

# **Notice of Public Meeting**

## **Board of Museums and History**

**Friday, June 19, 2015  
9:00 a.m.**

### **Meeting Location**

**University of Nevada  
Mathewson - IGT Knowledge Center  
Room KC 110  
1664 N. Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89503**

### **With a video link to**

**Nevada Department of Environmental Protection  
Red Rock Conference Room  
Suite 230  
2030 East Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89119**

***Sites are open and accessible to the public \*\****

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- Action may be taken on those items denoted "Action".
  - Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed.
  - Two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration.
  - An item may be removed from this agenda or discussion relating to an item on this agenda may be delayed at any time.
  - Public comment will be allowed after discussion of each action item on the agenda but before voting on the item. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment may be limited to 3 minutes at the discretion of the chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.
  - Meetings are audio-recorded and transcribed as part of the public record. Speakers must identify themselves before speaking.
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- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION THAT THE MEETING WAS PROPERLY POSTED**
- 2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment is welcomed by the Board. A period of public comment will be allowed after discussion of each action item on the agenda, but before voting on the item. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to 3 minutes at the discretion of the Chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.

### **4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES (For Possible Action)**

- A. April 8, 2015 general meeting
- B. May 19, 2015 Finance Committee

### **5. CALENDAR FOR NEXT MEETINGS (For Possible Action)**

- A. September 11, 2015, The Lost City Museum, Overton, NV
- B. December 2015 – consideration of date and venue
- C. Consideration for scheduling two (2) multi-day Board meetings annually
- D. Consideration for an additional Board retreat/training meeting in 2015

### **6. NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTERS OF HISTORIC PLACES (For Possible Action)**

- A. State Register of Historic Places
  - 1. La Concha Motel, Clark County, Las Vegas
- B. National Register of Historic Places
  - 1. Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School (Amendment), Clark County, Las Vegas

### **7. AGENCY REPORTS**

- A. Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs – Claudia Vecchio, Director (Information and Discussion)
- B. State Historic Preservation Office – Karyn deDufour, Deputy SHPO (Information and Discussion)
- C. Division of Museums and History - Peter Barton, Administrator (Information, Discussion and Possible Action)
  - 1. 78<sup>th</sup> General Legislative Session report: museums budgets, Capital Improvement Program, employee compensation changes, report on Bills (AB15, AB50, AB194, AB377, SB20, SB 63)
  - 2. Legislative audit
  - 3. Distribution and review of new Board Orientation manual
  - 4. Personnel report
  - 5. History Relevance Campaign – National Governor's Association
- D. Public Relations report – Felicia Archer, PIO (Information and Discussion)
- E. Board Reports – Museums (For Possible Action)
  - 1. Nevada Historical Society, Reno
    - a) Publication schedule and matters related to the *Quarterly*. (Included in agency report.)
    - b) OHSa violation/citation, March 3, 2015 (included in agency report)
  - 2. Nevada State Museum, Carson City
  - 3. Nevada State Railroad Museum – Carson City
    - a) Unveiling of the *Glenbrook* steam locomotive, May 23rd
  - 4. Nevada State Railroad Museum – Boulder City



5. Nevada State Railroad Museum – East Ely Depot
  - a) Interlocal contract for joint operations, ticketing and revenue sharing with the White Pine Historical Railroad Foundation.
6. Lost City Museum, Overton
7. Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
  - a) Possible action concerning the real property located at 711 South Seventh Street, Las Vegas, donated to the museum, without prior knowledge in the Will of Jacqueline Shuffield dated September 20, 1990.

**8. COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE – Bob Stoldal, Chair (For Possible Action)**

- A. Follow-up report from Committee Chair and staff.

**9. CONTRACT REVIEW (For Possible Action)**

- A. Review and possible action to approve a two-year contract with On-Cell Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$19,076 for the development and implementation of web-based phone application tours for Division museums. This is the first phase of a development plan to improve access for museum audiences.

**10. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Bob Ostrovsky, Chair (For Possible Action)**

- A. Reports (March, April 2015) for Morgan Stanley Investments and Treasurer's Accounts (For Possible Action)
- B. Review of letter dated October 27, 2014 concerning findings and recommendations from independent auditor, SFY 2014 Museum Dedicated Trust Fund (For Possible Action)
- C. Review and approval of Museum Dedicated Trust Fund (MDTF) budgets for SFY 2016 (Discussion and Possible Action)
  - a) B/A 5033 – Board of Museums and History
  - b) B/A 5034 – Division of Museums and History
  - c) B/A 5035 – Nevada Historical Society
  - d) B/A 5036 – Nevada State Museum
  - e) B/A 5037a – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
  - f) B/A 5037b – Nevada State Railroad Museum, East Ely
  - g) B/A 5037c – Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City
  - h) B/A 5038 – The Lost City Museum
  - i) B/A 5039 – Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
- D. Discussion and action on creation of new budget account, B/A 5040, "NV State Prison Trust Fund" pursuant to AB 377 of the 78<sup>th</sup> General Legislative Session, enrolled as Chapter 255 and in effect as of July 1, 2015 (Discussion and Possible Action)

**11. ADMISSION CHARGES YEARLY REVIEW PER NRS 381.0045 (For Possible Action)**

- Nevada Historical Society
- Nevada State Museum, Carson City
- Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
- Nevada State Railroad Museum – East Ely
- The Lost City Museum
- Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

**12. TRAIN RIDE RATES YEARLY REVIEW PER NRS 381.0045 (For Possible Action)**

- Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City
- Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City



**13. MUSEUM STORE REPORT – Pete Dubé, Chair (For Possible Action)**

- A. Report on progress to replace existing point-of-sale (POS) systems, Division-wide, as recommended by independent auditor in his letter to the Board dated October 27, 2014, item number 4.

**14. NEVADA CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOUNDATION – Bob Ostrovsky, Chair (Information and Discussion)**

**15. PRIVATE FUNDS BUDGETS ADJUSTMENTS (CURRENT YEAR) (For Possible Action)**

- A. Changes approved by the Division Administrator (informational only)

1. Increase authority in Division Budget Account 5033, RGL 4251, "Gifts and Donations," by \$1,000 to a revised authority of \$1,500. This is necessitated by additional unrestricted gifts to the Division. This amount is offset in category 35, "Administration" by the amount of the increase, \$1,000.

2. Transfer authority in Nevada Historical Society Budget Account 5035, reducing category 86, "Reserve" by \$4,252 and increasing authority in category 35 "Administration" by the same amount. This is necessitated to cover additional Workman's Compensation costs due to increased volunteer activity.

- B. Changes requested from the Board over \$5,000.

None.

- C. Restricted Funds/Donations Received:

1. Discussion and action on request to accept restricted funds in the amount of \$3,500 from ASM Affiliates for the Nevada State Museum's Collection Care Fund. These funds will be held in the State Treasurer's Office under B/A 5036, Category 55.
2. Discussion and action on request to accept restricted funds in the amount of \$1,000 from Cora Johnson for the Nevada State Museum's Education Fund. These funds will be held in the State Treasurer's Office under B/A 5036, Category 55, RA# 3611.
3. Discussion and action on request to accept restricted funds in the amount of \$1,000 from Hazel Woodgate for the Nevada State Museum's Hazel Woodgate History Fund. These funds will be held in the State Treasurer's Office and expended out of B/A 5036, RA# 3616.

**16. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Bob Stoldal, Chair (For Possible Action)**

Solicit and appoint Board members to various Committees (Collections, Facilities, Finance, Membership, Museum Store, Nevada State Prison, Planning)

**17. PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION**

Public comment is welcomed by the Board. A period of public comment will be allowed after discussion of each action item on the agenda, but before voting on the item. Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited to 3 minutes at the discretion of the Chair, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.

**18. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

**19. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**20. ADJOURNMENT**



### **NOTICE POSTING LOCATIONS**

<http://museums.nevadaculture.org>

**NEVADA DIVISION OF MUSEUMS & HISTORY, 401 N. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada**

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE, 901 South Stewart Street, Carson City**

**EAST ELY RAILROAD DEPOT MUSEUM, 1100 Avenue A, Ely, Nevada**

**NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1650 North Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada**

**NEVADA STATE MUSEUM LAS VEGAS, 309 S. Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada**

**LOST CITY MUSEUM, 721 South Highway 169, Overton, Nevada**

**NEVADA STATE MUSEUM, 600 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada**

**NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, 2180 S. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada**

**NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, 600 Yucca Street, Boulder City, Nevada**

The public may acquire this notice and agenda and supporting materials, pursuant to NRS 241.020(2) by contacting Deborah Rabe, Administrative Assistant III, Division of Museums and History, (775) 687-0630 or via email to [drabe@nevadaculture.org](mailto:drabe@nevadaculture.org). Supporting documents are available from the Nevada Division of Museums and History at 401 N. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701.

**\*\* We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please contact the Nevada Division of Museums and History by calling (775) 687- 0630 at least two days in advance of the meeting.**





