



RESOLUTION No. 21-362

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE BEN TAYLOR HOME PLACE, LOCATED AT 652 LINDEN AVENUE, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945 (APN 008-800-007-000) AS NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK NEV 21-05

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) was established in 1969 to promote the general welfare of Nevada County and its citizens through official recognition, recording, marking, preserving, and promoting the historical resources of Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHLC has since sustained an active program of cataloging and recommending for designation historical sites and structures throughout Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHLC accepts applications, processes and verifies applications for proposed historical landmark designation, and recommends said landmark designations for approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors supports the promotion of the public health, safety, and general welfare by providing for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of improvements, buildings, structures, signs, objects, features, sites, places, districts, and areas within the County that reflect special elements of the County's architectural, artistic, cultural, engineering, aesthetic, historical, political, social, and other heritage, by allowing their registration as Nevada County Historical Landmarks for the following reasons:

1. Safeguarding Nevada County's heritage as embodied and reflected in the historic Ben Taylor Home Place located at 652 Linden Avenue, Grass Valley, CA 95945, its influence on Nevada County's cultural and social history, and commemorating the valuable role it played in this community; and
2. Encouraging public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Nevada County's history as reflected in its heritage; and
3. Fostering civic and neighborhood pride and a sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of cultural resources; and
4. Preserving diverse and harmonious architectural styles and design innovations; and
5. Enhancing property values to increase economic and financial benefits to Nevada County and its inhabitants by preserving and promoting historical buildings; and
6. Protecting and enhancing Nevada County's attraction to tourists and visitors, thereby stimulating business and industry; and

7. Identifying as early as possible and resolving conflicts between the preservation of cultural resources and alternative land uses in a section of Nevada County that may see future population growth; and

WHEREAS, at its June meeting, the NCHLC verified and unanimously approved the application and now recommends that the Board of Supervisors designate the property as a Nevada County Historical Landmark.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada hereby accepts the NCHLC's recommendation and designates the Ben Taylor Home Place as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-05.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to record a certified copy of this Resolution with the Office of the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder within ten (10) days after the adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 10th day of August, 2021, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Susan K. Hoek and Hardy Bullock.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 


Dan Miller, Chair

8/10/2021 cc: Recorder (1)
COB*
HLC*
Bb
www*

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
P.O. Box 1014
Nevada City, California 95959
info@nevadacountylandmarks.com
530-274-7118

25 June 2021

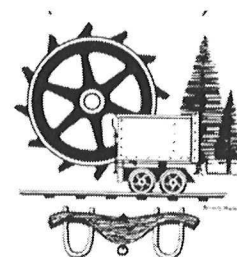
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At our last meeting, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application for landmark designation of the Ben Taylor Home be approved. The applicant is Sally Barker Hoffmann Knutson, a descendant of Mr. Taylor. The home is owned by a relative, Mary Anne Barker White, who has authorized the placement of a plaque at the site. The landmark is to be designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-05, assuming the two pending applications are approved first.

Benjamin Franklin Taylor (1826-1913) was a 49er. He arrived in Grass Valley on September 22, 1849, as part of a group of Mexican War veterans. He then established the Buena Vista Ranch, near the intersection of modern You Bet Road and Highway 174, where he engaged in farming and ranching. Prior to 1863, he bought a large piece of property in Grass Valley, on which in 1865-6 he built the home at what is now 652 Linden Avenue. Mr. Taylor was active in local politics and was part of the partnership that built a toll road between Grass Valley and Colfax, roughly following what is now Dog Bar Road. In 1868, he bought out some of his partners and became the principal owner.

The research and documentation which accompanies the application has been reviewed by Commissioner Jerry Martini and others for historical accuracy and approved. The application and supporting documentation is enclosed.



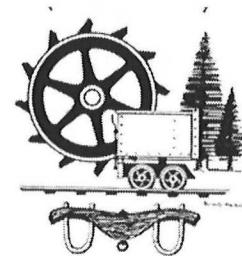
If you approve the application, please forward the resolution and accompanying documents to the County Recorder.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

Bernard Zimmerman
Bernard Zimmerman, Chair

cc: Sally Barker Hoffmann Knutson
Jerry Martini



County of Nevada
State of California

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
Application for Registration of Historical Landmark

Name of proposed landmark THE BEN TAYLOR HOME PLACE

Location 652 LINDEN AVENUE - GRASS VALLEY

Name of applicant SALLY BARKER HOFFMAN KNUTSON

Address 11487 DEER PARK DRIVE NEVADA CITY

Home or work phone 530-478-0192 cell phone _____

Name and address of landowner upon whose property proposed landmark

is located, if owner is not applicant MARY ANN BARKER WHITE

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

Mary Ann B. White
Landowner's signature

April 15, 2021
Date

Brief history and description of proposed landmark

(attach additional sheets as necessary)

The property was purchased by Ben Taylor prior to 1863. It extended from ^WMain St. to Ridge Road and from Peabody Creek to ALTA ST.

The "CARPENTER GOTHIC" home was built 1865-1866-
(see cost of building on attached ledger page)

Ben Taylor raised his family there, his daughter, Mary Jane Taylor Barker raised her family there. My mother and 2 other siblings were born in the home.

5 of us in my generation inherited the home when our ~~UNCLE~~ (LAST OF ~~THE~~ GENERATION) DIED. MY COUSIN, MARY ANN BARKER WHITE, PURCHASED THE HOME FROM THE 4 OF US.

Unique aspects or properties of proposed landmark

The property has been subdivided and plots have been sold to pay taxes, but the "Home Place" has never been sold.

It has been "left" to the next generation.

There are artesian wells which supply water to the property.

How will the landmark be protected and maintained?

It will be maintained with the building itself.

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

Books and articles: The Northern Mines - Edmund Kingon 1949
p. 154 The man on Horseback - photo
Thompson & West History of Nevada county 1880
p. 64 Benjamin Taylor (center column)
p. 110 drawing of Home Place
p. 231 biography of Ben Taylor
Colfax Record - photo & Article "Let us Forget
Ben Taylor (copy attached)
Description of Route of the Overland Emigrant
ROAD --- (copy attached)

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

I believe there is a deed on file at the Rood Center. I do not have a copy.

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

Photo of house 1870
Photo of Ben Taylor
Photo of Ben Taylor family - front porch 1911
Photo of Barker family - front porch 1997
Photo of Ben Taylor Home 1999
Photo of Ben Taylor - front porch 6th Generation 2012
Photo of Ben Taylor on horseback p. 154 Northern Miss
DRAWINGS OF FLOOR PLANS FROM BEN TAYLOR NOTEBOOK

Sally H. Kuntz
Applicant's signature

April 19, 2021
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

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

From: Bernard Zimmerman <berniezimmerman@me.com>
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 6:26 PM
To: Martini Jerry
Subject: From Comstock's pioneers

BENJAMIN F. TAYLOR (1826-1913) (DEM)

1826—Born in Kentucky or Illinois.

