



*The*  
**DOUGLASS**  
**HOUSE**  
& COTTAGE HOSPITAL



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**DOUGLASS**  
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**& COTTAGE HOSPITAL**



IN MEMORY OF  
ROBERT L. DOUGLASS & ELEANOR ERNST  
WRITTEN BY JANE PIEPLOW  
RESEARCH BY MELLA HARMON  
FOR NOMINATION TO THE STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
AND THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



**BUILT 1906, FALLON NV**



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**HISTORIC FALLON, NV**





## TIMELINE

# HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

Robert Lee Douglass was one of Fallon's most influential citizens. His life was filled with more financial success than most, but his experiences in Nevada and Churchill County parallel those of many of the pioneers that settled the west. His landmark Queen Anne Victorian home in Fallon stands today in restored splendor and his nearby Island Ranch, with its prairie-style residence, continues under cultivation as a landscaped showplace.



### APRIL 1904

The Churchill Standard newspaper announces that the plans for the R.L. Douglass mansion had been completed by a Reno architect (no name given). Construction on the home begins two weeks later.



### MAY-AUGUST 1904

The new home undergoes construction.



### SEPTEMBER 1904

Robert Lee Douglass and his wife, Eleanor Ernst, move into the mansion.



### NOVEMBER 1906

The Douglasses move to their Island Ranch in Churchill County.




## TIMELINE

# HISTORY OF THE HOUSE



### SEPTEMBER 1913

The Douglass home is purchased by Dr. F.E. Nichols, who uses it as a doctor's office and remodels the southern garage into the modern 10-bed Cottage Hospital.



### JULY 1916

Dr. Nichols leases out the Cottage Hospital building.



### 1923

The former Cottage Hospital building is converted into an apartment building, remaining under Nichols' ownership.



### APRIL 1931

The Douglass residence is seriously damaged by an attic fire. According to the newspaper, the roof was destroyed and water damage was evident in the upstairs portion. Repairs are quickly made to the roof and the second story.



### MAY 1951

After the death of Dr. Nichols in 1935, his widow, Annie B. Coffrin, sells the last piece of the Douglass property.



### 1996

The Douglass home is sold to its current owners, Jerry R. and Suzanne Noonkester. Today, the R.L. Douglass House serves as both the family's residency, as well as their bed and breakfast, known as The 1906 House. The Noonkesters put hours of work and thousands of dollars into the restoration of the house to return it to its former glory.



## THE DOUGLAS HOUSE INTRO

In the fall of 2000, museum staff members were contacted by Suzanne and Jerry Noonkester—owners of “The 1906 House” bed and breakfast—who asked for help in getting their home listed on our State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register list of the nation’s historic properties is maintained by the National Register Office, a department of the National Park Service, in

Washington, D.C., and currently contains 66,000 historic properties. (Nevada has approximately 230 properties on that list, some of which are historic districts.)

The Register is an important tool for planning at the federal, state and local levels, and preserving historical landmarks is a labor of love, providing invaluable connections to the past. Properties like the Douglass House and Cottage Hospital stand as living testaments to the rich heritage of Fallon and Churchill County. The quest to recognize and protect these legacies continues, with numerous other buildings in the area poised for nomination.

It is hoped that the act of listing a building on the National Register will further pride in this country’s history and prevent the destruction of historic properties.







## THE FULL STORY

# DOUGLASS HOUSE

In the fall of 2000, museum staff members were contacted by Suzanne and Jerry Noonkester, owners of “The 1906 House” bed and breakfast, who asked for help in getting their home listed on our State Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. Their call came to my desk, and I agreed to give them the help they needed to see this project through. During my time as Director of the High Plains Museum in Goodland, Kansas, I was involved in getting a number of buildings listed on the Kansas and National Registers, so I had a pretty good idea as to where to start on the Noonkester’s project.