University of Nevada, Reno  
Campus Map  
2011-2012

| Grid  | Building Name   | Abbrev. |
|-------|---|---------|
| K-8   | Agricultural Education  | AE      |
| B-C   | Anderson Health Sciences  | AHS     |
| L-J   | Anseri Business Building  | AB      |
| 4-5   | Applied Research Facility   | ARF     |
| 2-3   | Argenta Hall  | AH      |
| F     | Artemesia Building  | ARTM    |
| I     | ASUN Bookstore (See - Joe Crowley S. U.)  | ICSU    |
| E-D   | Athletic Academic Center  | MWTP    |
| 3-4   | Biodynamics Center for  | BC      |
| C-H   | Brian Whalen Parking Complex  | BWPC    |
| C     | Brigham Building (See - Family Medicine Center)                                 | FMC     |
| 4     | Canada Hall   | CH      |
| H-3   | Cain Hall (See - Edmund J. Cain Hall)   | ECCH    |
| I-3   | Center for Molecular Medicine   | CMC     |
| B-C   | Central Hall  | CHP     |
| I     | Central Services  | CS      |
| K-4   | Chemistry Building  | CC      |
| A-1   | Child Care Center   | CCC     |
| E-H   | Christina M. Hixson Softball Park   | CHP     |
| 3-4   | Church Pine Arts  | CFA     |
| K-4   | Clark Administration  | CA      |
| A-6-7 | Claude Howard Sys. Admin. Building (See - NSHE)                                 | CAH     |
| D     | Computing Center  | CC      |
| A-8   | Continuing Education Building   | CE      |
| K-2   | CEB Annex G   | CEAG    |
| I-K   | Crowley Student Union (See - Joe Crowley S. U.)                                 | ICSU    |
| 3-4   | Davidson Academy (Jot Travis Building)  | JTB     |
| 5-6   | Davidson Mathematics and Science Center   | DMSC    |
| D     | Department of Pediatrics (Pediatrics, Department of)                            | PD      |
| I-H   | Diabetes Conference Center  | DC      |
| I     | Edmund J. Cain Hall   | ECCH    |
| C-U   | Environmental Research Facility   | ERF     |
| 7-8   | Equestrian Center   | EC      |
| I     | Family Medicine Center (Brigham Building)                                       | FMC     |
| H     | Facilities Services   | FS      |
| 3-4   | Fitzgerald Student Services Building  | SSB     |
| K-4   | Fleischman Agriculture  | FA      |
| D-4   | Fleischman Planetarium  | FP      |
| C-5   | Football Practice Field (John Sale Intramural Field)                            | S       |
| D-E   | Football Stadium (Mackay Stadium)   | MS      |
| K     | Frederick Humanities  | FH      |
| I-K   | Gravel Building   | GB      |
| 3-4   | Harry Reid Engineering Laboratory   | HREL    |
| B-C   | Honor Court   | HC      |
| K-4   | Howard Medical Sciences   | HMS     |
| F     | Joe Crowley Student Union   | ICSU    |
| K     | Jot Travis Building   | JTB     |
| I-K   | Jupiter Hall  | JH      |
| F-G   | Knowledge Center (See - Mathewson / JGT K. C.)                                  | MXC     |
| K-8   | Krohnert Resource Center  | KRC     |
| H-3   | KUNR Radio (Inside Edmund J. Cain Hall)   | ECCH    |
| E-H   | Lawyer Events Center  | LUC     |
| K-4   | Legacy Hall   | LGH     |
| F-G   | Levinson Physics  | LP      |
| K-4   | Library (Mathewson / JGT Knowledge Center)                                      | MXC     |
| K     | Life Sciences   | LS      |
| I     | Lincoln Hall  | LH      |
| I-3   | Living Learning Community   | LHC     |
| B-F   | Loebhardt Recreation Center   | LRC     |
| I     | Mack Social Science   | MS      |
| K     | Mackey Mines  | MS      |
| D-E   | Mackey Stadium  | MS      |
| B-C   | Manville Health Science   | MHS     |
| K-4   | Manzanita Hall  | MAH     |
| F-G   | Marguerite W. Peterson Building (Ath. Acad. Center)                             | MWTP    |
| K-4   | Mathewson / JGT Knowledge Center  | MXC     |
| E-K   | Merrill Hall Alumni Center  | MH      |
| B-G   | Monte Pool  | MP      |
| C     | National Judicial College   | NJC     |
| B     | Nett J. Redfield Bldg. (Student Health Center and Speech Pathology & Audiology) | NJR     |
| C     | Nelson Biomedical Sciences  | NBS     |
| B-C   | Nevada State Health Laboratory  | NSHL    |
| I-K   | Nye Hall  | NH      |
| I-K   | Orvis Building  | OB      |
| I-K   | Overlook Food Court (Inside Jot Travis)   | OT      |
| D     | Palmer Engineering  | PE      |
| D     | Parking Services  | PS      |
| I-K   | Paul Laszlo Mineral Engineering   | LME     |
| I-K   | Paul Laszlo Mineral Research  | LMR     |
| D     | Pediatrics, Department of   | PD      |
| D     | Pennington Annex  | PA      |
| D     | Pennington Health Sciences Building   | PHS     |
| C-H   | Pennington Medical Education Building   | PMB     |
| C-H   | Police Department (Inside Fitzgerald Student Services)                          | PD      |
| I-K   | Purchasing Department   | PD      |
| K-4   | Quadrangle (Head)   | QD      |
| K-4   | Rail Station Office   | RSO     |
| K-4   | Renewable Resource Center   | RRC     |
| K-4   | Rental Property Maintenance Office  | RPMO    |
| H-4   | Reynolds School of Journalism   | RSJ     |
| E-K   | Robert Campbell Fieldhouse  | CFH     |
| K     | Ross Hall   | RH      |
| F-K   | Sagebrush Newspaper Office (See - Joe Crowley S.U.)                             | ICSU    |
| K-L   | Sarah H. Fleischman Building  | SFB     |
| C     | Servitt Medical Science   | SM      |
| I     | Schulich Lecture Hall   | SLH     |
| I     | Scruggs Engineering / Mines   | SEM     |
| K     | Stern Hall  | SH      |
| I-K   | Stevens Street Parking Complex  | SSPC    |
| E     | Softball Park (See - Christina M. Hixson S.P.)                                  | CHP     |
| E     | Sports Medicine Complex   | SMC     |
| E     | Stadium Visitors Locker Room  | SLR     |
| H-3   | Student Services (Fitzgerald Student Services)                                  | SSB     |
| F     | Student Union (Joe Crowley Student Union)                                       | ICSU    |
| D     | Tennis Courts   | TC      |
| I     | Thompson Building   | TB      |
| H-3   | University of Reno Police Department (UNRPD)                                    | UPD     |
| I     | University Village  | UV      |
| I     | USAC (Inside Virginia Street Gym)   | VSC     |
| K-L   | Valley Road Greenhouse Complex  | VGC     |
| K     | Valley Road Research Modular  | VRM     |
| K     | Virginia Street Gym   | VSG     |
| D-E   | West Stadium Parking Complex  | WSPC    |
| I     | White Pine Hall   | WPH     |
| B     | Whittemore - Peterson Institute (Center for Mol. Med.)                          | CPMM    |
| C-D   | William Fecole Park   | WFP     |
| H     | William J. Raggin Building  | WRB     |
| C-E   | Wolf Pack Athletics East  | WPAE    |

NON-UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

| Grid  | Building Name                         | Abbrev. |
|-------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| A     | Children's Behavioral Center          | CBC     |
| A-3-4 | Children's Behavioral Center - Unit A | CBCA    |
| B     | Children's Behavioral Center - Unit B | CBCB    |
| C-D   | Nevada Historical Society             | NHS     |
| L-M   | Northern Nevada International Center  | NNIC    |
| C-D   | Reno KNPB Building                    | RKB     |
| A     | Special Children's Clinic             | SOC     |
| C     | U.S. Post Office                      | UPO     |

Contact Mapmaker only for corrections, comments or questions regarding the map.



**Summary**  
**BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY**  
**April 8, 2015**

**Location**  
**Nevada State Museum**  
**600 N. Carson Street**  
**Carson City, NV 89701**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Stoldal, Chairman  
Alicia Barber  
Sarah Cowie  
Renee Diamond  
Pete Dubé  
Doris Dwyer  
Robert Ostrovsky  
Janice Pine

**BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Daniel Markoff

**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF PRESENT**

Felicia Archer, Public Information Officer, Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs  
Peter Barton, Administrator, Division of Museums and History  
Rebecca Palmer, State Historic Preservation Officer, State Historic Preservation Office  
Sarah Bradley, Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office  
Jim Bertolini, Historic Preservation Specialist II, State Historic Preservation Office, DCNR  
Greg Corbin, Museum Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City  
Jim Barmore, Museum Director, Nevada State Museum, Carson City  
Sheryln Hayes-Zorn, Acting Museum Director, Nevada Historical Society  
Jerrie Clarke, Museum Director, Lost City Museum  
Dennis McBride, Museum Director, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Las Vegas (via telephone)  
Carrie Edlefsen, Administrative Services Officer II, Division of Museums and History  
Deborah Rabe, Administrative Assistant III, Divisions of Museums and History

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Cora Johnson, Chair, Friends of Nevada State Museum-Carson City  
Bill Prowse, vice-Chair, Friends of the Nevada State Museum, Carson City  
Glenn Whorton, President, Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

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1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m., and confirmed a quorum was present and the meeting posted in accordance with NRS 241. (1,2)
  2. No public comment was offered during the first opportunity for same. (3)
  3. The Board approved the meeting minutes of the December 12, 2014 meeting. Janice Pine moved, seconded by Alicia Barber and approved without dissent. (4)
  4. The Board approved scheduling the June 19, 2015 meeting at the Nevada Historical Society, Reno, to start at 9:00a.m. Motion by Pete Dubé, seconded by Dr. Dwyer and approved without dissent. The Board moved to schedule the September quarterly



meeting for September 11, 2015 at the Lost City Museum, Overton. Motion by Janice Pine, seconded by Pete Dubé and approved without dissent. Without taking formal action the Board expressed a desire to meet at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City in March 2016 and at the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum in East Ely in September 2016. (5)

5. The Board considered the application of the Colcord House, Carson City to the State Register of Historic Places. Member Pete Dubé made the motion to approve; seconded by member Renee Diamond and approved without dissent. (6A)
6. The Board considered the application of the Nevada State Prison, Carson City to the National Register of Historic Places. Member Pete Dubé moved approval, seconded by member Dwyer and approved without dissent. (6B)
7. The Board reviewed reports from the Director of the Department of Tourism & Cultural Affairs and discussed proposed staffing for rest area/rest stops, suggesting a need for additional information on the subject. (7A)
8. The Board reviewed the report of the State Historic Preservation Officer. (7B)
9. The Board reviewed the Division Administrator's report including reports on various bills introduced in the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session that directly and indirectly impact museums. (7C)
10. The Board moved to direct the Division Administrator to send a letter of support for AB 194, a bill which refines "historic" within NRS 381. Moved by Pete Dubé and seconded by Dr. Cowie, the motion passed without dissent. (7C)
11. The Board directed staff to submit a letter in support of SB 308, a bill that would appropriate additional General Funds up to \$6 million for critical deferred infrastructure maintenance. Member Dubé so moved, seconded by member Pine and approved without dissent.
12. The Board heard reports for Museum Day at the Legislature (April 9) and the opening of the exhibit for the late Senator William Raggio at the State Museum, April 9. Additional reports concerning the on-going Legislative audit strategic priorities and personnel were provided. (7C)
13. PIO Felicia Archer presented a report of media and marketing efforts in the last quarter. (7D)
14. The Chair took item # 13, Nevada cultural Affairs Foundation out of order. A discussion on "sun setting" the current Foundation and rolling assets into the Western Nevada Community Foundation ensued. This would include the remaining assets of the NV 150 Foundation, and on-going proceeds from the NV Sesquicentennial license plate authorized in AB 24 of the 77<sup>th</sup> Regular Session. Discussion of how this might operate was conducted. (13)
15. The Chair took item # 10, the Finance Committee report out of order. The Board considered and moved to approve Bahl & Gaynor as the third fund-manager for investments, in keeping with adopted policy to have a minimum of three fund managers. Member Ostrovsky so moved, seconded by member Diamond and passing without dissent. (13B)
16. The date for the Finance Committee meeting to review SFY 2016 Museum Dedicated Trust Fund budgets was established as Wednesday, May 20, 9:30a.m., in the Laxalt Building, Carson City. (13C)
17. The Chair took item # 9, the Collections Committee report out of order. An extensive and lengthy discussion ensued concerning the growing acute shortage of suitable space within which to store museum collections. This issue came in to focus as a result of the risk to State Museum collections stored off-site at an NDOT warehouse in Carson City. Significant consideration was given to the Committee's initial report, 117 pages. Options



