** Jeff Thorsby

**Approved by:** Julie Patterson Hunter

**Submittal Date:** September 25, 2017