In Focus readers may wonder just when these registers were created and what purpose they serve. The National Register of Historic Places was created with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in 1966. The need for such an act came about because of a national concern that growth and development in cities and towns was threatening to destroy the historic fabric of



our nation and its communities. The act recognized the importance of history, and the remains of history, to our sense of identity and stability as a nation.

The National Register list of the nation’s historic properties is maintained by the National Register Office, a department of the National Park Service, in Washington, D.C., and currently contains 66,000 historic properties. (Nevada has approximately 230 properties on that list, some of which are historic districts.)

Even though there may be no direct monetary gain from National Register listing, there are many benefits. The Register is an important tool for planning at the federal, state and local levels. The nomination process allows for a greater understanding of our history and ourselves. The Register is also an educational tool. Listing a building on the National Register is an honor and identifies the property as one that has been recognized as important to our history. Listed properties might also be eligible for federal preservation assistance, when such programs are available (e.g., the rehabilitation tax credit program, Historic Preservation Fund grants, etc.) It is hoped that the act of listing a building on the National Register will further pride in this country’s history and prevent the destruction of historic properties. While some see historic preservation as threatening -- affecting private property rights and progress -- these are misconceptions. There are no protections or restrictions for properties on the National



Register, as these buildings can be demolished or remodeled at will. (The only exceptions are listed properties that receive federal grant funds for improvements. These types of restoration projects must follow strict preservation guidelines.) The establishment of the National Historic Preservation Act brought with it the need for each state to create offices that were responsible for coordinating the many activities of the NHPA. In 1966, the Federal Government created a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in each of the 50 states. These offices work with local citizens on preservation programs that receive federal funding, federal and state level restoration projects, state and local preservation planning, the National Register program, grant programs, the Certified Local Government program and others.

The State Register of Historic Places, established in 1979 under NRS 383.085, is maintained by SHPO and utilizes the same criteria for historic properties as the National Register. Properties that qualify for the National Register are automatically eligible for the State Register, but properties eligible for the State Register may not be eligible for the National Register because, in Nevada at least, National Register criteria have been applied more loosely by the SHPO and members of the State Board of Museums and History to allow more of Nevada's historic structures to be

acknowledged. Listing on the State Register requires owner consent, and, like the National Register, does not place protection over or restrictions on the property. By encouraging the preservation and the appreciation of Nevada's historic properties, the State Register brings significance to a local level and allows citizens to become more involved with their local history. Acquiring a listing







on the State Register could also qualify a building for funding through the Commission on Cultural Affairs, which provides grants to rehabilitate historic buildings that will be used as cultural centers. (Oats Park School is an example of a local building which is listed on both the State and National Registers and which has received funding from the Commission on Cultural Affairs.)

Before any SHPO can get to work on State and National Register nominations, the kind of historic significance the structure may have must be determined. What constitutes a historic property? For both Registers, a historic property can be a building, a structure (a mining headframe, a bridge, a locomotive, a ship, etc.), an object (a statue, a fountain, etc.), a site or a district, which is comprised of any combination of the above types of properties ( Virginia City Historic District, for example).

When a district is listed on the National Register, the properties contained therein are identified as “contributing” or “non-contributing” properties. For example, the Eureka Historic District contains the contributing historic Eureka Opera House, whereas a new fast food restaurant in the district would be considered a non-contributing property.

## NATIONAL REGISTER

Historic properties can be listed on the National Register for four reasons:

1. Association with activities in our past (mining, transportation, settlement, etc.)
2. Association with important people (of national, statewide or local importance)
3. As a representative of the man-made expression of culture or technology (architectural examples)
4. Ability to yield important information about prehistory or history (usually archaeological sites)

A likely historic site need only qualify for one of these four criteria to be eligible for the National Register. “Eligibility” is an important question when discussing the National Register because the listing process for historic properties is somewhat long and technically difficult. The most difficult element in listing a property on the National Register is a carefully worded essay which places the property in its historic context and answers the question “why is this an important site?”