- were noted and further exploration and research is deemed necessary. Pages 50-70 in the transcription cover this topic. (9)
18. Under Agency reports the Nevada Historical Society (NHS) reported on an OSHA investigation which began on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, into failed electronic equipment on a compact storage unit. This has been a long-standing issue that will now likely result in a fine to the Agency/State and speaks to the chronic and critical need to address the State's growing backlog of deferred maintenance, some of which impact life-safety. (7E1b)
  19. NHS made a formal request to waive certain admission fees on specified Wednesday during the month of July 2015. This to enable NHS to participate in Reno's annual Arttown event. Member Diamond moved approval, seconded by member Barber and passing without dissent. (7E1c)
  20. The Board reviewed and Intrastate Interlocal agreement for between NHS and the Nevada Arts Council for services related to collaborative development of an exhibit on Basque arbor glyphs. Member Dubé moved, seconded by member Diamond and approved without opposition. (7E1d)
  21. The Board took a recess at 12:05p.m., and reconvened at 12:40p.m.
  22. The Board acknowledged the significant gifts totaling \$16,500 by Nevada State Museum volunteer Louise Inman.
  23. The Board considered but rejected a request to fund a deductible automobile claim for \$500 for an employee of the Nevada State Museum whose auto was damaged while responding to an after-hour alarm at the State Museum. The Board took this action fearing setting a precedent but indicated that individually they would contribute to reimburse the employee. (7E2)
  24. The Board moved to allow a deaccession of item RM-5359-G-001 from the collection of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City. The item, a Pullman replica lamp is not an artifact and inappropriate for the collection and will be used at another location as an office furnishing. Member Diamond moved, member Pine seconded and the motion passed without dissent. (7E3a)
  25. The status of the current Interlocal agreement between the State of Nevada, East Ely Railroad Depot Museum and the White Pine Heritage Railroad Foundation was reviewed. This contract expires June 30, 2015 but has provisions to be renewed with no further Board action. (7E5)
  26. A report commissioned by the State Public Works Division concerning long term maintenance of the adobe structures at The Lost City Museum was briefly discussed. Funds to conduct repairs to the adobe are included in the Governor's Recommended Capital Improvement Program budget for SFY 2016-2017. (7E6)
  27. The Board heard a report from the Attorney General concerning the real property at 711 South Seventh Street, Las Vegas. This property is to be donated to the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas through a Trust agreement. The AG was directed to send an additional letter to the Trust attorney seeking confirming that the tenant is upholding the Trust requirements while the Trust attorney suggests the State reconsider taking the property as provided in the Trust. (7E7a)
  28. The Board reviewed and accepted a restricted deed of gift concerning disposition of materials from the "Greeno" collection. Member Pine moved, member Dubé seconded and the motion passed without dissent. (7E7b)
  29. The Board reviewed and accepted a donor-imposed restriction limiting how materials from the "Wichinsky" collection may be used. Member Dubé moved, member Diamond seconded and the motion passed without dissent. (7E7c)
  30. The Board reviewed and accepted a donor-imposed restriction on the "Rudiak" collection, limiting use of the collection to study and research. Member Dubé moved, member Pine seconded and the motion passed without dissent. (7E7d)

31. The Division Administrator presented information with regard to a national initiative of the State Historic Administrators. An effort is underway to influence public policy-makers at the State level by seeking to inform as to the importance of history education K-adult. Called the "History Relevance Campaign" the effort has gotten the support of over 30 states. Member Barber moved to endorse support of the initiative, members Dwyer seconded and the motion passed without dissent. (8)
32. Member Dubé discussed issues identified by the independent auditor regarding the current Point-of-Sale (POS) system in use in museum stores. The system is roughly 6 years old and has demonstrated weaknesses and difficulty of use. Member Diamond moved to allow the museum store committee to move forward exploring options for a new POS system for museums. Seconded by member Pine, the motion was approved without dissent. (11)
33. A request by the Nevada State Museum to increase revenue authority in RGL 3578, BLM Cooperative Agreement by \$93,941 to reflect increased revenue transfer was approved. Member Diamond moved approval, seconded by member Pine and approved with no dissent. (14B1)
34. A request by the Nevada State Museum to increase authority in four revenue categories, totaling \$35,715, reflecting increased activity was approved on the motion of member Dubé, seconded by member Dwyer and approved without dissent. (14B2)
35. A request to increase expenditure authority in category 45, "History" by \$17,000 was approved. This is necessary to fund costs of planning to move artifacts from the substandard conditions in the NDOT storage warehouse. Member Diamond moved, seconded by member Dwyer and approved without dissent. (14B3)
36. The Board moved to accept a \$2,000 gift from Louise Inman for NSM-CC. Member Pine moved and member Dubé seconded. Approved, no dissent. (14C1)
37. The Board moved to accept a \$2,000 gift from Louise Inman for NSM-CC. Member Diamond moved, seconded by member Dubé and approved, no dissent, (14C2)
38. The Board moved to accept a \$10,000 gift from Louis Inman for NSM-CC. Member Pine moved seconded by member Dwyer and approved no dissent. (14C3)
39. The Board moved to accept a \$2,500 donation from Louise Inman for NSM-CC. Member Diamond moved, seconded by member Dubé and approved with no dissent. (14C4)
40. The Board moved to accept a \$3,000 donation from Joan Lapan for the Children's Programming Fund at NSM-LV. Member Dubé moved, seconded by member Pine and approved without dissent. (14C5)
41. The Board moved to accept a \$3,000 donation from Bob Stoldal for the NSM-LV collection fund. Member Dubé moved, seconded by member Pine and approved without dissent. (14C6)
42. The Board moved to accept a \$5,500 donation from the Lee Mortensen Trust for the Nevada Historical Society. Moved by member Dubé and seconded by member Dwyer, the motion passed without dissent. (14C7)
43. There was no public comment offered during the second public comment period. (15)
44. For future agenda the following: a) collection storage as a standing item, b) continued planning for an extended planning meeting, c) follow-up on the OSHA investigation at the Nevada Historical Society, d) report from the independent auditor on findings in the SFY 2014 MDTF audit. (17)
45. There being no further business to consider the meeting was adjourned at 2:58p.m. prevailing time. (18)

( ) = Reference to agenda item number for the April 8, 2015 meeting.



**Meeting Summary  
BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
May 19, 2015**

**Division of Museums and History  
401 N Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701**

**With Teleconference Link Open and Available  
Through 888-363-4735**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bob Ostrovsky, Chairman  
Janice Pine, via teleconference  
Bob Stoldal, via teleconference

**EXCUSED**

Renee Diamond

**DIVISION OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY STAFF PRESENT**

Peter Barton, Administrator, Division of Museums and History  
Jim Barmore, Museum Director, Nevada State Museum, Carson City  
Jerrie Clarke, Museum Director, Lost City Museum, via teleconference  
Molly Fierer-Donaldson, Curator II, Lost City Museum, via teleconference  
Carrie Edlefsen, Administrative Services Officer II, Division of Museums and History  
Lauri Brown, Administrative Assistant IV, Division of Museums and History

**GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE**

Keith Work, Carson City Resident

- 
1. The Board of Museums & History Finance Committee met on May 19, 2015 for the purpose of reviewing and taking action on the proposed SFY 2016 budgets for the Museum Dedicated Trust Funds.
  2. Committee Chair Robert Ostrovsky called the meeting to order at 9:30am per the meeting notice. A quorum of members was present and business was conducted.
  3. No public comment was offered in the first opportunity for same.
  4. Staff provided an overview of the positions funded through the Museum Dedicated Trust Fund (MDTF) noting that the long-term vacancy of an Administrative Assistant III at the Nevada Historical Society, Budget Account 5035, was eliminated by action of the Legislature during budget closings. A vacancy for Retails Storekeeper II at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, Budget Account 5039, was however retained. A Sales & Promotion Representative II position at the Nevada State Museum, Carson City, Budget Account 5036, is in the process of being filled.
  5. Technical adjustments and spelling errors were noted and will be corrected prior to submission to the full Board.
  6. The Committee asked staff to increase Board and staff travel in BA 5033, to accommodate possible multi-day Board and training meetings.
  7. Budget Account 5034 has three proposed enhancements: travel for the Administrator to attend the NV Museums Association Conference in Tonopah, funds to cover costs related to a State

mandated change in credit-card servicing, and to accommodate an anticipated donation from the NV cultural Affairs Foundation with funds to be used to begin implementation of web-based phone app tours at museums. This has the added benefit of addressing some concerns with respect to full accessibility of museum programs.

8. Budget Account 5035, Nevada Historical Society has four enhancements. One enhancement, common to all budgets, creates a new category, category 48, Special Projects, while it eliminates category 86, Reserve. The purpose of this is to streamline and expedite funding projects approved by the Board. Presently such changes in category 86 typically require the preparation and submittal of a work program, a process that can take 4-8 weeks from start to approval. This new process establishes authority at the budget level with the Board considering requests for special projects from museum directors throughout the year. Avoiding the step of processing a work program to effect a budget change will make availability of the funds more timely while reducing staff workload.

The second enhancement in this budget concerns support of upgrades to collections, and is part of the larger issues with storage conditions at NDOT. Enhancement # 3 replaces an explosion-proof freezer at NHS – the current unit has failed and costs to repair exceed its value. This unit is necessary to house fragile and dangerous celluloid film and related materials. The fourth enhancement provides staff the opportunity to attend the NV Museum Association conference in Tonopah later this year.

9. Budget Account 5036, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, has five enhancements: establishment of category 48; category 56 – restricted collections maintenance; an enhancement to deal with the NDOT storage issues and cleaning and moving collections; an enhancement for staff to participate in the Western Museum Association conference in San Jose and an enhancement for staff to attend the NV Museum Association conference.

The establishment of category 56 modifies the way revenue is handled from storage of Cultural Resource Management collections, or CRM. The fee of \$540 per cubic-foot was previously expended to support a wide range of museum programs and needs. This category would seize 50% of the \$540(\$270) and place it in the restricted category to be used for the long term care and needs of these collections. The “unrestricted” 50% (\$270) would be available for processing and handling the incoming collections.

It was noted that while not reflected in this budget account, anticipated revenues from Coin Press operations is expected to greatly exceed previous year and budgeted amounts. Due to uncertainty in when these funds might be realized, it was decided not reflect those amounts in this budget, instead opting to bring a budget change forward when funds are realized.