1834—Family moved to Missouri.

1849—Crossed plains to Calif. with 24 other men, including Dr. Saunders and Capt. Broughton.

Sept 22, 1849—Arrived at Grass Valley and built a cabin on Badger Hill.

Nov 16, 1850—Was a trader at Nevada City who lived with Richard Oglesby, Henry Shepherd and Henry Prather. —

Mined and raised stock at Buena Vista Ranch, south of Nevada City on the road to Illinoistown. Made three trips across plains, twice with livestock.

Nov 4, 1856—Election judge at Buena Vista precinct, Nevada County.

1856—Married Esther E. Huling (b. 1838 in Indiana).

ca 1860—Son Frank born.

June 13, 1863—Elected delegate to Democratic county conv. July 9, 1863—Bought Foster K. Smith's interest in Chalk Bluff village, Nevada County, and sawmill for \$813.55.

ca 1864—Son Frederick born.

1864 or 1866—Built a house in Grass Valley at 652 Linden St., that had mortised and dovetailed timbers.

May 6, 1869—Daughter Mary Jane born.

1870—Part owner of the Grass Valley to Colfax toll road.

Lived at Grass Valley with wife, 3 children, and William Huling, age 21.

—Daughter born.

1880—Lived with wife at Grass Valley. Was a farmer; owned house in Grass Valley and 300 acres of land at Buena Vista Ranch. Had 2 sons and 3 daughters. Principal owner of the Grass Valley to Colfax toll road 1897—Daughter Mary Jane married Charles Herbert Barker, son of Charles Barker.

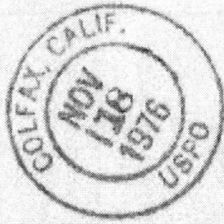
1901—When wife Esther died, Mary Jane and C. H. Barker moved in to take care of Ben.

June 3, 1907—Attended old pioneers reunion at Grass Valley. 1911—Member of Grass Valley Pioneer Club.

1912—Interviewed at Grass Valley by Thomas Dykes Beasley author of A Tramp Through the Bret Harte Country.

Dec 1913—Died at Grass Valley.

Bernie Zimmerman



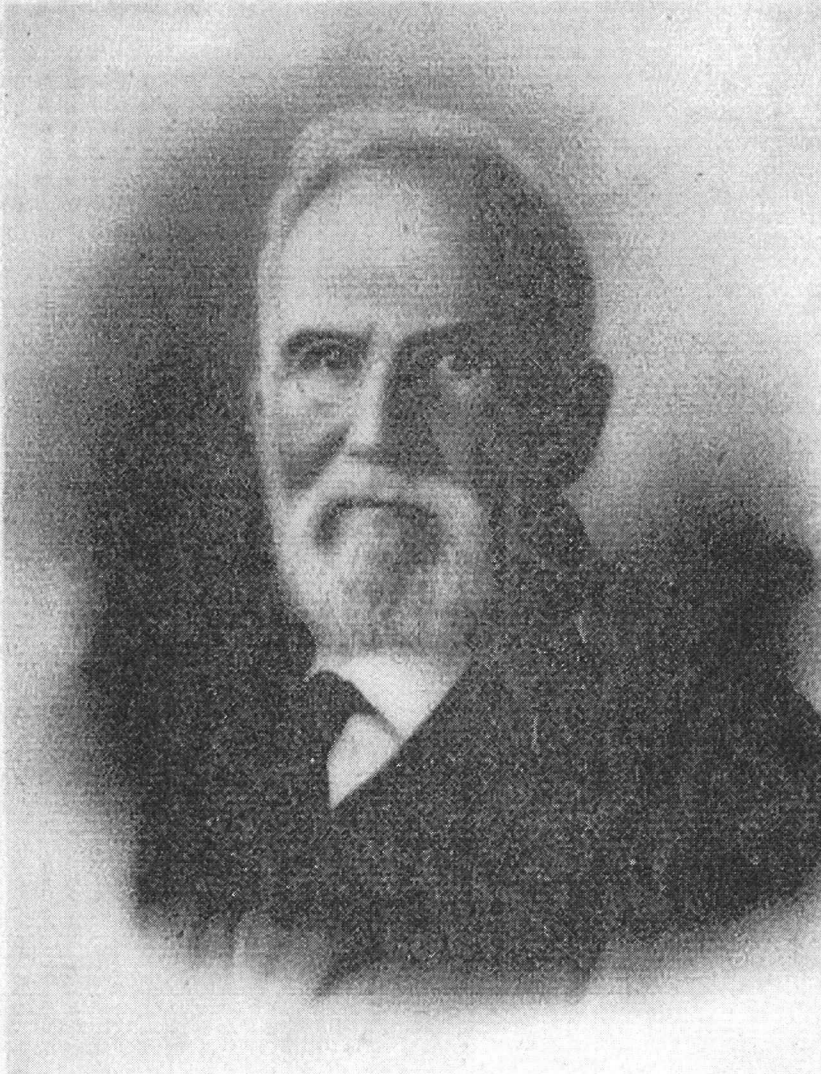
colfax record

15 CENTS

VOL. 68 NO. 33 AUGUST 19, 1976 COLFAX CALIFORNIA

Inside:

Teacher's pay increase ok'ed, City considers 10 percent pay hike, more on the swine flu, sports highlights



Benjamin Franklin Taylor

Lest We Forget Ben Taylor

by Pat Jones

Who was Ben Taylor? What did he do to rate having a road in Colfax named for him?

Benjamin Franklin Taylor was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1826. He came west with a party of Mexican War veterans headed by the Broughton brothers. They left Bethany, Missouri on May 9, 1849 and arrived in Grass Valley on September 21, 1849.

Taylor soon developed a preference for farming and horse breeding, rather than mining. He settled southeast of Grass Valley in the present Peardale area. The ranch was called Buena Vista, after a famous battle in the Mexican War. Peardale voting precincts still bear the Buena Vista name.

He married Esther E. Huling on December 10, 1856. In 1866 they built the house that still stands at 652 Linden Avenue in Grass Valley and is easily recognizable from its picture in Thompson and West's "History of Nevada County", published in 1880.

But Taylor was best known for his road-building venture - the Grass Valley and Illinoistown Turnpike. His partners were the Coleman brothers (Grass Valley mine owners) Gerry Morgan and J.H. Neff of Colfax (California's Lt. Governor in 1898).

The road was completed in 1865 at a cost of \$60,000. It followed approximately the route of Dog Bar Road. The crossing on Bear River is still known as Taylor's Crossing. Taylor eventually sold his interest in Buena Vista Ranch and purchased property adjacent to the crossing.