Other required elements for the registration form include: a written legal description of the property, black-and-white photographs and a United States Geological Survey (USGS) site map pinpointing the historic site's location.

After the completed National Register nomination is reviewed by the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, it is presented to members of the Board of Museums and History for review and approval. The nomination, if approved, can be added to the State Register and will then be forwarded to the National Register in Washington D.C. The National Register has 45 days to comment on the nomination, most of which are approved.

The Robert Lee (R.L.) Douglass House Nomination  
Once a likely historic site has been identified for



listing on the National Register, the real detective work begins. Perhaps the information supplied as research for "The 1906 House" to Mella Harmon, Historic Preservation Specialist at SHPO, will serve as a useful example for those who are contemplating similar research on their own homes or other historic sites. Ms. Harmon was of great help to me in preparing the nomination and in the preparation of this article.

### USING THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE MUSEUM

Newspapers, photographs and an oral history, as well as an assessor's map from the county -- museum staff members were able to piece together the information needed to complete the newly named R.L. Douglass House/Cottage Hospital National Register nomination form.

### PAST AND CURRENT FUNCTION

The past and current function of the property was the first question to be answered. The historic function and use of the Douglass House was listed as follows: On April 23, 1904, The Churchill Standard newspaper announced that the D plans for the R.L. Douglass mansion had been completed by a Reno architect (no name given). Construction on the home began two weeks later. The Churchill National Register of Historic Places





Taken in 1906, two years after the house was completed, Douglass shows off his new Mercedes.

Standard kept up with all steps of the construction, as this home was a grand design for Fallon:

- **April 30:** Ground broken for the home.
- **May 14:** The foundation was nearly in place. The home was to be lighted by electricity.
- **May 21:** The stone foundation had been completed.
- **June 11:** The new home was nearing completion.
- **July 2:** Plumbers were at work piping the interior of the home.
- **July 16:** G.E. Porter, Reno electrician, was at work on the home.

By September of that year, Douglass and his wife, Eleanor Ernst, moved in. Because of his love of cars, R.L. was not slow in building a garage just south of his new home. This building included a turntable that allowed him to drive his car up onto this device. Once the car was inside the garage, the turntable was manually spun to turn the car around to face forward again, ready to be easily driven out.



In August of 1905, Eleanor's 20 year old brother, Charles H. Ernst, died at their home from typhoid. This family death is one explanation for the Douglass' early move to the Island Ranch. One story has it that Eleanor was so devastated by the death of her brother that she wanted to move from the unpleasant memories. Another version of the story says that Eleanor wanted to move from "the mansion" because it was so large she could not keep it clean and domestic help was hard to find.

Whatever the case, the couple moved to their Island Ranch in Churchill County in November of 1906.

Between 1906 and 1913, the Churchill County Eagle noted that several organizations were interested in buying the Douglass residence to use as a clubhouse, but it was never sold for such use. The September 13, 1913, issue of the Churchill County Eagle reported that Dr. F.E. Nichols had purchased the Douglass home. The first winter of his residence, the home was used for the doctor's office and as a hospital. A year later, the garage to the south of the home was remodeled into a modern 10-bed hospital, called the Cottage Hospital, which included an operating room and fully-equipped laboratory.

On September 3, 1916, Dr. Nichols married Annie B. Coffrin, and the couple continued to live in the



Douglass residence. The doctor leased out the Cottage Hospital in July of 1919, continuing to use his residence as his medical office. In 1923, the former Cottage Hospital building was converted into an apartment building, remaining under the Nichols' ownership.

On Tuesday, April 5, 1931, the Douglass residence was seriously damaged by an attic fire. According to the newspaper, the roof was destroyed and water damage was evident in the upstairs portion. Repairs were quickly made to the roof and the second story.