10. Budget Account 5037a, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City proposes two enhancements: the common establishment of category 48, Special Projects; and, an enhancement for one staff member to attend the Association of Tourist Railways and Railway Museums in Illinois in November 2015. No enhancements are proposed for the Boulder City or East Ely museums. A discussion was had on how to increase the size of the museum store at the Boulder City location. Visitor traffic at Boulder City remains consistently high and the limited size of the store and visitor facilities hampers further grow and revenue gains. A number of strategic initiatives are underway to address this.

11. Budget Account 5038, Lost City proposes the common establishment of category 48, Special Projects. Additionally Lost City requested an increase in the advertising budget to take advantage of opportunities unique to their location. A third enhancement creates a special project fund in archeology, the core subject focus of the museum. An enhancement to increase museum store sales was also requested.

As a result of an inquiry by member Pine, the museum will request an additional enhancement for staff to attend the NV Museum Association conference in Tonopah. That enhancement will be reflected in the budget to be considered by the full Board on June 19.



Questions regarding the condition of the adobe on the historic structures of the Lost City museum was addressed noting that a survey and report was prepared and submitted by a consultant to State Public Works. Funds to actually conduct adobe repair and sealing are anticipated to be approved in the upcoming State budget cycle.

12. Budget Account 5039, the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, has three enhancement requests: the establishment of the common category 48, Special Projects; an enhancement to pay for reaccreditation with the American Alliance of Museums; and a request to permit staff to attend the NV Museum Association conference in Tonopah.
13. During the discussion of AAM accreditation, staff noted that accreditation of the Nevada Historical Society, Reno was pulled by AAM citing the failure of the museum to submit timely reapplication paperwork. Lack of staff and workloads caused a critical deadline to be missed and reaccreditation is no longer an option. AAM will entertain a reapplication for accreditation from NHS after a time of one-year has elapsed. The Committee noted the importance of accreditation and urged reapplication when possible.
14. The Committee raised questions about the limited facility rental revenue observed in Budget Account 5039. Staff explained the challenges of renting the space with limited facility staff.
15. The Committee Chair, Bob Ostrovsky called for a motion to accept the proposed SFY 2016 Museum Dedicated Trust Fund budgets as proposed and with modifications requested in this meeting and allowing for technical adjustments necessary at year-end budget closing. Member Janice Pine so moved; seconded by member Stoldal. There was no public comment, the question was called and the motion passed without dissent.
16. No further public comment was offered.
17. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:50am prevailing time.



## **State Register of Historic Places**

### **La Concha Motel Lobby, Las Vegas, Clark County.**

The La Concha Motel Lobby is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its reflection of thin-shell concrete construction methods, for its design by significant architect Paul R. Williams, and as a rare extant reflection of Googie style commercial architecture in Las Vegas, Nevada. The La Concha Motel was originally constructed in 1961 at 2955 South Las Vegas Boulevard in unincorporated Clark County, Nevada, along what is colloquially known as the Las Vegas Strip. It was designed by internationally known African-American architect Paul Revere Williams and built for M.K. Doumani, whose family operated the Motel at this location from 1961 to 2002 when it closed. The Motel originally included a free-form concrete shell Lobby and a rectangular two-story Motel wing adjoining the rear of the Lobby. In 2004, the Motel wing was demolished. The Lobby was moved to its current site at 770 North Las Vegas Boulevard in 2007. Its defining features are the three large, parabolic bays of four-inch concrete, with glass and steel curtain walls and entry doors. It currently sits in a high-density commercial district in Las Vegas proper along North Las Vegas Boulevard where it serves as the visitor center for the Neon Museum and its adjoining “Boneyard,” the outdoor interpretive display of mid-century neon road signs. The Museum’s neighboring buildings include a residential subdivision, a hotel, and a shopping center.

The La Concha Motel Lobby was intended by its owners to be part of a growing movement among motel owners along Las Vegas Boulevard to cater to automobile tourists traveling to the resort city of Las Vegas. The dramatic parabolic, concrete arches made the building part of the advertisement for the motel, and created an iconic example of Las Vegas’ mid-century Modern architecture.

*Staff recommends listing.*

#### **Staff note:**

Staff expects that a nomination for the Douglass Ranch in Churchill County to the National Register, and a nomination for the Berry House in Winnemucca to the State Register, to be before the Board at its September meeting.

Staff is also currently developing programmatic guidelines for the State Register of Historic Places that will be brought before the Board for review either at the September or December meeting.



State Register Number: 150154

Property Name: La Concha Motel Lobby

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
901 S. STEWART STREET  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

Rev. 9/2014  
Form SR-100

**NEVADA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

Historic name: La Concha Motel

Other names: Neon Museum (lobby); La Concha Motel Lobby

**2. LOCATION**

Street Address: 770 N. Las Vegas Boulevard

City or Town: Las Vegas County: Clark Zip: 89101

Original Location? ☐ Yes ☒ No. If no, date moved: December, 2006

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

**Number of Resources within Property**

|            |                   |
|------------|-------------------|
| Buildings  | <u>1</u>          |
| Sites      | <u>          </u> |
| Structures | <u>          </u> |
| Objects    | <u>          </u> |
| Total:     | <u>1</u>          |

**4. CERTIFICATION**

**A. BOARD OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY**

As the chair of the Nevada Museums and History Board, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for listing in the Nevada Register of Historic Places.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Chair Date

**B. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

As the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for listing in the Nevada Register of Historic Places.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Property Name: La Concha Motel Lobby  
State Register Number: 150154

## 5. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Use: Domestic - Motel

Intermediate Function: Domestic - Motel

Current Function: Recreation and Culture - Museum

## 6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (select one or more from instructions)

☐ **Criterion A** Property is associated with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to Nevada history.

☐ **Criterion B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant to Nevada's past.

☒ **Criterion C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction significant to Nevada, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **Criterion D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to Nevada's prehistory or history.

## 7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1961

Cultural Affiliation(s)

Significant Person(s)

Architect/Builder(s)

Paul R. Williams

Statement of Significance:

The La Concha Motel Lobby is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its reflection of thin-shell concrete construction methods, for its design by significant architect Paul R. Williams, and as a rare extant reflection of Googie style commercial architecture in Las Vegas, Nevada. Constructed in 1961 following Williams' designs, the La Concha Motel Lobby was intended by its owners to be part of a growing movement among motel owners along Las Vegas Boulevard to cater to automobile tourists traveling to the resort city of Las Vegas. The dramatic parabolic, concrete arches made the building part of the advertisement for the motel, and created an iconic example of Las Vegas' mid-century Modern architecture.

### Background: Development of the Las Vegas Strip

The city of Las Vegas began in the early twentieth century as a railroad siding for the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad that linked Utah to Southern California. As late



as the 1930s, Las Vegas remained a relatively small community, functioning as a supply depot and railroad layover between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. Much of its growth was spurred jointly by gambling and tourism, alongside federal projects, including the construction of Hoover Dam in the 1930s, the founding of Basic Magnesium, Inc. which processed magnesium for the military during the Second World War, and the establishment of what became Nellis Air Force Base in 1941. The result was the creation of two somewhat separate cities in Las Vegas, one focused on the rail hub and adjoining downtown, and one spread along the highway towards Los Angeles, outside the city limits, and focused on gambling tourism. Tourists, mostly from California, traveled to Las Vegas in large numbers by the 1950s, lured by the resort environment and the availability of legal gambling venues. Whereas the majority of the Las Vegas metropolitan area was fairly traditional residential and commercial development, investments in tourism on the Strip along South Las Vegas Boulevard became the international image of the city.<sup>1</sup>

Historian Alan Hess has argued that the Las Vegas Strip represents one of the best examples of an automobile-oriented commercial downtown district.<sup>2</sup> By 1939, the gambling economy had begun to develop, with casinos arriving along Fremont Street. However, high taxes in Las Vegas proper, and the low cost of land in Clark County, compelled many new casino entrepreneurs to build south of the city along the highway to Los Angeles. The El Rancho, built in 1941, was among the first of these attempts. The Strip as it is known today did not begin to take shape until the postwar era. The popularity of Las Vegas' postwar gambling environs stemmed from a combination of widespread automobile ownership, a renewed enthusiasm for cross-country tourism, and an interest in the novelty of Nevada's legalized gaming. Las Vegas Boulevard, extending south out of the city, became the center of the region's gambling scene. Motels and casinos, and the ubiquitous neon signs of the Art Moderne phase of commercial architectural design, lined the streetscape.<sup>3</sup>

By the late 1950s, architects working in southern California and Nevada began to take note of the proliferation of street-side signs, and the need to differentiate commercial developments via more dramatic means. The designs of these architects responded to the higher speed limits established for automobiles, and the dense commercial development associated with automobile-centered corridors. The willingness of banks to lend for new hotel construction contributed to the density of construction and increased competition in many of these sprawling areas. In Las Vegas, saturation of the Strip's casino market threatened many gambling venues with closure and forced increased competition between new establishments. As a result, the designs of many of the buildings on the Strip assumed exaggerated forms, with the La Concha Motel and its neighbor El Morocco Motel as two examples. Stylistic flourishes in the buildings represented attempts to lure drivers off Las Vegas Boulevard for overnight accommodation. Within a decade, this trend gave rise to the themed casinos, such as

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<sup>1</sup> Eugene P. Moehring, *Resort City in the Sunbelt: Las Vegas, 1930-1970*, (Reno & Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 1989), 73-75; See Hal Rothman and Mike Davis, eds., *The Grit Beneath the Glitter: Tales from the Real Las Vegas*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2002) 1-16; and Barbara and Myrick Land, *A Short History of Las Vegas*, (Reno & Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 1999) 82-91.

<sup>2</sup> Alan Hess, *Viva Las Vegas: After-Hours Architecture*, (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1993), 9.

<sup>3</sup> Gary E. Elliot, *The New Western Frontier: An Illustrated History of Greater Las Vegas*, (Carlsbad, Calif.: Heritage Media Corp., 1999), 59.