An article from the June 10,

1965 Placer Herald describes a trip over the toll road:

"With a good team the writer of this left Grass Valley yesterday morning at 5 o'clock accompanied by Benjamin Taylor of this place to go to Auburn over the Grass Valley and Illinoistown Turnpike, which is now completed and ready for the traveling public. This road commences on Auburn Street, passes by Paine's, Wheelers, and Dr. Sheet's ranches and crosses Bear River intersecting the road from Auburn to Dutch Flat.

"Taking the Auburn branch of the road, five miles brings you to the depot of the Central Pacific Railroad at Clipper Gap and traveling six or eight miles further you reach the beautiful little town of Auburn.

"It is really a pleasure to travel over such an excellent road. The grades are light - no place exceeding 10 inches to the rod - water is abundant and is furnished from tanks which are supplied from excellent springs through wooden pipes. There is no dust and the road is shaded by trees with heavy foliage a great portion of the way.

"Ten miles this side of Auburn we came to Lisbon (now Applegate) the premises of our bachelor friend, George W. Applegate. The sight of his ranch alone is worth a trip to Auburn. He has been engaged for a number of years in growing grapes and in wine making and has succeeded in both. He now has 30,000 Los Angeles vines in his vineyard and during the past season he made about six thousand gallons of as good wine as we have ever sampled, which is sold readily on the premises.

"After repeated tests of George's wines we left for Auburn with several bottles stowed away in the buggy to be used at leisure. After a short drive we pulled up at Auburn Station, one mile from the town, where we lingered but a short time, our stomachs admonish us of hunger.

"On entering Auburn one is much pleased at seeing so many neat and comfortable houses surrounded by beautiful and tastefully laid out gardens and walks, with every conceivable variety of flowers.

"At Auburn we booked at the American Hotel, kept by S.G. Morris.... The business houses we found closed in obedience to the proclamation of Gov. Low, calling on all to suspend business and indulge in humiliation and prayer. We saw no one at prayer in Auburn but we felt greatly humiliated from the effects of a too free indulgence in a sumptuous dinner. We called on the proprietor of the herald, whom we found well and hearty, and judging from appearances, doing well in battling for the cause of democracy, the constitution and the Union.

"We left Auburn at 2 p.m. for Grass Valley, coming by the old road. This was good in places, but from Cottage Hill to the Globe Ranch it was very bad, and we are at a loss to know how heavy teams can get over that portion. This road to Auburn may be shorter than to go by the Turnpike, but it is now near as good....."

The only part of Ben's old turnpike that still bears his name is the portion from the intersection above the Colfax Youth Center, past Colfax High School to the Bear River.

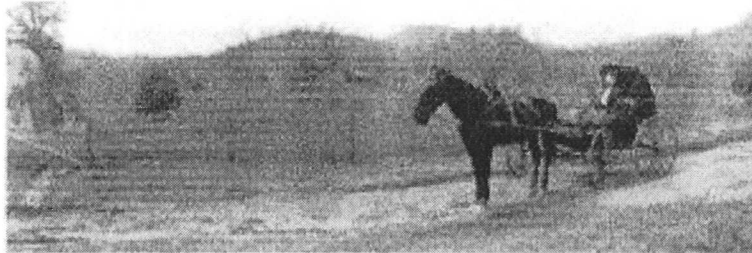
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3/22/12 | 296 views

Colfax roadway has historical identity crisis

HUNTING FOR HISTORY

Nancy Hagman, Colfax Record Correspondent



California State Archives/Courtesy to Colfax Record

Frieda Kramm and son Alfred ride in a buggy on what was originally called Ben Taylor's Road. Taken May 11, 1913, about halfway between Colfax and Grass Valley.

When London burned down in 1666, renowned architect Christopher Wren had a famously wonderful idea to rebuild in an organized and aesthetic manner. Nevertheless, while the city leaders haggled over the plan, the people rebuilt the community on the original cow-and-cart paths. The result: one of the hardest cities in the world to navigate.

How this relates to Colfax goes a long way in explaining some of the odd intersections and naming patterns. Like water running downhill, we tend to follow the path of least resistance. Our winding foothill roads are an integral part of what makes up our beloved rural environment; however, it often

leads to confusion.

The best example is found just west of downtown. There, five roads come together, each with a different name, and could easily be called "Five Corners." The road configuration is especially tough for nearby residents when the 911 dispatcher asks, "What's the nearest cross street?"

One route alone has a bit of an identity crisis. Originally, it was the single track for pack mules that lead from Illinoistown to Grass Valley. In 1863, Benjamin F. Taylor of Nevada County partnered with Colfax entrepreneur Jacob Neff, Nevada County Recorder Gerry Morgan and mine owners and brothers, John and Edward Coleman. In anticipation of the arrival of the transcontinental route through Colfax, this group received a patent to build a toll road connecting Grass Valley to the new rail line. The new bridge across the Bear River became Taylor's Crossing and the road, Ben Taylor's Road.

The road was completed in spring 1865, a few months ahead of the first steam engine's arrival. On June 10 of that year, the Placer Herald reported: "It is really a pleasure to travel over such an excellent road. The grades are light – no place exceeding ten inches to the rod (an old surveyor's term signifying a linear measure of 16.5 feet) – water is abundant and is furnished from tanks which are supplied from excellent springs through wooded pipes. There is no dust and the road is shaded by trees with heavy foliage a great portion of the way."

In Colfax, the road ran east to west. It ended at the track on CPRR's plat and so that town portion was named Grass Valley Street, since that's where it led. Auburn Street ran on the east side of the track from Depot Street, the main track crossing. The intersection of Front (now Main) and Grass Valley streets became and still is the official geographic center of Colfax.

In 1869, the Rising Sun gold mining operations along the Bear River began in earnest and may not have become a factor in this name game, except for a damaging flood in 1880. The Taylor Crossing bridge was washed out, never to be replaced. Over the next few decades, the road west was unofficially transformed by locals to the Rising Sun Mine road.

From the turnoff to the mine, down to the river, the road was still referred to as Old Taylor Crossing Road in a 1938 Colfax Record mine accident story.

Ken Grehm of Placer County's public works department confirmed from files, last week, that Ben Taylor has always been the name of the county portion of the route and that it was straightened and upgraded in 1959 to accommodate the new high school facility.

At some point, the Colfax city planners chose to retain the Rising Sun moniker for the portion within its domain.

When Taylor, a Mexican War veteran, arrived in Grass Valley in 1849, he was among the first settlers. He was part owner of Buena Vista Ranch, located in Nevada County in the present Peardale area.