Upon the death of Dr. Nichols in 1935, his widow managed both properties until this job may have become too much for her. In 1946, she sold the hospital/apartment building to Mr. and Mrs. M.B. Walker. The next year the structure was sold again, this time to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Forsberg. In May of 1951, Mrs. Nichols sold the last piece of the Douglass property, its residence, to the Forsbergs and once again the home and apartment building were under single ownership. From this date forward, the two properties have been sold as one. Other owners of the R.L. Douglass home



include:

- **March 17, 1961:** Forsberg sold to Samuel J. and Beryl Higginbotham
- **August 11, 1966:** Higginbotham sold to Tom M. and Anna M. Hickman
- **August 1974:** Hickman sold to Lauf Corporation
- **Nov. 14, 1975:** Lauf Corporation sold to Richard C. and Betty P. Smith
- **December 3, 1976:** Smith sold to Clifford G. and Lucille M. Kimbrell
- **1991:** Kimbrell sold to Bruce and Darby Homer  
On October 18, 1991, a suspected arson fire broke out in the basement of the home. This damage was repaired.
- **1996:** Home sold to present owners, Jerry R. and Suzanne Noonkester.

For most of its existence, the R.L. Douglass House served as a single-family residence, however, just before the Noonkesters purchased it, it had served as a Realty office and antique shop and as a boarding house.

Today, the R.L. Douglass House serves as the residence of Jerry and Suzanne Noonkester. It is also known as The 1906 House and is run as a bed and breakfast with two of the upstairs bedrooms being used for this purpose. The Noonkesters have put hours of work and thousands of dollars into the restoration of the house to return it to its former glory.



In Louisiana, Missouri, a young R.L. Douglass (on bi-cycle) is steadied for the photographer by Ernest Maupin. Both men would soon move to Churchill County. (Churchill County Museum & Archives Photograph Collection.)

### MEETING CRITERION 2.

It was determined that the Douglass House qualified for nomination under two of the categories listed on page 90 – association with important people and as an architectural example. In order to comply with criterion number 2, association with important people, it was necessary to give a brief biography of the life of Robert Lee Douglass.



Robert Lee Douglass was one of Fallon's most influential citizens. His life was filled with more financial success than most, but his experiences in Nevada and Churchill County parallel those of many of the pioneers that settled the west. His landmark Queen Anne Victorian home in Fallon stands today in restored splendor and his nearby Island Ranch, with its prairie style residence, continues under cultivation and is a landscaped showplace.

Robert Lee Douglass was born on a farm in Louisiana, Missouri, on December 5, 1877. He moved to Nevada in 1900 with his constant companion -- an automobile. Always an auto enthusiast, it has been

said that Douglass may have brought the first automobile into the state.

Douglass had ventured west to join his uncle, J.M. Douglass, whose extensive land and cattle interests were headquartered in Virginia City. R.L. tried mining on the old Comstock, and, when the boom started in Alaska, he was one of the first to sail north. The young man soon







returned home and began working on his uncle's ranch in the Island District in Churchill County. Upon the death of his uncle in 1904, the ranch was left to J.M.'s nephews William J. and Robert L. Douglass. Other life-changing events were in store for R.L. That same year, construction of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation Project was that year as on February 10, he married Eleanor Marie Ernst. The Churchill Standard describes the couple:

Mr. Douglass, or "Bob" as he is familiarly called, is a young man of sterling worth and ranks as one of the wealthiest young men in Nevada. His gentlemanly course in life and his careful consideration for the feelings of others less favored in worldly affluence have made him a large circle of friends ...Miss Ernst is a youngest daughter of Senator Ernst ...



On April second, Douglass purchased two lots on the corner of Williams and Carson Street and, by the end of the month, construction began on the couple's new home underway. Up until this time, homesteaders to the area were forced to settle near the banks of the Carson River in order to have adequate irrigation for their limited crops. Natural grass hay grew in these areas and was harvested as winter feed for livestock. Soon, a few large ranches occupied all the irrigable sites along the river. Nationally, the push was on to



make every acre of the United States productive. President McKinley's assassination unexpectedly paved the way for Theodore Roosevelt to become President in 1900 and the progressive politicians began the drive to reclaim the desert.