Property Name: La Concha Motel Lobby  
State Register Number: 150154

Caesar's Palace, that expanded upon Las Vegas' reputation as a resort city in the desert. By the 1980s, many of the new developments along the Strip were a result of investments by large hotel corporations in the corridor.<sup>4</sup>

The La Concha represents part of what historian Alan Hess refers to as the Las Vegas Strip's fourth wave of development. Characterized by dramatic, Googie-style architecture, the period also involved the construction of new motor inns along the city's primary commercial corridor. The inns tended to be "complexes made up of two- or three-story buildings organized around a courtyard. Besides an elaborate outdoor area focused on the swimming pool, the typical motor inns featured expanded public space indoors."<sup>5</sup> They also tended to feature a coffee shop or dining room as well as an adjacent cocktail lounge or meeting rooms. Guest rooms were large, usually containing "double beds, a night table with a telephone, a baggage rack, several lounge chairs, a chest of drawers, and a desk or table...rooms were air-conditioned, and of course there was a television set."<sup>6</sup>

#### Thin-Shell Concrete

The use of shell concrete construction extends back to ancient Rome as evidenced by notable examples such as the Pantheon in Rome. However, builders revived this method in the early twentieth century amid the increased popularity of reinforced concrete construction in both Europe and the United States.<sup>7</sup> It was reliant on the development of Portland cement, a technique refined by engineers in the late nineteenth century that revived water-proof concrete methods developed by the Romans. Among the first reinforced concrete shell buildings produced that included the paraboloid form were designed by French architect E. Freyssinet for use as aircraft hangars. By the 1920s, German designers Franz Dischinger and Ulrich Finsterwalder enhanced the technique in their design of the Zeiss Planetarium in Germany. Other architects began using reinforced thin shell concrete for structural domes in building types such as theaters and planetaria into the 1930s. It was not until after the Second World War that architects began experimenting with forms other than domes and simple arches.<sup>8</sup>

In the United States, the use of cement gained popularity in the 1890s partly as a result of depletion of national timber supplies and widespread deforestation. While emphasis was placed on concrete block construction for residential and commercial buildings, some architects adopted the more experimental techniques developed in Europe for poured concrete forms.<sup>9</sup>

The primary pioneer of thin shell concrete construction in the United States was Anton

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<sup>4</sup> Hess, *Viva Las Vegas*, 10-11; Moehring, 79.

<sup>5</sup> John A. Jakle, Keith A. Sculle, and Jefferson S. Rogers, *The Motel in America*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 49.

<sup>6</sup> Jakle, Sculle, and Rogers, 49; Hess, *Viva Las Vegas*, 11.

<sup>7</sup> Bart Peerdeman, "Analysis of Thin Concrete Shells Revisited: Opportunities Due to Innovations in Materials and Analysis Methods," Master's Thesis, Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands), 2008, 7.

<sup>8</sup> S.N. Krivoschapko, Christian A. Bock Hyeng, and L.A. Mamieva, "Chronology of Erection of the Earliest Reinforced Concrete Shells," *International Journal of Research and Reviews in Applied Sciences*, 18, No.2 (February 2014), 95-101.

<sup>9</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900 to 1940," Colorado, NRIS#64500072.



Tedesko. Tedesko arrived in the United States in 1931 as a representative of the German architects Dyckerhoff and Widmann, who had pioneered the use of thin shell concrete for aircraft hangars in Germany.<sup>10</sup> Working from the offices of Roberts and Schaefer in Chicago, Tedesko aided in adapting thin shell concrete methods to the American construction landscape.<sup>11</sup> By the end of the 1930s, thin shell became a proven, if still uncommon, method of construction throughout Europe and the United States, with architects and engineers experimenting with thinner shells and different spans and arcs. Despite the proven applications and strength, even in the late 1940s, Tedesko expressed skepticism about the structural integrity of thin shell concrete designs that strayed into high-style architectural functions, especially those that sought to free the concrete material from its dependence on ribbing.<sup>12</sup>

The period after the Second World War saw the increased use of thin shell construction, fused with Modern architectural style throughout Europe and the Americas. The widespread need for new construction, combined with the shortage of steel, compelled many architects and builders to use concrete as their primary construction material. As architects refined Art Deco and International architectural styles, thin concrete allowed for variances in design that traditional masonry and steel framing could not support.

The 1950s and 1960s saw Modern architects including Felix Candela of Mexico begin to design paraboloid thin shells that accentuated a trend toward greater spans and thinner shells. Candela developed new design techniques that allowed concrete shells to go from a minimum of 75mm thickness down to a minimum of 16mm, with his work on the Cosmic Ray Pavilion in Mexico City as one example.<sup>13</sup> Candela's Los Manantiales Restaurant in Xochimilco, Mexico, constructed in 1957, bears a striking resemblance to the paraboloid La Concha designed by Paul Williams in Las Vegas just four years later. The Xochimilco example was lauded internationally as a significant and unique development in the architectural field, highlighted in a 1955 issue of *Progressive Architecture*. However, while architects adopted the form, many struggled to incorporate the structural planning involved in Candela's designs.

As contemporary engineer David Billington asserted in 1965, understanding thin-shell concrete was difficult not just because of complexity of rigorous structural analysis, but also because the completed structure often possessed a much higher load-bearing capacity than the designer usually expected or assumed.<sup>14</sup> Eero Saarinen's Kresge Auditorium in Boston incorporated the shell, but used an edge beam rather than tension rods to transfer weight from the shell to the ground, resulting in uneven settling, bending, and cracking.<sup>15</sup> The work of successful practitioners was defined by minimizing the thickness of the shell, eliminating the ribs, and avoiding the hinges at the abutments. The strength of paraboloid shells typically came from the supports, which were often

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<sup>10</sup> David P. Billington, *Thin Shell Concrete Structures*, (New York/San Francisco: McGraw-Hill, 1982), 16.

<sup>11</sup> Eric M. Hines and David P. Billington, "Anton Tedesko and the Introduction of Thin Shell Concrete Roofs in the United States," *Journal of Structural Engineering*, (November 2004), 1642-1643.

<sup>12</sup> Hines and Billington, 1648.

<sup>13</sup> Richard Bradshaw, et al., "Special Structures: Past, Present, and Future," *Journal of Structural Engineering*, (June 2002), 693.

<sup>14</sup> Billington, 1.

<sup>15</sup> Peerdeman, 7, 19-20.

connected by a tension rod beneath the floor of the shell, capable of compensating for the horizontal stress placed on the supports. The La Concha stands as one of the more successful executions of this phase of thin-shell concrete construction. Although it did not utilize tension rods, the designed abutments and strength of the concrete shells transferred their weight to the foundation without undue stress on the remainder of the frame. Its dramatic paraboloids weathered forty-five years of service on the motel's original site with no serious structural issues. However, the popular trend of thin shell construction ended abruptly in the 1970s amid concerns about the high cost of thin shell concrete compared to other structural systems. As a result, examples such as the La Concha are relatively rare in American architecture.<sup>16</sup>

### Paul R. Williams

Paul R. Williams, the architect for the La Concha Motel, was a prominent twentieth-century architect based out of Los Angeles, California. Williams became known for his willingness to engage a broad spectrum of architectural styles and forms. While he was among many African American men who practiced architecture in the twentieth century, few rose to his level of prominence. When he passed away in 1980, Williams was known as one of the most successful and well-known segregation-era African American architects in the United States. His most prolific work was in designed residences in the Los Angeles area, but he completed projects ranging from churches and commercial buildings to affordable housing developments in both California and Nevada.

Williams was born in Los Angeles in 1894. After high school, he enrolled in the Beaux Arts Institute of Design (BAID) between 1915 and 1916. He subsequently attended the University of Southern California until 1919, when he left prior to graduation. Williams worked with a number of architectural firms including that of John C. Austin until 1924, when he started his own firm and joined the American Institute of Architects (AIA).<sup>17</sup> From a young age, Williams understood that "he would have to work harder than his competitors to achieve success in what had been essentially a white man's world."<sup>18</sup>

Once establishing his own firm, Williams took contracts from a broad array of clients, including Hollywood actors. He completed designs for projects for public buildings and community centers, and supported some projects in African American neighborhoods. In 1920, he was appointed to the Los Angeles City Planning Commission. Williams' practice remained robust through the 1930s with contracts in Hollywood, Bel Air, and Beverly Hills. He also added hotels to his repertoire during this period.<sup>19</sup>

Like many other architects, Williams' aesthetic transitioned between the 1920s and the 1970s when he left the field. As historian Wesley Henderson has argued, the uniqueness of Paul R. Williams' work was not that he applied some revolutionary technique to the field, but quite simply that he amazed clients with his grasp of the architectural craft and

<sup>16</sup> Peerdeman, 7, 19; Bradshaw, et al., 694.

<sup>17</sup> Wesley Henderson, "Two case studies of African-American architects' careers in Los Angeles, 1890-1945: Paul R. Williams, FAIA and James H. Garrott, AIA," Ph.D. diss., University of California, Los Angeles, 83-84.

<sup>18</sup> Personal interview with Dorothy Wright, March 29, 2010, quoted in *Determination of Eligibility and Finding of Effect Report for Neon Museum Visitor Center, Las Vegas, Nevada*, by Chattel Architecture, Planning, & Preservation, Inc., April 2011, 9.

<sup>19</sup> Henderson, 85-87.



possessed an ability to interpret the craft to a layperson. Williams' design aesthetic was heavily influenced by his time at the BAID, a school that based its techniques on the Parisian Ecole des Beaux-Arts. This approach included "a bold and monumental conception, use of specific historic buildings as precedents, a rational and logical conception about circulation and structure, and proportions based on Classical ideals."<sup>20</sup> Williams' plans became known for retaining a degree of Classical, symmetrical form, but in applying different "skins" to the exterior that took advantage of a contemporary architectural aesthetic.

Williams employed a variety of contemporary architectural styles, including Modern subsets such as International and Art Deco. The La Concha Motel Lobby represents a use of Googie style that was relatively uncommon in his body of work. The Motel as a whole was a largely International-style building along the Las Vegas Strip. The Lobby of the Motel contrasted sharply with this simple design, utilizing parabolic concrete forms that emulated the Googie buildings common in southern California in the 1950s and 1960s. Williams designed the Lobby based on the input of owner and developer M.K. Doumani. Williams intended the motel to stand out amid the automobile-oriented Las Vegas Strip, with the façade of the building operating as its own advertisement for the venue behind it.<sup>21</sup> While Williams was not particularly renowned for his use of the Googie Style, the La Concha Lobby stands as a unique and well-executed example of that style.<sup>22</sup>

#### Googie Architecture in Las Vegas

Williams' use of Googie architecture was characteristic of the mid-twentieth century experimentation with free-form architecture, which included the development of an automobile-centric vernacular in the commercial designs of the postwar age. While Modern and novelty architecture are ubiquitous in Las Vegas' built environment, there are few intact examples of Googie remaining in the city, making the preservation of the La Concha Lobby all the more significant. Its exaggerated shell form and thin, concrete structure, with parabolic arches constitute a particularly noteworthy example of Googie thin-shell concrete architecture.<sup>23</sup>

Googie architecture arose in the mid-twentieth century in response to both cultural and economic influences. The "space race" with the Soviet Union combined with the automobile-centric culture of postwar America created a unique style of architecture that relied upon concrete and steel for its freestyle form. Googie buildings used exaggerated arches, ellipses, or angled lines to remove themselves from the traditional rectangular plans and hipped or gable roofs and signal venues and businesses to passing drivers. While angled, linear styles were popular and could utilize traditional building methods, many ambitious architects used thin shell concrete to free themselves from even these limitations. Paul Williams' La Concha Lobby design became one of these examples,

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<sup>20</sup> Henderson, 232.

