

NEVADA COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARKS COMMISSION
529 EAST BROAD STREET
NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95959

May 28, 1973

Dear John:

We are back at work on landmarks after ploughing thru the antique show and historic tour May 18-20. Our attendance and work force diluted because everything was scheduled that week end except the second coming and even that would not have surprised us. Auburn had a big blow as you may know celebrating the 125th anniversary of their gold discovery and Paradise held an antique show so we had outside competition too.

I would very much like to begin the application for SRL on the Nevada Theatre if it still has your approval as last January. Perhaps we shall be able to get it in to meet the new time policy of one month before the July meeting. Should it meet criteria the registration could be excellent for publicity and promotion. Briggs has finally gotten his fund drive and brochure ready to fly first week June.

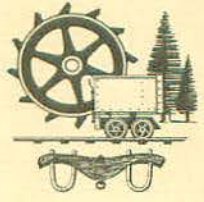
The first phase of facade work began in April - we have had good luck and have raised the necessary \$ 13,000 to pay for this phase. It was surprising for we began with virtually nothing except the Ghidotti pledge and have had no time to devote to all the necessary personal contacts. Now as June rolls in I can go to it hammer and tong. For we now need \$ 9,000 for Phase 2.

I am keen to register the Aaron Sargent house as a Point of Historic Interest and we are now negotiating with the owner for permission. His ownership and identity with the property was only recently documented. He has long fascinated me for his contributions to Nevada City have caused Doris Foley to term him our "first citizen" -- William Morris Stewart notwithstanding, I'd have selected the Sargent home as our most significant point of interest - the only hurdle being proof and wading through the ledger of deeds to untangle some long existing confusion. Doris has long considered the South Yuba Canal Office historical significance was further heightened because Sargent's law office was located in its 2nd floor. When you are able to study our application you will know why we consider him such a bell ringer.

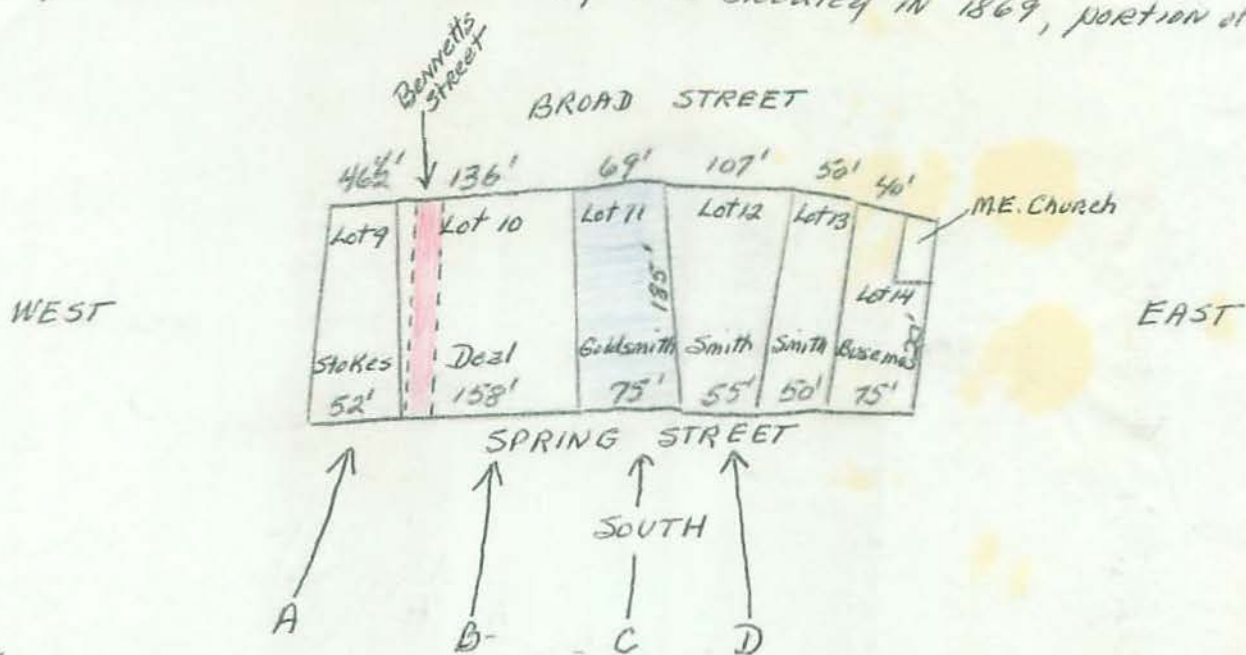
The publicity on the Ghidotti memorial will break this week - Isabel was "furious" that it was being given and urged the donor to wait until I was out of office. But Mrs Ghidotti has a mind of her own and has made very specific requests as to how and when it will be given. So tomorrow morning I must hie myself to the theatre and pose for a picture when the check is handed over. If Isabel really wanted to bug me she has ..

I went to Murphys Saturday to join Lee Lewis at the Clamper clam bake .. Everything was very quiet and since no one was around I ate lunch and then took a nap and woke up 2 hours later .. The drive down Hyway 49 remains one of my favorites but there are many changes. Dr Shumate will come up for Malakoff homecoming. If you and Ardis can come, I hope you will join us for picnic lunch. Regards to Dave and Sandy.

