Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Senator Francis G. Newlands House

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
7 Elm Court

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Reno

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Nevada

CODE

COUNTY
Washoe

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
The Estate of Mrs. George Thatcher

STREET & NUMBER
805 Forest Street

CITY, TOWN
Reno

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Nevada

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Washoe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Reno

STATE
Nevada

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X__ORIGINAL SITE
X_GOOD	__RUINS	X_ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED	slightly	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house at 7 Elm Court was built by Francis Newlands in 1890, two years after he married for the second time and moved to Reno. It sits on a tree-lined lot on a bluff overlooking the Truckee River in what was then the most fashionable section of town. The house, built in the newly popular shingle style, is a large rectangular building of two and one-half stories, gable roofed, with a single story library wing on the southeast side. The large, comfortable house was covered in redwood shingles with a cedar shake roof; both materials are now obscured by having been covered with asbestos shingle.

When Senator Newlands died in 1917, the house was bought by George W. Thatcher. It is at present in the estate of Mrs. Thatcher, empty and up for sale.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	X CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Reclamation
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890- house 1848-1917 Newlands BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This large shingle-style house was the home of Senator Francis G. Newlands (1849-1917) from 1890 until his death in 1917. Newlands was a San Francisco lawyer and son-in-law to Silver King William Sharon of Nevada. He was the author of the Reclamation Act of 1902 which placed the federal government in the irrigation business, opening up vast areas of the west to farming.

History

Francis Griffith Newlands was born in Natchez, Mississippi, the son of James Birney and Jessie Barland Newlands. His father was a physician and his mother an accomplished musician. The family moved to Quincy, Illinois, to give the children educational opportunities, but James Newlands died in 1851, leaving his wife with five small children and little money. Mrs. Newlands' marriage to Eben Moore, a banker and mayor of Quincy, enabled Francis to obtain a good education. He entered Yale at 16 but withdrew in his junior year because of family financial reverses, taking up a government job in Washington and attending night law school at Columbian College (George Washington University). He was admitted to the bar in 1870.

Newlands set up law practice in San Francisco in 1870 and soon became well-established. In 1874 he married Clara Adelaide Sharon, daughter of William Sharon, Bank of California agent in Virginia City, Nevada, and one of the richest men in the west. Clara died after childbirth in 1882. Newlands nevertheless, acted as trustee for the Sharon estate beginning in 1885, an activity that required much complex litigation. In 1888 he married Edith McAllister, the daughter of Hall McAllister, the legendary San Francisco lawyer, and moved to Reno, Nevada, that winter, partially to manage the Sharon interests.

When Newlands moved to Nevada he had inclinations toward the Democratic party, largely because of sympathy for the South during reconstruction. The facts of life in Nevada led him to the silver question, and he worked for the National Silver Committee in Washington. In 1892 as candidate of the Silver Party with the endorsement of Nevada Republicans, he was elected to the House of Representatives. In 1896 when the Democrats absorbed the silver question, he returned to that party. He served in the House until 1903 when he was elected to the Senate. He served as a senator until his death in 1917.

Newlands had a distinguished career in Congress. His quick grasp of economic issues made him valuable to his party. His most lasting monument is the Reclamation Act of 1902 which established the Federal Reclamation Fund from the proceeds of the sale of public lands. This fund paid for the construction of dams and irrigation projects. The farmers in the irrigation district then mortgaged their land to repay the funds which were used to build other projects. The owner-farmers got votes in the management of the project in proportion to the number of acres they mortgaged. Thousands of acres of arid lands were put into profitable production as a result of Newlands' bill.

Reclamation was not Newlands' only interest, however. He sat on the Foreign Affairs and Ways and Means Committees while he was in the House. In the Senate his major accomplishments include the 1913 Act for mediation and conciliation of labor disputes, the 1914 law establishing the Federal Trade Commission, and the segment of the 1917 rivers and harbors law establishing a waterways commission. Among his other interests were tariff reform and federal support of the arts. He was clearly in the group of early 20th century statesmen who believed in government by boards of experts with delegated authority from Congress. His long membership in the Senate Interstate Commerce Commission resulted in his chairing the transportation inquiry committee 1916-1917. Newlands died before the results of the inquiry were incorporated into legislation in 1920, but he was responsible in a major way for the reorganization of American railways.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Francis G. Newlands," DAB, Vol. XII. WPA, Nevada, a Guide to the Silver State, (Portland, Oregon, 1940).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres +

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	11	257640	4378240	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The national historic landmark boundary for the Senator Francis G. Newlands home includes all of those lots marked 4 and 5 with their northwest border on the Truckee River as well as the access road marked lot 12 on the accompanying Map B entitled "A Portion of Newlands Heights, redrawn 10/67, revised 8/72."

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Marilyn Larew, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE
February 1978

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street, N. W.

TELEPHONE
523-5464

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL ___

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/3/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

GPO 892-453