<sup>21</sup> Henderson, 115-121; "La Concha Motel, The Neon Museum, Las Vegas, NV," The Paul Revere Williams Project, <http://www.paulrwilliamsproject.org/gallery/la-concha-motel-the-neon-museum-las-vegas-nv/>, accessed March 30, 2015.

<sup>22</sup> Wright, in Chattel, 10.

<sup>23</sup> *La Concha Motel Lobby Report for Nomination to the City of Las Vegas Historic Property Register*, no date; see Alan Hess, *Googie: Fifties Coffee Shop Architecture*, (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1986).

showcasing a paraboloid building that used arches and thin-shell concrete to create a smooth and unique form along the Las Vegas Strip.<sup>24</sup>

The roots of Googie in Las Vegas came from both architectural trends and economic developments in commercial centers in the 1930s and 40s. In architecture, as the Modern movement took hold in the United States, it transformed the commercial streetscape, not only breaking down the barrier between indoors and outdoors, expanding store front arcades to open up interior spaces to views from the exterior. Combined with the expansion of suburbs and the creation of suburban commercial corridors centered on local and regional highways, the demand on the part of business owners for their buildings to draw the eye increased. The development of suburban commercial corridors like the Las Vegas Strip stemmed from several factors. Investment bubbles in urban downtowns deflated during the 1930s, incentivizing the construction of low-rise (often single-story) developments on open land outside of city centers. The availability and marketing of new building materials such as reinforced concrete and neon tubing for lighting and signs facilitated the development of new architectural styles. Finally, the rise of industrial designers created a set of professional individuals, including artists and architects, who could successfully blend the building techniques with highway advertising to create new Modern styles including Streamline Moderne which transformed, by the 1950s, into the west coast Googie forms. The Las Vegas Strip became an archetypal example of this development, with restaurants, casinos, and motels like the La Concha on South Las Vegas Boulevard encapsulating the low-rise, automobile-centric architecture of the age.<sup>25</sup>

The Modern movement as expressed in the La Concha Motel Lobby was characterized by low-rise buildings with imposing neon signs towering above both their namesakes and the street below. One of the key architectural developments of the Googie style was the separation of the sign from its building. Whereas in the Streamline Moderne of the 1930s, architects incorporated the sign into the overall building design, Googie buildings typically had separated signs closer to the street that frequently dwarfed the buildings and landscapes behind them. Some buildings became signs themselves, but most buildings were fairly muted, adopting the simple geometric forms of the International. The La Concha Motel did both, with the Lobby adopting the trademark form emulating the form of a conch shell for its façade, while the primary motel building. The La Concha's exhibitionist concrete form not only expressed the celebration of technology ubiquitous in the post-war age, but signaled the architectural shift in emphasis from communicating the plan and circulation pattern of the building to one that established clarity of materials and parts.<sup>26</sup>

Much like Williams own work, the influence of Los Angeles entrepreneurs and architects such as Wayne McAllister contributed to the adoption by Las Vegas area developers of West Coast architecture like Googie. McAllister had established one of the first motels on

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<sup>24</sup> Matt Novak, "Googie: Architecture of the Space Age," *Smithsonian*, June 15, 2012, <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/googie-architecture-of-the-space-age-122837470/?no-ist>, accessed April 6, 2015.

<sup>25</sup> Martin Treu, *Signs, Streets, and Storefronts: A History of Architecture and Graphics Along America's Commercial Corridors*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012), 117-118.

<sup>26</sup> Treu, 197, 210-214.



the Strip, the El Rancho, in 1939, and established the Sands Hotel in 1952, both of which were strong Modern examples that rejected traditional design in favor of smooth, dramatic forms. Even among this proliferation of Modern forms, building forms still inclined toward the linear, using dramatic angles and neon signs to express the typical Googie form. The La Concha stood out as a rare adoption of the curved, thin-shell concrete forms popular among Latin American architects of the age. Through the adoption of Modern styles like Googie, the Strip became one of the greatest expressions of vernacular, automobile-centric, commercial architecture in the country.<sup>27</sup>

The Googie style proved controversial, and fell out of favor by the late-1960s. The flourishes and embellishment inherent in the style led some architectural critics of the period to associate the style with the excesses and perceived gaudiness of Hollywood. Furthermore, the density of signage tended to saturate new commercial strips in an overt competition between businesses to capture the attention of passersby. For the detractors of Googie, the style, especially its emphasis on neon and over-sized signage, distracted the viewer from what they felt should be a focus on the building itself.<sup>28</sup>

Despite the criticism, most Americans consumed Googie architectural gratefully, in part because buildings like the La Concha represented what most middle class Americans valued in the postwar age, namely an emphasis on the proliferation of new technology. As historian Alan Hess has asserted, Googie was designed for a predominantly middle class audience that, in many ways, attempted to make the future, with all its potential for space travel, accessible to the average American. Within this context, the style also helped capture the attention of automobile drivers in commercial landscapes saturated with signs and making it difficult for individual businesses to advertise along the streetscape. Despite misgivings on the part of some architectural critics about the style's low-brow audience, it had a broad appeal and a strong cultural presence throughout the mid-twentieth century. It was not until the late-1960s, with the climax of the space race, economic decline, and awareness of environmental limitations that Googie went out of style in favor of more subdued design techniques.<sup>29</sup>

### Conclusion

The La Concha Motel Lobby stands as one of the iconic examples of Las Vegas' Googie style architecture. Its dramatic form not only expresses the commercial and aesthetic values of postwar America, but also the pinnacle of the Googie reliance on modern materials and techniques such as thin shell concrete. The La Concha Lobby represents the fusion of three architectural contexts: the work of renowned architect Paul Williams and his embrace of Modern architectural styles, the refinement of exaggerated thin shell concrete forms toward the end of its use in the 1960s, and the saturation of the Las Vegas Strip with Googie architecture by the middle of the twentieth century.

In 2006, the La Concha Motel became a casualty of the constant development pressure and fast pace of reconstruction along the Las Vegas Strip. However, the salvage, relocation, and rehabilitation of the La Concha Motel Lobby at its new location on North

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<sup>27</sup> Hess, *Googie: Fifties Coffee Shop Architecture*, 109-111; Alan Hess, *Googie: Redux*, (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, LLC, 2004), 158-167.

<sup>28</sup> Treu, 233-234.

<sup>29</sup> Novak, "Googie."

Property Name: La Concha Motel Lobby  
State Register Number: 150154

Las Vegas Boulevard became a regional success story. The effort to save a portion of the La Concha galvanized support among preservation advocates in Las Vegas. The example of moving the Lobby became a regionally-recognized example of how to execute the relocation of historically-significant buildings.



Property Name: La Concha Motel Lobby  
State Register Number: 150154

**8. DESCRIPTION** (select information that best describes exterior fabric, structural system, and roofing material)

**Architectural Style or Type:** Modern Movement / Googie

|                  |             |                 |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Materials</b> | Foundation: | <u>Concrete</u> |
|                  | Walls:      | <u>Concrete</u> |
|                  | Roof:       | <u>Concrete</u> |
|                  | Windows:    | <u>Aluminum</u> |
|                  | Other:      | <u></u>         |

**Narrative Description:**

Provide a narrative description of the property's present and historical physical appearance (include significant exterior and interior features).

The La Concha Motel was constructed at 2955 South Las Vegas Boulevard in unincorporated Clark County, Nevada, along what is colloquially known as the Las Vegas Strip. It was designed by internationally known African-American architect Paul Revere Williams and built for M.K. Doumani, whose family operated the Motel at this location from 1961 to 2002 when it closed. The Motel originally included a free-form concrete shell Lobby and a rectangular two-story Motel wing adjoining the rear of the Lobby. In 2004, the Motel wing was demolished. The Lobby was moved to its current site at 770 North Las Vegas Boulevard in 2007. Its defining features are the three large, parabolic bays of four-inch concrete, with glass and steel curtain walls and entry doors. It currently sits in a high-density commercial district in Las Vegas proper along North Las Vegas Boulevard where it serves as the visitor center for the Neon Museum and its adjoining "Boneyard," the outdoor interpretive display of mid-century neon road signs. The Museum's neighboring buildings include a residential subdivision, a hotel, and a shopping center.

Original Location and Design

At the La Concha's original site in Paradise Township, the center (west) bay of the Lobby was perpendicular to South Las Vegas Boulevard, separated from the east side of the roadway by a substantial setback containing a tall, pylon sign and H-shaped driveway configuration. The upper pylon portion of the sign contained five individual letters "M-O-T-E-L" placed vertically, over a scalloped sign mimicking the Lobby façade with neon lettering reading "La Concha," and below that, a neon vacancy sign in smaller case. At an unknown date, the owners removed the "M-O-T-E-L" pylon, leaving the scalloped "La Concha" sign, to which the word "MOTEL" was added.

At its original location, the Lobby, which appears as a shell in the form of three hyperbolic paraboloids, was set back slightly from the street with turf, low flowering plantings, and Italian cypress trees placed at the low points of the roof. Foundation plantings were placed within an area defined by the drip edge of the hyperbolic paraboloid roof above. Three concrete walkways radiated out from the three entrances. Areas of surface parking with minimal landscaping predominated its setting. Adjacent to the south elevation of the building, visible from the street but set back from the Lobby, was the swimming pool. A simple wrought iron fence alternating with a CMU (concrete masonry unit) wall enclosed the pool area.

The Lobby was defined by the parabolic, four-inch shell with three bays facing to the front (west), and then north and south. Each bay was fully open with an aluminum glazing system. The shell rested upon four concrete pillars that distributed the weight from the shell onto the foundation. Three sets of double doors opened from the street, while double doors behind the registration desk gave access to the Motel wing and pool area. The interior of the Lobby was dominated by a semi-circular reception desk at the rear wall. Behind it hung a resin/plastic sign with halo lighting, centered on the wall. Floors were covered in logo carpeting and nine pendant globe lights were suspended from the ceiling.

The two-story Motel wing attached to the Lobby with a parapet rising above the Lobby shell. The wing was clad in stucco with simple aluminum framed window and door slider sash and deep balconies in the single loaded west portion and flat planar walls on the east portion. The Motel wing was a simple rectangular form with a cut-out in the area closest to the Lobby to accommodate a kidney-shaped pool. A tile clad wall was located along the east side of the pool area at the Motel wing. This section of the Motel wing had a single-loaded corridor. All guest rooms faced the pool and had projecting balconies accessed by aluminum sliding doors. Balconies had solid side walls and open iron front walls and were staggered between the first and second floors. The roof, likely clad in light color rock, may have been a low sloping shed or gable roof, but was intended to read as flat.