Like many of the era, he made an attempt at mining but prospered better as a rancher. He married Esther E. Huling in 1856, and when the turnpike venture was complete, he built a home for his wife and daughter, Jenny, on Linden Avenue in Grass Valley.

Taylor later sold his interest in Buena Vista Ranch and bought property in the vicinity of his crossing on the Bear River. He died in December 1913; at the time he was the last surviving member of the Mexican War veterans he had come west with six decades earlier.

Over the years, attempts have been made to champion a new bridge at the crossing. Several decades of extensive gravel operations currently continue at the location.

Like the water on its downhill path, when the force is strong enough it breaks through barriers and defines its own path, regardless of the original terrain.

Men Who Made History In Early Colfax Days

By SCOPP

No 2 of a series of brief sketches of early day Colfax residents as told to Scoop Thurman by Mrs. Grace Hubley James.

BEN TAYLOR

My county clerk designated my place of residence as located "On Rising Sun Road" and I rise to a point of order. I live on the Ben Taylor Road to Grass Valley, the first road built between that then thriving mining town connecting it with the Southern Pacific at Colfax. In the '60's by Ben Taylor with the assistance of the Coleman Brothers at a cost of \$65,000.

There are only a few of us left who remember Papa Taylor coming to town from his ranch across Bear River for grub, usually mounted on a white faced roan, stiff of knees and slightly sway back. I suppose from carrying a man of more than 200 pounds, six feet, two inches in his gait; a raw boned Kentuckian, born in Louisville on Sept. 22, 1836.

During my life he ranged cattle from Dog Bar to Chicago Park, owning the ranch on the other side of Bear River now known as the Dunn property.

Part of his early life was spent in Missouri and in May, 1849, left Bethany with gold seekers under Capt. Broughton. His first night in California he camped in Dog Valley. Three trips were made across the continent, two with stock. He owned and operated the Buena Vista Ranch at Chicago Park at one time.

He met Heather Huling near Council Bluff. She was on her way west with her brothers from Indiana and he used to like to tell how he looked up and saw her on the rise of a hill and she was as "plump as a partridge and pretty as a robbin". They were married, I think, near Smartsville, Dec. 10, 1856.

I have before me the last letter I



ever received from him, written from Santa Rosa, thanking me for some photographs I'd made of him. He was visiting the Weimore family, old friends.

Mr. Taylor did not drink, smoke, or chew tobacco, and if he had faults, which I've no doubt he had, they were those of a Kentucky gentleman.

He maintained a home place at Grass Valley, now occupied by his son-in-law, Herbert Barker. There were two sons and two daughters.

It would be nice if the Native Sons and Daughters would honor Ben Taylor's memory by placing a marker of some kind along the old road.

THE POLITICAL PARADE

By CLEM WHITAKER

High-pressure pension plan promoters, who apparently stay awake nights thinking up new ways to rake in dimes and dollars, are rapidly turning the old-fashioned game of politics into a streamlined vaudeville act that may soon make it impossible to tell what's "the groceries"—and what's just politics!

In Florida, a Townsend Club brand coffee will soon be put on the market. It will sell for 25 cents a pound, with three cents going to the national Townsend headquarters. And if successful the plan will be extended throughout the nation.

In California, Thirty-Thursdays promoters, not to be outdone by their Townsend rivals, have bought up several broken-down circuses—renamed them Hama and Eggs, and will soon put them on the road to entertain the populace and fatten their campaign treasury.

Politics, of course, often has been called a "three-ring circus", but now the tables are turned. Show-business has gotten into politics—with both feet!

There are many confusing complications. Youngsters who have carried water for the elephants since time immemorial, usually in exchange for free ducats, will probably be paid off with Thirty-Thursdays warrants—redeemable at age 50. Political trapeze performers, accustomed to showing off in the legislature and at town hall meetings, will be bobbing up in The Main Tent, or barking their wares before sideshow entrances, with the clowns crowded into the back-ground.

Housewives, on their Saturday shopping tours will likely be confronted with Thursday hama, Townsend coffee, Roosevelt pork and beans, Dewey's special lamb stew, Garner's Tea-fed steer beef and Olson's dated milk and honey. It's a bewildering bit of business—and nobody knows where it may end!

But there's nothing "funny" about the kind of money that's being raised by this new brand of political show-business. The Ham and Eggs

THE MAN AT THE KEYHOLE

By Operative WB

Governor Olson's signature four anti-loan shark bills, crack down on interest rates in the same business, may not end the argument, according to our undercover operative. Referendum petitions probably will be placed in circulation against the bills. And it securing the signatures to qualify petitions against four separate bills (even at wholesale rates) will cost about a hundred grand. Small loan must pay big dividends!

From our roving reporter comes the dope that Arthur J. Koletak county clerk and auditor of El Dorado County, has a good chance to win the state senate seat left vacant by Andy Pierovich's elevation to a Amador County judgeship. I Orange County, Assemblyman Thomas H. Kuchel has the inside track for the senate vacancy, our scout informs us.

Regardless of whether it ever receives voter-approval, the Ham and Egg pension scheme seems destined to cost California a great deal of money. For in addition to the \$700,000 in special election costs and the hundreds of thousands that will be spent pro and con campaigning on the issue, state interest rates on registered warrants are reaching for the ceiling. Last week, the sale bid on a block of \$4,000,000 worth of warrants was a net rate of 3.55 per cent, or 1.65 per cent higher than the bid of a week previous. And until the big pension proposal is defeated, state officials see little hope of improvement!

movement, preparing for the special election in November, is reported to be collecting approximately \$50,000 per month in campaign contributions, in addition to more than \$100,000 a year in dues and the other thousands that may be garnered from its picnics and circuses. Their radio programs alone are running into tens of thousands monthly—and the big show has hardly begun.

Curiously enough, although proponents of the Thirty-Thursdays plan constantly berate "capitalists" and Big Business in their broadcasts, they will undoubtedly have more money to spend in their campaign for the Ham and Eggs scheme than the taxpayers' groups which will oppose it.

It's a strange business. And old-time politicians, looking on in pained amazement, are lamenting

FSC Group Bonus Aids Small Farms

Costs of heavy farm machinery and other equipment needed for efficient operation have been cut as much as 75 per cent by western small farmers taking part in the Farm Security Administration's group loan program. It was learned yesterday from Leif E. Wahlberg, FSA supervisor for Sacramento,

Churches

CHURCH

ST. DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC
Colfax

Mass every Sunday at Colfax at 9 A. M.

Mass at Weimar Sanatorium the first and third Sundays of the month

COMMUNITY

METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, August 6th at the Community Church the pastor, Dr. A. C. Banc, will preach at 11 A. M. on "Jesus, the World's Greatest Paradox". Everybody invited.