Back in Churchill County, the United States Reclamation Service began work on Derby Dam in 1904. By 1914, Lahontan Dam was completed and homesteaders were settling the area. During the course of the construction of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation Project, R.L. Douglass refused to join with the local irrigation district by withdrawing his lands from water-right contracts. He may have felt the organization would fail, or he may not have wanted to be tied to the federal government through water-rights to his property. Whatever the case, it is obvious that Douglass was involved in every aspect of this ranch work.

Although involved with his ranch, Douglass was also a well-known and prosperous Fallon businessman. In 1904 he was President of the Churchill Bank, the first bank in Fallon, and he oversaw the construction of the modern, four-room, stone and brick bank building that still stands on Fallon's Maine Street. R.L. was also involved with the Douglass-Jarvis Bank at Fairview, Nevada, and owned the Fallon Meat Company and the Douglass-Cano-Hazen-Fallon Stage Line. His interests





even extended so far as to let him propose and map a new community called Island City in Churchill County.

Not content to keep his knowledge and skills working for him in Churchill County alone, Douglass broadened his knowledge of state and national politics by representing the county in the Nevada State Senate from 1907 to 1911. He was also a Democratic presidential elector and bearer for Nevada's electoral vote for President Woodrow Wilson in Washington, D.C., during 1917.

That year was marked by tragedy when his wife Eleanor died from malaria and rheumatism, complicated by jaundice. She was 32 years of age and left behind three children: Mary Martha (1904-1984), Robert Lee, Jr. (1909-1930), and Eleanor M. (1911-Douglass married Mrs. Mantee Thorpe in 1918 and they had a daughter named Josephine. His interest in and talent for racing continued, and in 1914, Douglass, now the former Senator, won the trophy cup in a big Reno race driving a stylish Stutz Bearcat.

For a short time, flying seems to have been another racy hobby for the fast-paced Douglass as the Churchill County Eagle quoted the Reno Evening Gazette report that his presence on a September



20, 1919, flight made him the “first civilian to make a flight from Fallon to Reno.”

The 1920s saw Douglass as busy as ever. From 1927 to 1932 he served as chairman for the Nevada State Fish and Game Commission, and he continued his work as Internal Revenue Agent for the state, a position he held for 18 years. His political activities within the Democratic party also kept him occupied.

Over the years, the large ranch R.L. had inherited from this uncle had been subdivided and sold. This choice property always found a ready market. In 1928, the largest land sale ever made in Churchill County was the sale of the 1,300 acres comprising the Island Ranch, to the Dodge Brothers. (The Dodge family stills owns this property, now the Dodge Island Ranch.)

In 1944, Charles Peckham Frey purchased the rest of the Douglass ranch and R.L. and Mantee moved to Oakland, California. In October of 1954, seventy-seven years old and in ill health, Robert Lee Douglass died in Oakland of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The Knights Templar conducted last rites for him in Fallon.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

For pleasure, the Senator continued to indulge his love of expensive automobiles. Involved in auto racing, Douglass was on the scene when Barney Oldfield came to Reno in 1904. He purchased a 6 passenger Pope-Toledo passenger car and entered it in the Hazen-Fairview run in 1906.

With his business and ranching interests in full swing, Douglass' busy life came to a halt in 1913.



#### MEETING CRITERION 4.

This portion of the nomination form was most difficult for me to research as I have not been trained as an architectural historian. I did know that the Douglass House was built in the Queen Anne Victorian style, and that it is the most elaborate example of this style in the county. The multi-gabled roof-line, front turret, wraparound porch and gingerbread details all point to the Queen Anne style.