#### Integrity

The La Concha Motel was demolished in 2004. However, through efforts on the part of community organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies, construction crews disassembled the Lobby designed by Paul Williams. The following year, a team transported the Lobby to its current North Las Vegas Boulevard location and reassembled it to serve as the Neon Museum's visitor center.

The Lobby retains excellent integrity in materials, workmanship, and design, and still conveys its significance as well-executed example of Googie-style, thin-shell concrete construction by Paul R. Williams. Due to its relocation and reconstruction in 2007, it does not have integrity of location. It remains on the east side of Las Vegas Boulevard with similar orientation, and remains in a high-density commercial setting in downtown Las Vegas. A compatible addition onto its rear elevation retains the visual focus of the site on the Lobby, but the loss of the relatively large, two-story, International-style motel building is significant. As a result, the Lobby has only moderate integrity of setting, feeling, and association. However, the overall building is still able to convey its significance as a well-executed example of thin shell, Googie-style architecture that is part of Paul Williams' body of work.

#### Current Design and Location

Moved to its current site in 2007, the Lobby maintains its relationship to the east side of the street. The receiver site and the Lobby's placement thereupon, is "a setting as much like the original as possible ... [and it recognizes] the important influence that solar orientation can have on the building's artistic and aesthetic quality."<sup>30</sup> Although the relationship of the relocated Lobby to North Las Vegas Boulevard is somewhat different,

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<sup>30</sup> John Obed Curtis, *Moving Historic Buildings*, National Park Service and International Association of Structural Movers, 1975, (reprinted in 1991),



Property Name: La Concha Motel Lobby  
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being rotated slightly to the north, the building retains the key qualities of the original setting that distinguished the Lobby when it was at the donor site.

The Lobby shell was carefully disassembled and reassembled under the direction of Melvyn Green & Associates, Inc. and Friedmutter Group Architectural & Interior Design Studios, using the gentlest means possible. This work involved cutting the thin shell concrete roof into several large pieces at the donor site, relocating the pieces and reassembling them at the receiver site, and constructing a new east wall. This work was accomplished using techniques described in *Moving Historic Buildings*, including salvage and reassembly of features and preservation of their intrinsic material character. Full height aluminum brake metal has been reinstalled with full glazing panels. This particular project became a case study of how to move an historically significant building.<sup>31</sup>

An addition was constructed onto the concrete shell's rear elevation to provide utility and restroom services to museum guests. The addition uses compatible glass, steel, and concrete construction that recreates a similar relationship to the concrete shell as had previously existed with the main motel building prior to its demolition. The addition consists of a small glass and steel hyphen, connecting to a small stucco-over-steel frame building housing the restrooms and utilities for the building. Off the rear (east) elevation of the addition is a raised outdoor interpretive area sheltered by a new, two-story, steel shade structure with a flat, corrugated steel roof that expresses a linear interpretation of the Googie style.

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<sup>31</sup> In 2014, the California Preservation Foundation hosted a case-study webinar about the La Concha Lobby move in 2006, including presentations by Robert Chattel (Chattel, Inc., the preservation consultant on the project), Mel Green (Green & Associates, the structural consultant on the project, Danielle Kelly (Director of the Neon Museum, the recipient of the Lobby), Mara Thiessen Jones (architectural historian with the Nevada SHPO), and Nancy Deaner (Director of the Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs).

Property Name: La Concha Motel Lobby  
State Register Number: 150154

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES** (include all sources of information)

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- National Register of Historic Places, Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900 to 1940," Colorado, NRIS#64500072
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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Acreage of Property:** .10 acre

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The nominated property includes the footprint of the 1961 Motel Lobby.

**Boundary Justification:** Because of the loss of the majority of the original Motel building, and the



Property Name: La Concha Motel Lobby  
State Register Number: 150154

relocation of the Lobby, none of the surrounding landscape, nor the interpretive features, contribute to the La Concha's significance. As a result, the current building footprint of the original Lobby is the most appropriate boundary.

**Geographic Information (Use NAD 83 Meters):** \*\*add more points if necessary\*\*  
                    667684                    mE                    4005197                    mN

**Source and method of UTM's:** ArcMap; NAD83 Zone 13N projected aerial photo; building center

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Jim Bertolini  
Organization: Nevada State Historic Preservation Office  
Address: 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5004  
City or Town: Carson City State: NV Zip: 89701  
Telephone Number: (775) 684-3436 E-mail: jbertolini@shpo.nv.gov  
Date: May 6, 2015

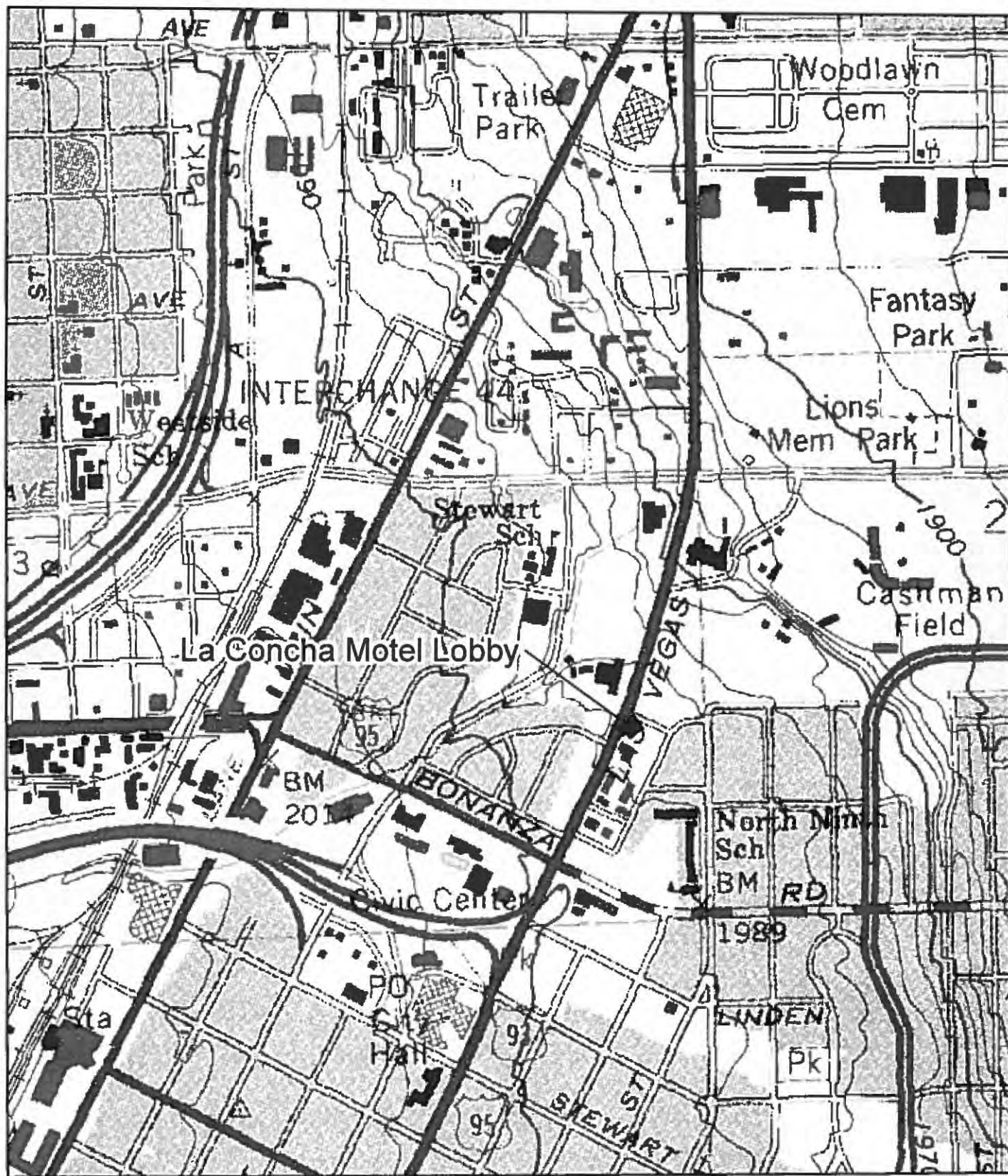
## 12. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Include the following items with your submission:

- ☒ **Photographs** (provide one or more photographs of the front elevation of the building, minimum size to be 5 inches by 7 inches (or digital JPEG or TIFF format files of 300 dpi or greater). Multiple photographs showing additional angles and views would be preferable. Include the name of the photographer, date of photograph and direction the camera was facing).
- ☒ **Floor Plan** (provide a line drawing of the floor plan of the building, if possible).
- ☒ **USGS Map** (provide a scale section of a USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle or current city street map with the property marked).
- ☒ **Site Map** (provide a site map that locates all properties being nominated and shows their relationship to one another).

