

J. S. Cain Residence
Bodie, Mono County
California

HABS No. CAL-1920

HABS
CAL.
26-BODI
3

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
1000 Geary Street
San Francisco, California

PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CAL-1920
Page 1

J. S. CAIN RESIDENCE

Bodie, Mono County, California

ADDRESS: Green and Park Streets, Bodie, California
OWNER: State of California
OCCUPANT: Division of Beaches and Parks
USE: Ranger's Residence

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Ghost Town of Bodie is a Registered National Historic Landmark and California Historical Landmark #341.

Placer gold was first discovered here in July 1859 and a quartz vein was located in August, 1859; but, though many efforts were made to exploit the area, it was not until 1874 that the great potential wealth of the district became promising. Bodie reached its peak in production in 1879-80 and the population swelled to 10-12 thousand. Total production of gold and silver is estimated at 90-100 million.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house was originally built by a Mr. McGrath and moved to the present site and remodeled by James Stuart Cain about 1904 when his son, David Victor, married and took over the old family home (CAL-1921) at Green and Fuller Streets.

J. S. Cain arrived at Bodie in 1879 at the age of 25 and entered lumber business. With his savings he placed barges on Mono Lake to transport timber across the lake for use in Bodie mines.

He expanded to wagon freighting and with Thomas Holt leased the Bodie Railroad and Lumber Company.

With Joe Maguire, he leased a block of ground in the Standard Mine, and when they took out \$90,000 in gold in 90 days when he uncovered the Fortuna Ledge, Standard would not renew the lease.

In 1890 he bought the Bodie Bank from E. L. Benedict and invested in a variety of businesses around the camp.

The J. S. Cain Company owned the Midnight Mine, and when it was proven in court in 1915 that the Management of the adjoining Standard Mine had deliberately and fraudulently tapped the Midnight property, the damages awarded to Midnight were so great that by a compromise Cain took over the Standard property; and, with the later exodus from Bodie, the J. S. Cain Company became the principal owner of all properties at the once thriving mining camp.

David Victor Cain and his wife Ella moved to live with his father, J. S. Cain, in the 1920s and continued to live here while in Bodie.

In 1962 the Town of Bodie was acquired by the State of California as a State Park under the jurisdiction of the Division of Beaches and Parks.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL AND SOURCES

California State Historical Landmark No. 341
Cain, Ella M., The Story of Bodie, Fearon Publishers,
San Francisco 1956
Library of Congress Catalogue Card No. 56-11439
HABS Report, 1962: CAL-1918 Bodie - General

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

EXTERIOR

Overall Dimensions - 36'-6" x 31', plus additions not considered significant, 1½ stories.

Foundations - Rock

HABS
CAL
26-BOD1
3-

Wall Construction - Wood frame, rustic siding, corner board pilasters and entablature.

Openings - Entrance: 3' x 7' - four panel, raised panel and mouldings with side lights and transom, bracketed hood with metal concave roof set in broken pediment vestibule element, mullion and transom bar moulded.

Windows: 2 by 2 light, double hung at first story and 6/6 D.H. at second story. Classic window caps. Glassed-in fernery at left front of house.

Roof - Shingle roof, pitch approx. 45°. Gable ends and eaves boxed in classic cornice with returns at gable ends. Ridge caps.

Chimney - Brick at roof intersection with ornamental brickwork.

INTERIOR

Floor Plan - Central hall with stair hall to rear. Six main rooms and shed addition on first floor. Three rooms plus on second floor. Ceiling height, first floor, 10'-3".

Stairway - Enclosed stairway to second floor.

Floor - T&G pine.

Wall and Ceiling Finish - Walls: paper
Ceiling, 1st floor: T&G painted

Doors - Four-panel, transoms over.

Trim - All trim elaborately moulded pine with grained finish.

Hardware - Mortise lock sets with white porcelain knobs.

Lighting - Electric.

Heating - Fireplace and stoves. Fireplace mantel - stone, classic detail.

OTHER

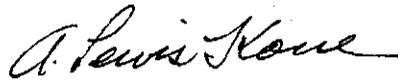
General Setting - House is situated at northwest corner of

Green and Park Streets, facing east, with front yard approximately 4 feet deep on Park Street and no side yard on Green Street. No walks or landscaping.

Enclosure - Picket fence at Park Street at house, only.

Outbuildings - Attached shed at north side.

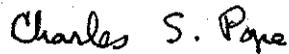
Prepared by



A. Lewis Koue, AIA
National Park Service

December 1962

APPROVED:



Charles S. Pope, AIA
Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
Western Office
National Park Service

Date: Dec 19, 1962