Always my best,



Traced copy of Official Map made by H.S. Bradley in 1869, portion of Block



Originally Aaron Augustus Sargent and wife Ellen C.,
 Cyrus M. Bates and wife Virginia H. filed a homestead
 declaration on Lot 10 (B) from the description which was:

"Southernly side of Broad Street in the Town
 of Nevada, extending back to Spring Street
 and bounded on the upper side by the
 lot of B. F. Stokes (A) and on the lower side
 by the lot on which the Methodist Parsonage
 stands, having a frontage of about One
 Hundred and Thirtyseven feet, (137) more or
 less back from Broad Street."

A. A. Sargent and wife, Ellen C. carried their home-
 stead declaration (Book 2 page 386 Homesteads) and it
 was filed September 3, 1866:

"Lot on the South side of Broad Street
 below the residence of Mr. Bates, being bound
 on one side by land of Bates (C) and on the
 opposite side by the land of Smith (D)
 extending back from Broad to Spring Street."

The preamble of the declaration stated "Know all Men by
 these presents A. A. Sargent does hereby certify and declare
 that I am married and that I do now reside with
 my family on the lot of land and premises situate
 in the City and County of Nevada, State of California,
 bounded and described as follows." (See above)

To further substantiate:

C.M. Bates and Virginia N. Bates on November 23, 1868 (recorded November 27, 1868 Book 32 of Deeds page 310) sold their property to Marcellus S. Deal the following described property: (B)

"Situated on the southerly side of Broad Street bounded on the West by the lot and premises of B.F. Starks; (A) and on the East by the lot ~~of~~ and premises of Aaron A. Sargent (C) and being One Hundred and Thirty seven feet more or less, front on Broad Street running back One Hundred and Seventy feet more or less to Spring Street."

A.A. Sargent and wife Ellen C. sold their property to Abraham Galdsmith and wife December 12, 1868. (Volume 2 page 45 Book of Deeds) and it was described as follows:

"Bounded on one side by Deal (B) and on the other by Schmidt (Smith) (D) running back to Spring Street enclosed with a dwelling house."

John Schmidt (Smith) (Book 4 page 5 Homesteads) declared his homestead May 8, 1876.

"Lot on the South Side of Broad Street fronting 107' (D) extending to Spring Street 55' bounded on the West by Richard Sully (C) and the East by lot of August Saderman. Side lines 174'."

Richard Sully bought Lot 11 (C) from A. Galdsmith and wife Gerline November 18, 1870 (Volume 38 page 327 Deeds)

C. H. Muller purchased Lot 10 (B) (Book 110 Deeds page 1) and sold a portion of Lot 10 to City of Nevada City, that portion became Bennett's Street (Book 123 Deeds page 280)

Chain of Title Lot 11 (C)

Homesteads Vol. 2 page 386 - A. C. Sargent & wife Ellen C.
Filed Sept 5 1866

Deeds Volume 2 page 45 - A. C. Sargent & wife to A. Galdsmith
December 12, 1868

Deeds Volume 38 page 327 - A. Galdsmith & wife to R. W. Fully
November 18, 1870

Deeds Volume 57 page 412 - R. W. Fully to Mrs P. A. Kidd
September 1879

Deeds Volume 6 page 419 - Mrs. Phebe A. Kidd to J. S. Holbrook
September 4, 1879

Deeds Volume 59 page 160 Payment completed
May 25, 1880

Have not found out who J. S. Holbrook
sold to or how Walter Vinton acquired
property.

Deeds Volume 78 page 88 W. D. Vinton to C. L. Muller
September 15, 1891

Deeds Book 5 Page 544 Declaration of Homestead
March 16, 1892 C. L. Muller

Deeds Book 128 page 458 Decree of Distribution to Laura Muller
Deeds Book 134 page 499 Laura Muller to R. S. Bennetts
November 4, 1921

Deeds Book 155 page 468 Decree of Distribution to Anne
November 6, 1950 Helene Bennetts

Deeds Book 228 page 594 Anne Helene Bennetts to
January 7, 1957 Virman R. Berggren

Deeds Book 601 page 524 Virman R. Berggren to
May 23, 1972 John G. and Christine Freeman

POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BLOCK

Reg. No. _____

Date _____


By _____

County **NEVADA** Name **Hon Aaron A. Sargent Residence**
Present owners - Dr and Mrs John Freeman

Location **449 Broad Street, Nevada City**
Purchase of lot March 11, 1861, building begun at once; Sargent residence thru 1883.

Historical Significance: **Aaron A. Sargent to N City 1851; member of city's founding council; edited the first newspaper; wrote the first history of N City. Admitted to the Bar and elected D.A. 1855; law office 2nd floor South Yuba Canal Office; delegate to convention that nominated Lincoln. Served 7 yrs U.S. Congressman; 7 yrs U.S. Senator prior to becoming Ambassador to Germany. Returning home, again ran for U.S. Senate but defeated by Leland Stanford. Wrote County Bar history for Thompson-West history of county. Removed to San F. where he died 1887, burial there, Laurel Hill Cemetery. Sargent's tomb relocated in N Citys Pioneer Cemetery 1948' ashes scattered over his Quaker Hill Mine. Termed "first citizen" of N City by Doris Foley, County Historian.**
References: **Nevada County Deeds (1861-1883)** **Bean's Directory 1867**
Bradley's Plat of N City 1869 **Gold Cities pub 1967, Foley**
Hist Nevada County-Thompson-West 1880

THIS POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IS NOT A STATE REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

RECOMMENDED:
 
Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
Date

APPROVED:
Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee
Date _____