DESCRIPTION OF ROUTE OF THE OVERLAND EMIGRANT ROAD

FROM GREENHORN CREEK, NEAR CHICAGO PARK, TO OLD JOHNSON'S RANCHO 4 MILES EAST OF WHEATLAND

Prepared in 1940 from personal description by Sam Wolford, a well known pioneer of Nevada County and with information of Johnson's Ranch, by J. R. Hartley, a pioneer of Wheatland. *(Wendell Robin)*

On the west line of the Shebley ranch (claimed by Sam Wolford as site of first trout fish hatchery in California) and west of You Bet above Greenhorn Creek, the Emigrant Trail turns sharp southwesterly up a grade to top a small timbered ridge, about a quarter of a mile east of a site on the present Colfax-Grass Valley highway, occupied in 1850 by the William Storms Ranch.

According to Sam Wolford, Storms was the first Indian Agent in California. A few of the United States troops from Camp Far West and State Volunteers, rounded up the Indian followers of Chief Weema at his ranch after a skirmish with them on Bear River, following attacks on the Holt and Walsh sawmills in May, 1850. They were then forcibly deported to ^{Mendocino} Humboldt County in charge of Storm as Indian Agent. It was the first California deportation of Indians to a reservation. The Indian Chief Weema, was well known in the region by the first settlers. His name was given to the site of present day Weimar, and was later corrupted to the present Germanized spelling, which had no connection with the original Indian name of Weema.

Later, according to Mr. Wolford, the Storm Ranch was acquired by two partners, Reed and Kelly, both good athletes and noted foot runners. It was the sports center of the region, with tracks laid out for foot racing and horse racing, and the site for both bear fighting and prize fighting.

At a saw mill site, 1/4 mile east of the old Storm Ranch, the Emigrant Trail heads southwesterly, gradually approaching present highway, passes through grove of pine on Ulrich place, crosses highway, and narrow gauge railroad track, and goes

westerly over meadow, and crosses the old original Grass Valley Toll road, built by Crandall and Neal of Auburn. At that time, Dr. Crandall and Neal owned what Sam Wolford termed the Big Auburn Ditch (Bear River Ditch Company). The old toll road is a present day Nevada County road. After crossing road, the Old Trail goes through walnut grove and the present Chris Beirwagon house and heads southwesterly north of present Chicago Park packing house and, in general, along the ridge toward Wind Hill over what was once the old Hamburg Ranch. It goes through saddle beyond present gate to K. J. Rolph place and is well defined in grove of pine toward ridge to west. It keeps to large spur on south side of Wind Hill. (This is old name and may be known to some today as Olive Hill)

West of Wind Hill the Old Road finds a swale to descend to the Old Ben Taylor Ranch. (Map #9 - ...)

According to Sam Wolford, Ben Taylor arrived in California with a party of 20 friends in 1849. He preferred the stock business to mining and settled the Buena Vista Ranch near present Peardale. At that time, possession was acquired by blazing a line around the property, and building a cabin within that line. In his well-watered meadow Ben Taylor kept some of the small western mustangs of that time. Seeking better stock, he returned to the East with one companion in 1851 and, after gathering a band of good Eastern brood mares and stallions, he returned with this horse herd in 1852 and started in the horse business with a good foundation stock. This apparently magnificent achievement of Ben Taylor's should be looked into by present California historians and writers as it may be the first successful importation overland of a stock herd from the East to the West, through Indian tribes and wild country. Sam Wolford states that one of Ben Taylor's original party in 1849 later became a sheriff at Eureka and, for years, corresponded with each member of the 20 in the party and reported once a year concerning them all, to the others. Wolford remembers one of the annual letters to Ben Taylor, at a time when the sheriff reported only 3 surviving members, only one besides Taylor and the sheriff.

BEN TAYLOR LEDGER (1861-1873)

NOTE: This ledger seems to have been kept by several different people through the years. It is definitely Ben Taylor's records but the ledger itself has been used as a scrap book for news articles, weather reports, jokes and mine shares. It has also been used to practice handwriting, copy letters and pages have been torn apart to be used for other purposes.

I, Sally Barker Hoffman Knutson, have had this ledger in my possession for some time, perhaps 25 or 30 years, I have looked through it and read some of it but I haven't paid too much attention to it. In July 2013, I again, opened the ledger as I was organizing my ancestry closet, and found several very important links to the puzzle I call my genealogy.

1. The date Ben and Ester moved into the Home Place is noted on one page. It was November 28 1866

The cost of the Home Place is broken down like this:

Lumber-----	\$800.00
Carpenter---	\$760.00
Masons-----	\$195.00
Shingles-----	\$90.00
Lime-----	\$50.00
Painter-----	\$16.00
Plastering ---	\$140.80
Lath-----	\$38.00
Brick-----	\$40.00
Hardware---	<u>\$120.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2249/80

2. The Buena Vista Ranch was the ledger topic from August 12, 1861-April 13, 1864. Then there are entries for Grass Valley from June 11, 1864 – Oct. 4, 1864.

A note April 15 1865 says: "Moved on the Dibble Ranch"

3. A letter from D.R. Bearss copied by someone into the ledger. This letter says Jane (Huling) is D.R. Bearss's sister. I have needed that link and I believe this proves it. So a very important piece of information. I will transcribe it here so there will be a readable copy for posterity. The *italicized* words are the original spelling.

No date

I received several paper and letters from you since you left and was pleased to hear of your safe arrival home and that you found your family and friends well now I hope you have not got out of *humer* because I did not answer your letter before and let me say to you now I know no man who I would *ruther* hear from than yourself and then your wife and children and those is my sister and her children and Mooney and his family I want to see your all I must go and see you before I die. We took our fall hunt but I not being well did not *injoy* it as well as *usal*. Our children all live where They did when you visited us and are about as well as when you left they

often enquire whether I have heard from you now Taylor can't you come out next summer and bring all family and make us a visit what is a visit. (Adrisoras can't make this out) family have been sick this summer and his wife wants him to sell the farm I fear she is not disposed to be very *contented* any where. I wish you would come and buy them out and go into the stock business how is that will you ever leave California I would like to see your country but I think I like this the best see my sister Jane that I know owe her a letter but she must not think hard of me for not answering it she knows I am no letter writer our corn *crope*s was the best we have had in this country for ten years it is selling for 35 cents per bushel the wheat was not first rate all kinds of property is go down here I put another story on the hotel and *repared* it up in good fix it brings \$1,000.00 a year I not heard any thing from the *rochester* mine since you left you will please remember me kindly and *affectionaly* to your wife and children, sister and all relations and don't you do as I have but write often. Yours Truly D R Barce (The copier must have misspelled this name.)