Inside the home today, all the original built-in furniture and woodwork remains -- and it has never been painted! The pine floors and ornate woodwork as well as the oak fireplace mantel are all intact. Since I was submitting this nomination history to Mella Harmon at SHPO, who was creating the final draft of this form, I left completing the technical aspects of the Queen Anne style of the Douglass House, inside and out, to her. She was pleased to







complete this part of the project. A portion of her description from the National Register Nomination Form follows:

The R.L. Douglas House ... employs all of the style-defining characteristics of a cross-gabled, free classic Queen Anne, with a few spindle-work elements thrown in for good measure. . . the free classic porch wraps around the southern corner of the front elevation, while the two-story turret projects from the northeast corner. The complex roof-line employs a combination of hipped and National Register of Historic Places gabled forms, with a hexagonal hipped rood, topped by a finial, covering the turret. . . Extending from the entrance, the porch wraps around a one-story bay window at the southeast corner of the building. Six Doric columns that extend to the porch floor bear the load of the shallow-pitched porch cover. Breaking the plane of the porch cover over the front door is a shallow pediment with a deep tympanum.

The projecting eaves of the porch roof are accented by diminutive paired brackets, and the spindle-work is reflected in the balustrade. Five concrete steps lead onto the porch ... the front entry, which consists of a single door with sidelights and transoms ... is surrounded by leaded glass panels

in a variety of geometric forms including diamonds, circles, rectangles and squares.

The nomination form goes into even more description of the architectural style, but it can be seen that the technical aspects of the architecture are best left to those who have studied the subject in depth. Staff members of Nevada's State Historic Preservation Office are available to provide expert assistance. "Contributing" and "Non-contributing" Structures At some point in any register project, it becomes necessary to address all of the structures on the property in question. Is each structure considered "contributing," i.e., a building whose history falls into one of the four criteria, or is the structure "non-contributing," i.e., a modern structure outside the nomination criteria? In the case of the Noonkester's property there were three buildings to consider; the Douglass House, the old Cottage Hospital (the present apartment building), and a 1950s garage, sandwiched between the two larger buildings.

The construction date of the garage and its lack of connection with the Douglass family or the hospital placed it firmly in the "non-contributing" category. All that was necessary on the nomination form for this structure was to acknowledge this fact and document the building with a photograph.

The Cottage Hospital was another story. The fact that the building began life as Douglass' garage with the unique turntable was considered a plus for the contributing side. Dr. F.E. Nichols' purchase and remodeling of the garage into a hospital was also a positive point. More history on Nichols was needed to complete the status of this building. Further research at the museum unearthed the following information:

Franklin E. Nichols was born in Elizabethtown, New York, on September 22, 1861. The youngest of eleven children, he was a small child when his family moved to Iowa. He attended college at York, Nebraska, later helping to move the college to Lincoln and to build one of the buildings on the college campus. After this experience he went to Chicago where he graduated from Hahnemanum Medical College in 1890.

That same year he was married to Miss Jessie Ewing and to this union three children were born: Dean, Maxwell and Margaret (Salisbury). For twenty years Nichols practiced medicine in Quincy, Illinois.



In 1912, at the age of 51, he came to Fallon to continue his practice. In September of 1913, F.E. purchased the Douglass home, and the Cottage Hospital was created and opened. According to one Fallon old-timer, Dr. Nichols ran his clinic for all

patients, but had a reputation for performing abortions. On September 3, 1916, E.F. married Annie B. Coffrin, a teacher in the Fallon schools. (No mention is made in the newspaper as to whether he was divorced from his first wife or widowed. Perhaps Nevada's easy divorce policy led the doctor to this state.)

The doctor leased out the Cottage Hospital in July of 1919. The name was changed to the Fallon Hospital and was leased by Mrs. Carr and Mrs. Mitchell.

Elizabeth Carter was the Director. It is clear that Dr. Nichols also owned agricultural property outside of town, because on March 3, 1920, the United States Reclamation Service purchased his land for their new experiment farm. This farm was the result of the Newlands Project and was designed to help new homesteaders learn farming methods in the valley.