Mr. Ben Taylor

As I said, this was copied into the ledger by someone and the spelling errors may have been the copier's. I have left them as I read them. There is one name I could not read nor can I find any family member who has a name like it. Maybe later that will be solved.

Another entry in this ledger:

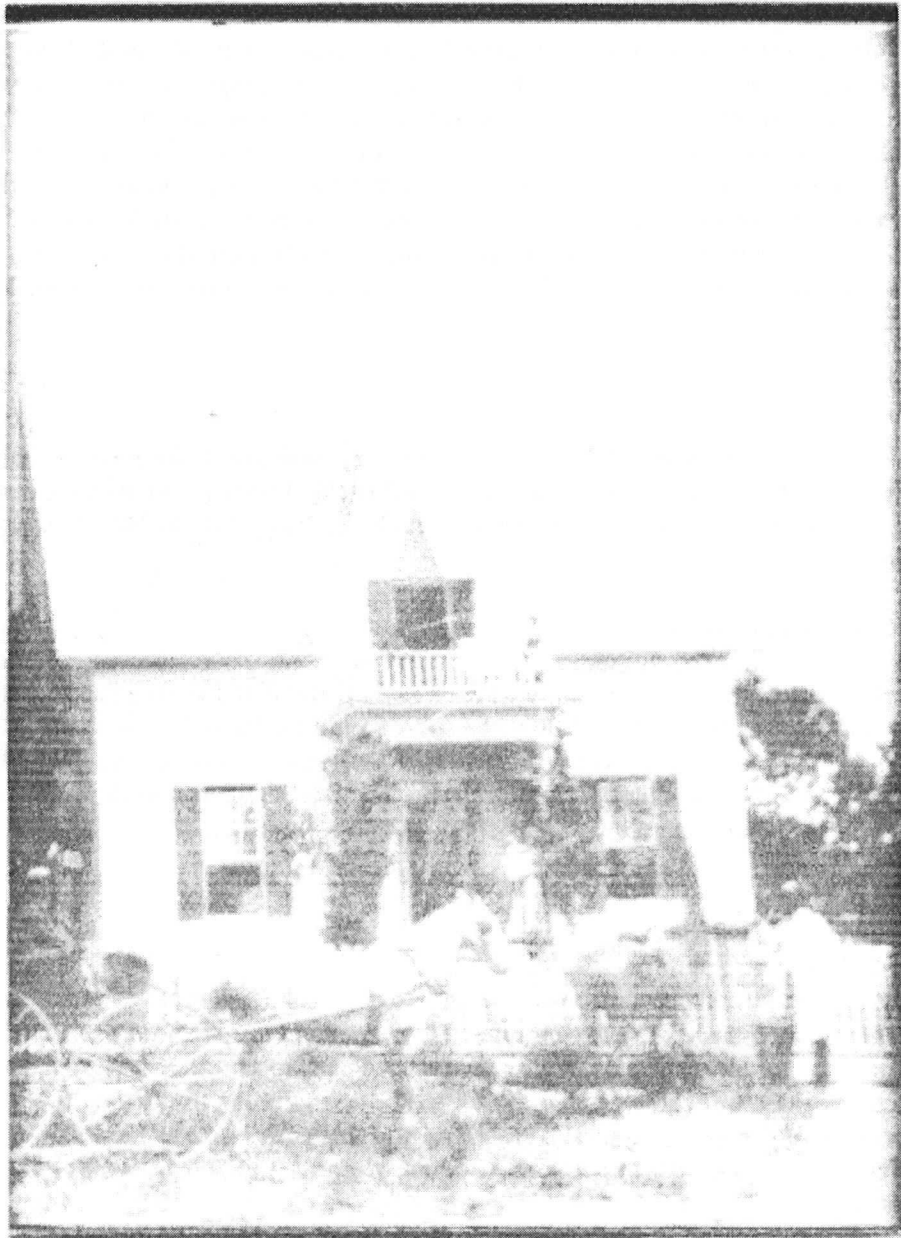
June 1, 1868 Bought out Coleman and Neff in Toll Road B Taylor *prmis* promise to pay to John Ed Coleman \$7153.00 to be paid 6 months from date with one and quarter interest pr month the entire Road from Colfax to Grass *vally* and Seven ninths of the Nevada and Grass *Vally* turnpike Road is *ownd* and under *contrat* of B Taylor and A.S Peterson the *hole* no of *Shers* 250 *equly* divided

Another letter in the ledger:

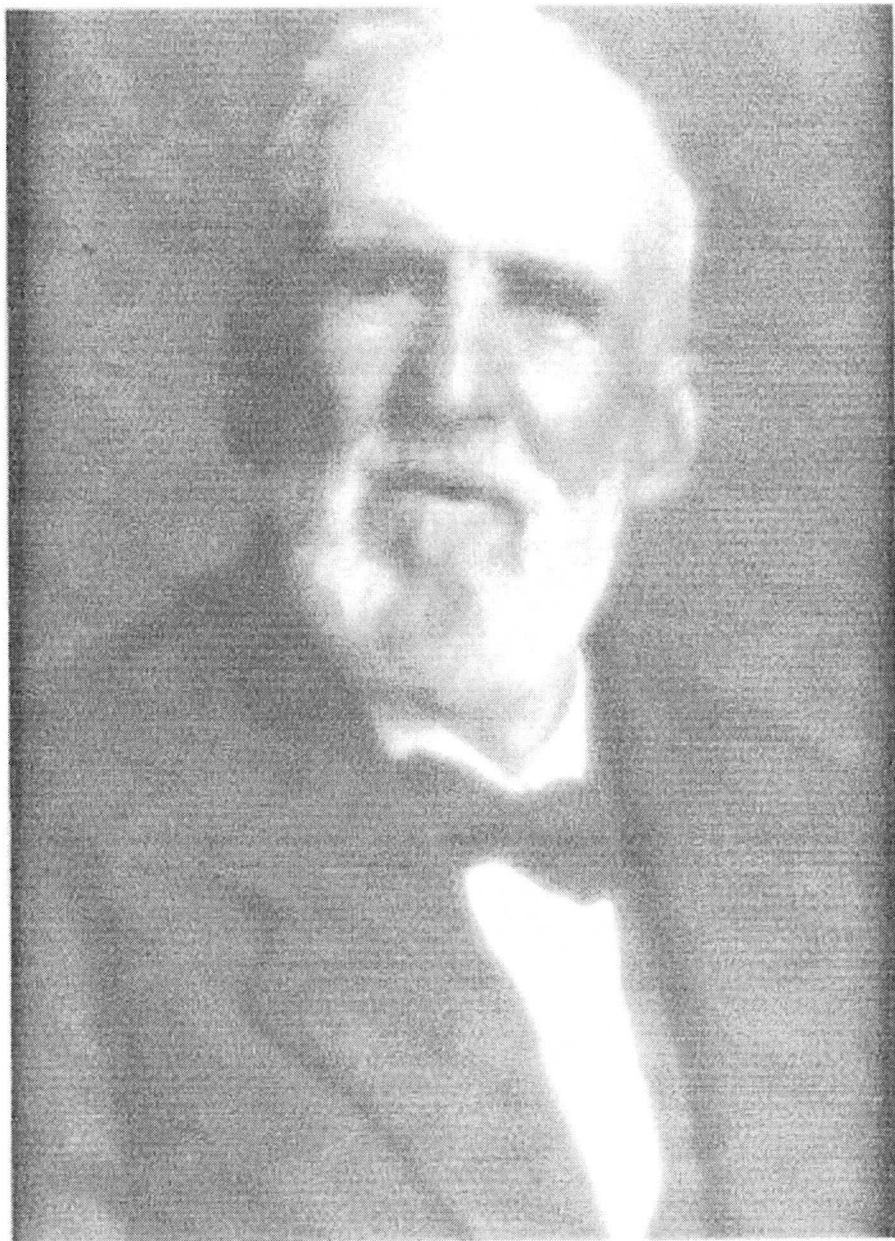
Mr. Smith Exchange *Hotell* Grassvally

As I *hav* bin *repetdly* asked by my children to assist them in getting *ther* little dog *witch* is in your *percession* I take this *method* of in forming you that it is *ther* dog and *ther* is no mistake a bout it for more than a half a doz persons that know the dog has told them so and *repetdly* and as it is *ther* dog and not yours and as I don't wish to *bee* bothered any more a bout it I wish you *wold* deliver it to the owner Frank Taylor and oblige

Yours B. Taylor



THE BEN TAYLOR HOME 1870



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (BEN) TAYLOR



THE BENTAYLOR FAMILY (MID BEN TAYLOR, HIS DAUGHTER,
MARY JANE (JUNIOR), HER HUSBAND, J. H. (BET) BARRIE,
THEIR MOTHER, M. E. (MEE) BARRIE, GENEVIEVE,
GEORGE AND KATHERINE (STANDING))



MOTHER'S DAY 1997 - THE BARBER FAMILY AT
THE HOME PLACE



MAY 1999 - THE BEN TAYLOR HOME 652 LINDEN AVE.
GRASS VALLEY



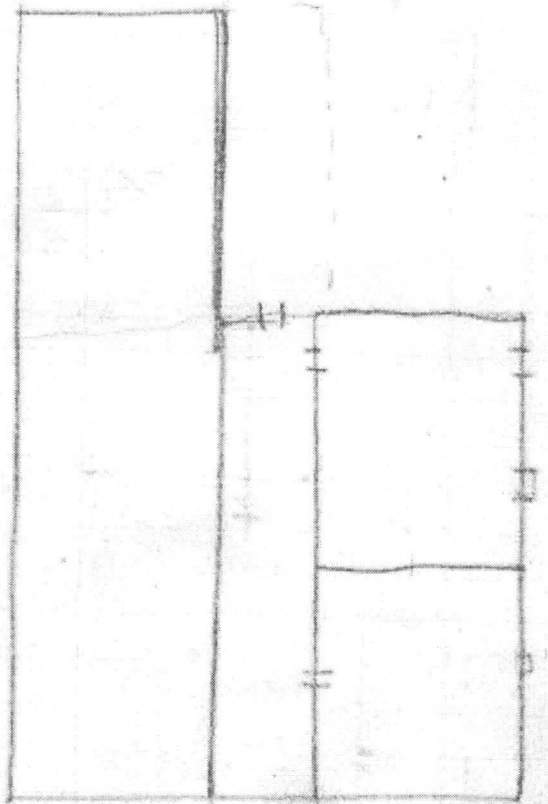
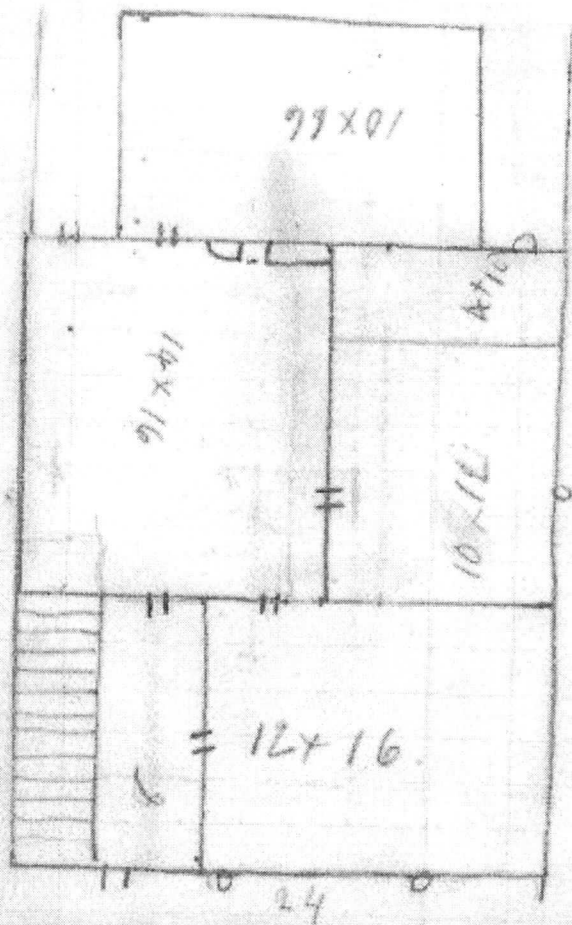
JULY 2012 6th GENERATION ON THE
FRONT STEPS OF "THE HOME PLACE"
SAMMY AND JESS KNUTSON, KATHERYN BROWN



BEN TAYLOR

Missouri Stockman Who Brought Out Herds to Improve Range
Cattle of Northern Mines (See Incidents)