In October of 1921, the hospital changed hands again and became known as Fallon General Hospital with Mrs. Steinbrook as the Proprietor. By December 2, 1922, it was again called Fallon Hospital and was run by Mrs. Mears, a nurse.

In 1923, the hospital closed to the public and was converted into apartments. Dr. Nichols continued his medical practice in Fallon, using the R.L. Douglass residence as his home and clinic. He died on April 21, 1935, at 74 years of age, after suffering a long illness.

His obituary in the Fallon Eagle described him as a leader in the upgrading of Fallon (purchasing the Douglass house and constructing the hospital are good examples of this type of activity). He was involved in community activities, was a member of the Masonic Lodge #26 and was a lifelong learner. The paper continued:

*He was an interesting conversationalist, a good friend and companion. The Consolidated "B" schools were dismissed on Monday (April 22) in honor of his memory. Mrs. Nichols has been a member of the Consolidated "B" board for many years.*



Research had proved that Dr. Nichols and the hospital were both important to Fallon history, but the biggest question for the nomination was whether or not the architecture of the Cottage Hospital building had been so significantly changed as to label it "non-contributing."

More research in the archives and on site revealed that sometime between 1927 and the 1960s the building's front porch had been enclosed, sliding aluminum windows had been installed and stucco added to the outside of the building (the Dr. F.E. Nichol's Cottage Hospital as it appeared soon after opening its doors in 1913. Today this building serves as apartments. Nichols used the Douglass House as his medical office and residence.

(Churchill County Museum & Archives Photograph Collection the house has also had the stucco treatment). A large addition seemed to have been added on to the rear of the old hospital building as well. Another question asked was how much the creation of the eight apartments inside the old hospital building had changed the interior of the structure. In the end, even though the external and internal changes to the Cottage Hospital were significant, the staff at the National Register Office told SHPO to list it as a "contributing" structure on the application, based mostly on the building's historic significance to Fallon.

Final Details for the National Register Nomination  
At the time of this writing, early in May of 2001, Mella Harmon was set to submit the R.L. Douglass House nomination to the Board of Museums and History meeting on June 12. If approved, the R.L. Douglass House/Cottage Hospital property will be placed on the State Register and the nomination form will be sent to the National Register Office. Approval for the National Register will be given or denied within 45 days.

If In Focus readers are curious as to the outcome of The 1906 House nomination, watch the front porch of the home. By the end of summer, if the nomination is successful, owners Jerry and Suzanne Noonkester plan to purchase and display a plaque that announces that their historic home has been placed on our State and the National Registers of Historic Places!

Final Thoughts on National Register Nominations  
For those who enjoy history and think it is important to stay in touch with the past, nominating your own home or another structure or site to the State or National Registers is a labor of love. The interest generated by my research on The 1906 House was great among the people

I contacted with my questions. The help of Mella Harmon at SHPO made my job that much easier. I was her research assistant in Fallon and she put the form together in Carson City.

During my Douglass research, mention was made of the banker's ranch home in the Island District. Today this structure is owned by Charlie and Debbie Frey and the Prairie Style home, designed by one of Nevada's famous architects, Frederick DeLongchamps, is certainly eligible for both the State and National Registers. With the permission of the Frey family, the listing of this property may be my next register project!



Other buildings on our list of potential nominees include Fallon's City Hall, the old county jail, a number of downtown buildings and probably a few more city and ranch homes. Fallon and Churchill County already have a number of buildings and structures on the State and National Register (see list next page), the most recent being The Overland Hotel listing on the State Register. Owner George Machado hired Museum Docent Dottie Parr to do the work for this nomination and they are to be commended for their efforts.

If you think you may live in or own a building that is eligible for the State and National Registers, contact me at the museum or call Mella Harmon at the State Historic Preservation Office in Carson City at 775-684-3447. She can be reached by e-mail at:

**MRHARMON@CLAN.LIB.NV.US**

*Help us preserve the history of our city and county!*





## ARCHITECTURE

# HOUSE DESIGN

The Douglass House is the most elaborate example of the Queen Anne Victorian style in the county.

- **Multi-gabled, complex roofline**
- **Hexagonal hipped roof, topped with a finial**
- **Northeastern two-story front turret**
- **Classic wraparound porch**
- **Southeastern bay window**
- **Projecting porch roof eaves with paired brackets**
- **Gingerbread details**
- **Ornate spindlework on balustrade**
- **Leaded glass panels surrounding doorway**
- **Original, intact woodwork**



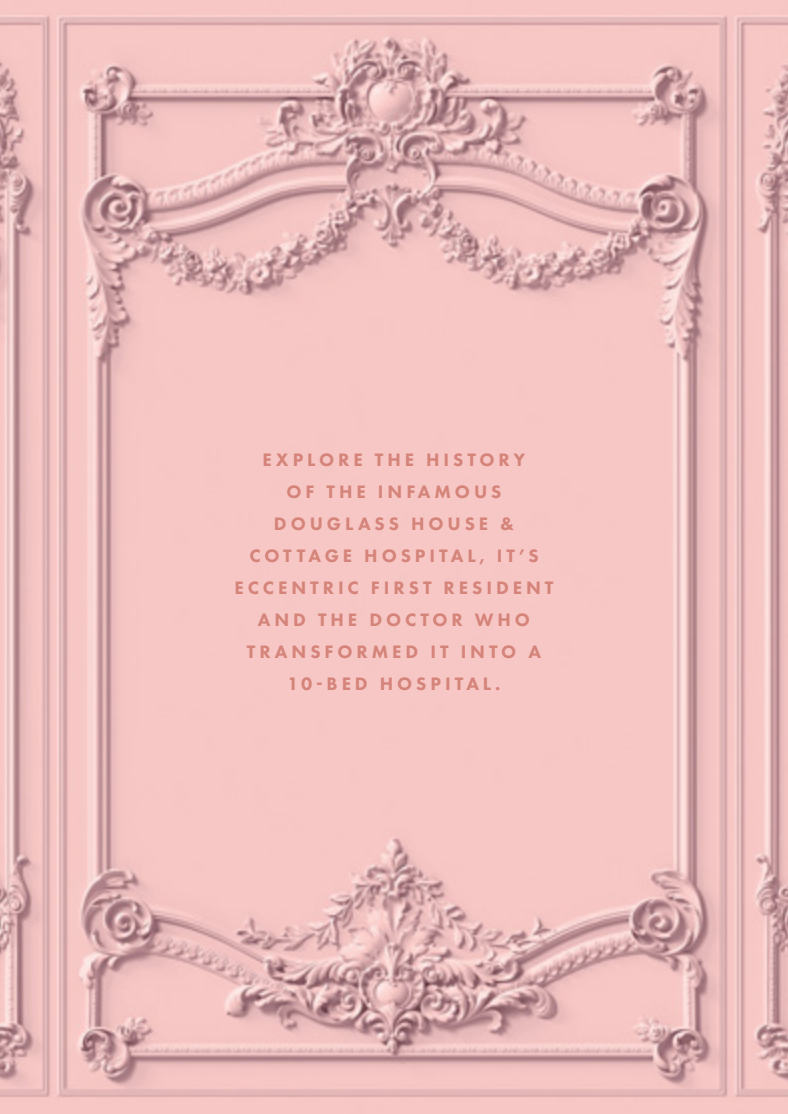


DOUGLASS HOUSE  
PHOTOS









EXPLORE THE HISTORY  
OF THE INFAMOUS  
DOUGLASS HOUSE &  
COTTAGE HOSPITAL, IT'S  
ECCENTRIC FIRST RESIDENT  
AND THE DOCTOR WHO  
TRANSFORMED IT INTO A  
10-BED HOSPITAL.