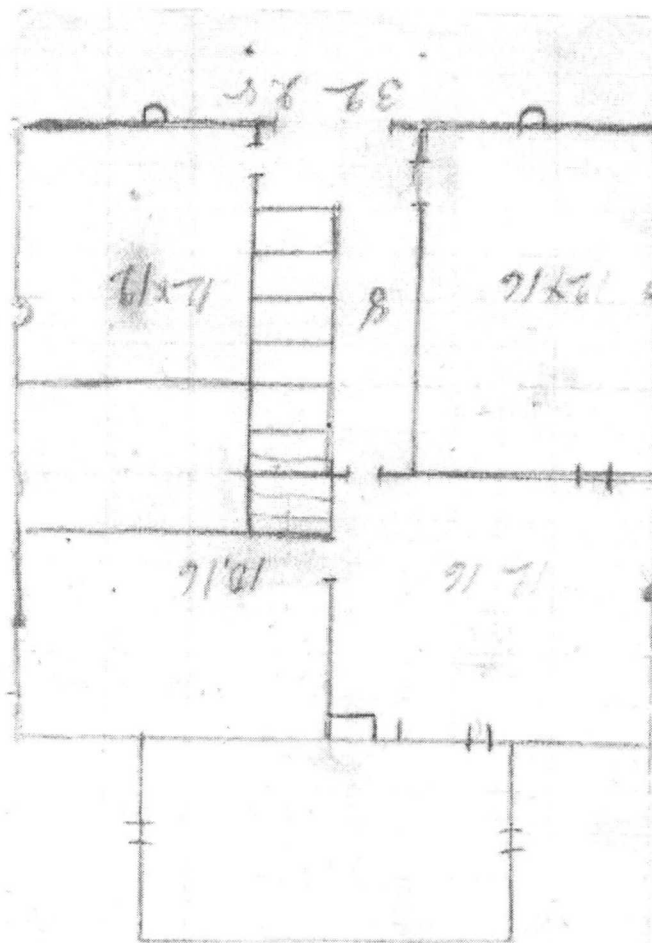
*The Northern Mines
Edmund Kenyon 1949
P. 154 photo Ben Taylor*



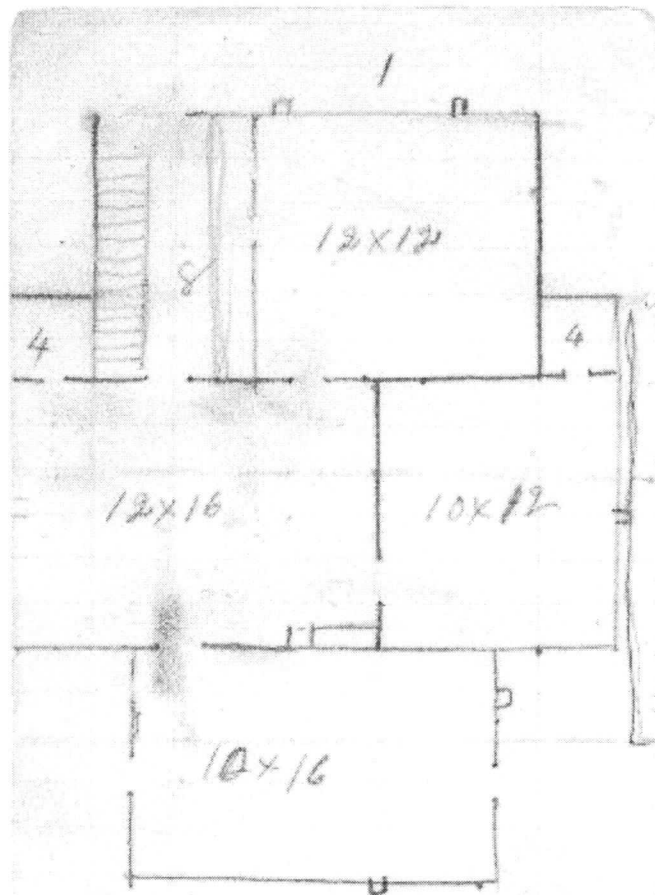
32

Ben Taylor's sketch of floor plan
for new home on Linden Ave.

This comes closest to the final look of the downstairs



Another idea of how the home might look



RECORDING REQUESTED BY:

&

RETURN TO:

Board of Supervisors
County of Nevada
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200
Nevada City CA 95959-8617

COPY

Nevada County Recorder
Gregory J. Diaz
Document#: 20210027647
Wednesday August 18 2021, at 02:50:18 PM

Paid: \$0.00 AM

DOCUMENT TITLE

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION NO. 21-362

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE BEN TAYLOR HOME PLACE, LOCATED AT 652
LINDEN AVENUE, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945 (APN 008-800-007-000) AS NEVADA
COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK NEV 21-05

THIS PAGE ADDED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SPACE FOR RECORDING INFORMATION
(Govt. Code 27361.6)

Additional Recording Fee Applies



21-362

RESOLUTION No. _____

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE BEN TAYLOR HOME PLACE,
LOCATED AT 652 LINDEN AVENUE, GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945
(APN 008-800-007-000) AS NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL
LANDMARK NEV 21-05**

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) was established in 1969 to promote the general welfare of Nevada County and its citizens through official recognition, recording, marking, preserving, and promoting the historical resources of Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHLC has since sustained an active program of cataloging and recommending for designation historical sites and structures throughout Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHLC accepts applications, processes and verifies applications for proposed historical landmark designation, and recommends said landmark designations for approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors supports the promotion of the public health, safety, and general welfare by providing for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of improvements, buildings, structures, signs, objects, features, sites, places, districts, and areas within the County that reflect special elements of the County's architectural, artistic, cultural, engineering, aesthetic, historical, political, social, and other heritage, by allowing their registration as Nevada County Historical Landmarks for the following reasons:

1. Safeguarding Nevada County's heritage as embodied and reflected in the historic Ben Taylor Home Place located at 652 Linden Avenue, Grass Valley, CA 95945, its influence on Nevada County's cultural and social history, and commemorating the valuable role it played in this community; and
2. Encouraging public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Nevada County's history as reflected in its heritage; and
3. Fostering civic and neighborhood pride and a sense of identity based upon the recognition and use of cultural resources; and
4. Preserving diverse and harmonious architectural styles and design innovations; and
5. Enhancing property values to increase economic and financial benefits to Nevada County and its inhabitants by preserving and promoting historical buildings; and
6. Protecting and enhancing Nevada County's attraction to tourists and visitors, thereby stimulating business and industry; and

7. Identifying as early as possible and resolving conflicts between the preservation of cultural resources and alternative land uses in a section of Nevada County that may see future population growth; and

WHEREAS, at its June meeting, the NCHLC verified and unanimously approved the application and now recommends that the Board of Supervisors designate the property as a Nevada County Historical Landmark.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada hereby accepts the NCHLC's recommendation and designates the Ben Taylor Home Place as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-05.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to record a certified copy of this Resolution with the Office of the Nevada County Clerk-Recorder within ten (10) days after the adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada at a regular meeting of said Board, held on the 10th day of August, 2021, by the following vote of said Board:

Ayes: Supervisors Heidi Hall, Edward Scofield, Dan Miller, Susan K. Hoek and Hardy Bullock.

Noes: None.


Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

ATTEST:

JULIE PATTERSON HUNTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 


Dan Miller, Chair

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

8/10/2021 cc:

Recorder (1)
COB*
HLC*
Bb
www*

RES 21-362
ATTEST: 8/16/21
Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board
County of Nevada
BY: 