# La Concha Motel Lobby

## USGS, Las Vegas NW Quadrangle



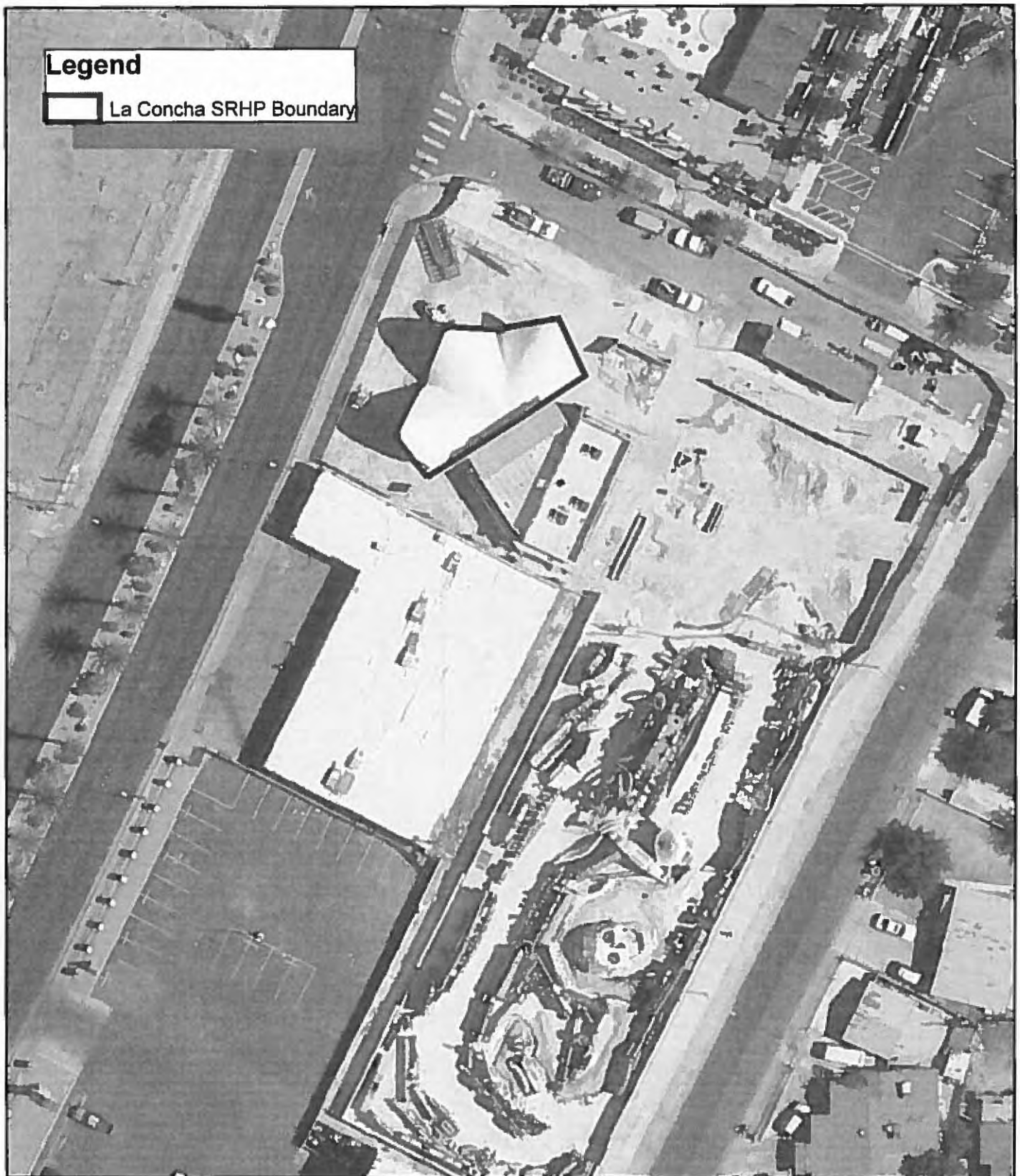
0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Author: SHPO  
Date: 2015  
Datum: NAD 83  
Projection: UTM Zone 11N





# La Concha Motel Lobby Aerial Site Map

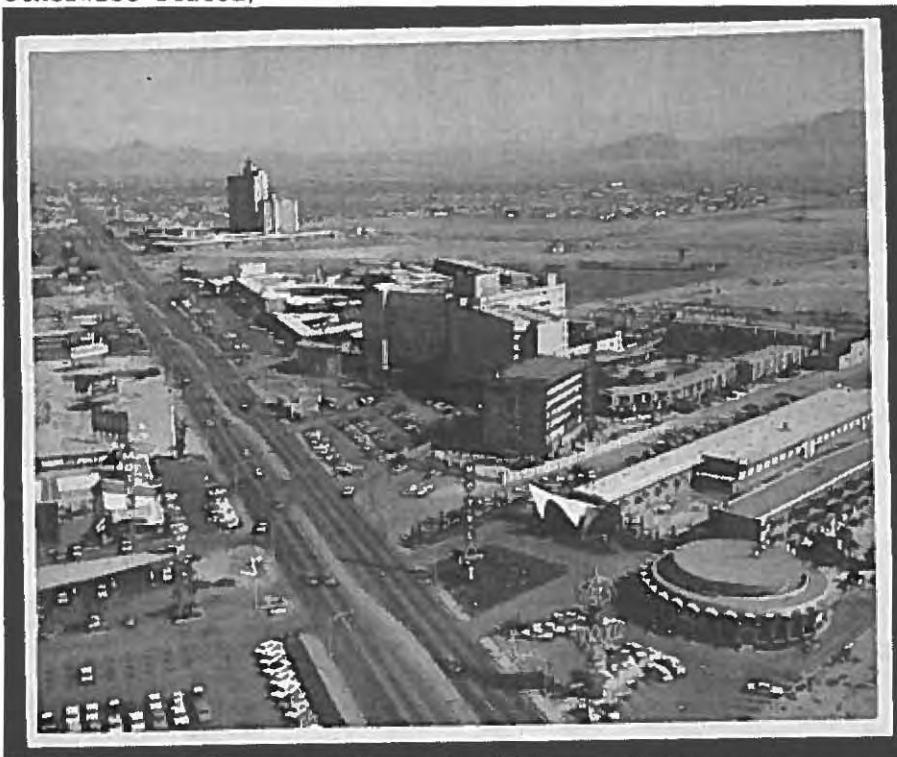


0 30 60 120  
Feet

Author: SHPO  
Date: 2015  
Datum: NAD 83  
Projection: UTM Zone 11N



La Concha Motel Lobby - SRHP Photos (all Courtesy of Neon Museum unless otherwise stated)



UNLV Special Collections, 1966, looking northeast.



1970s Strip aerial with La Concha in foreground (Courtesy Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas)





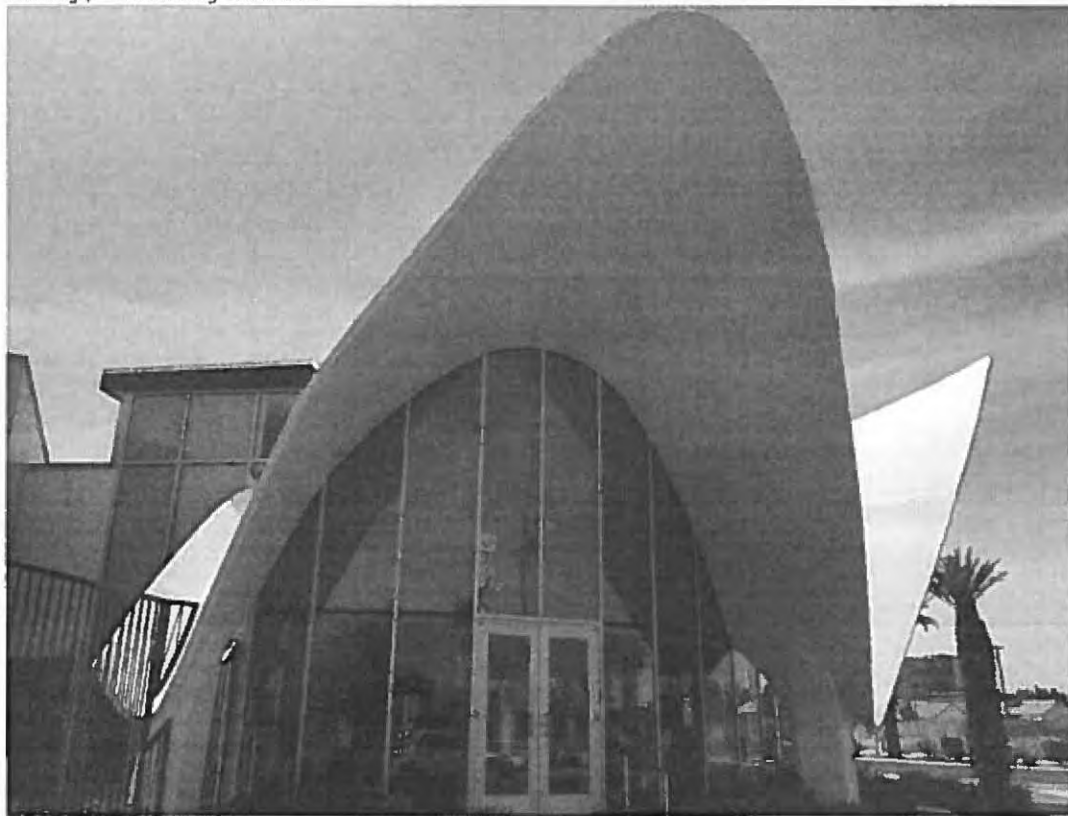
Historic La Concha Lobby, date unknown.



West façade, looking southeast.



Lobby, looking north.

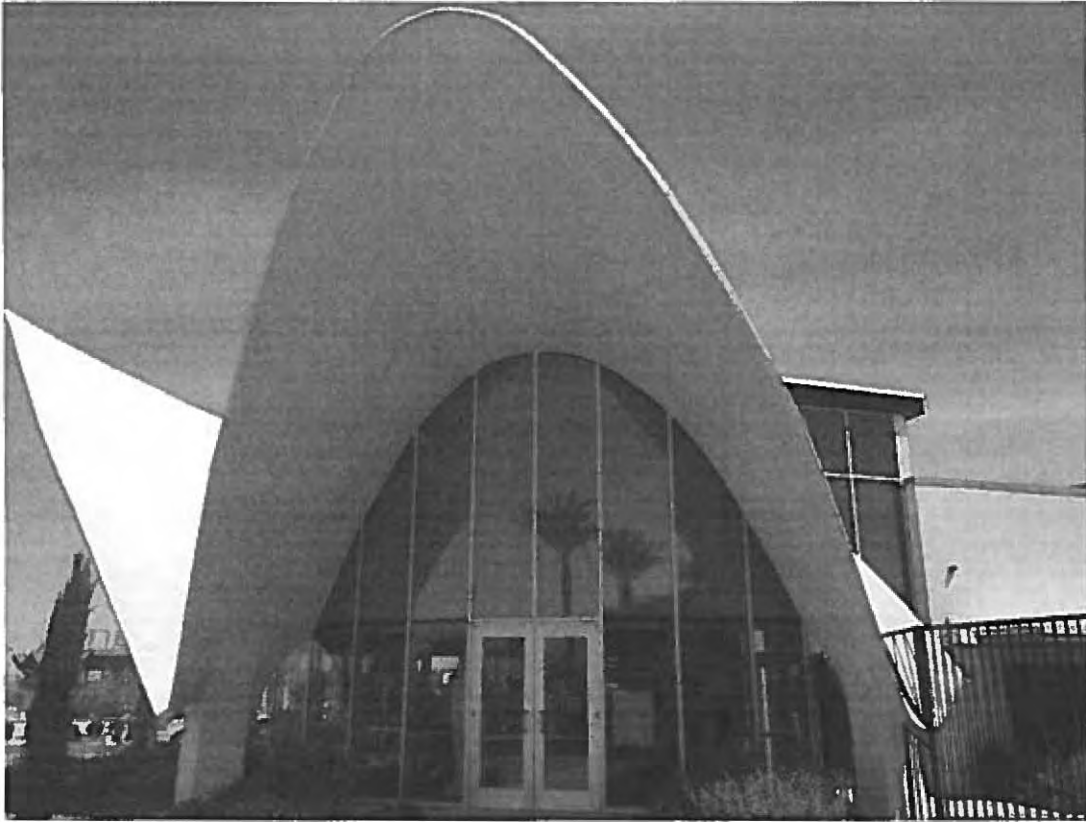


North bay, looking south.

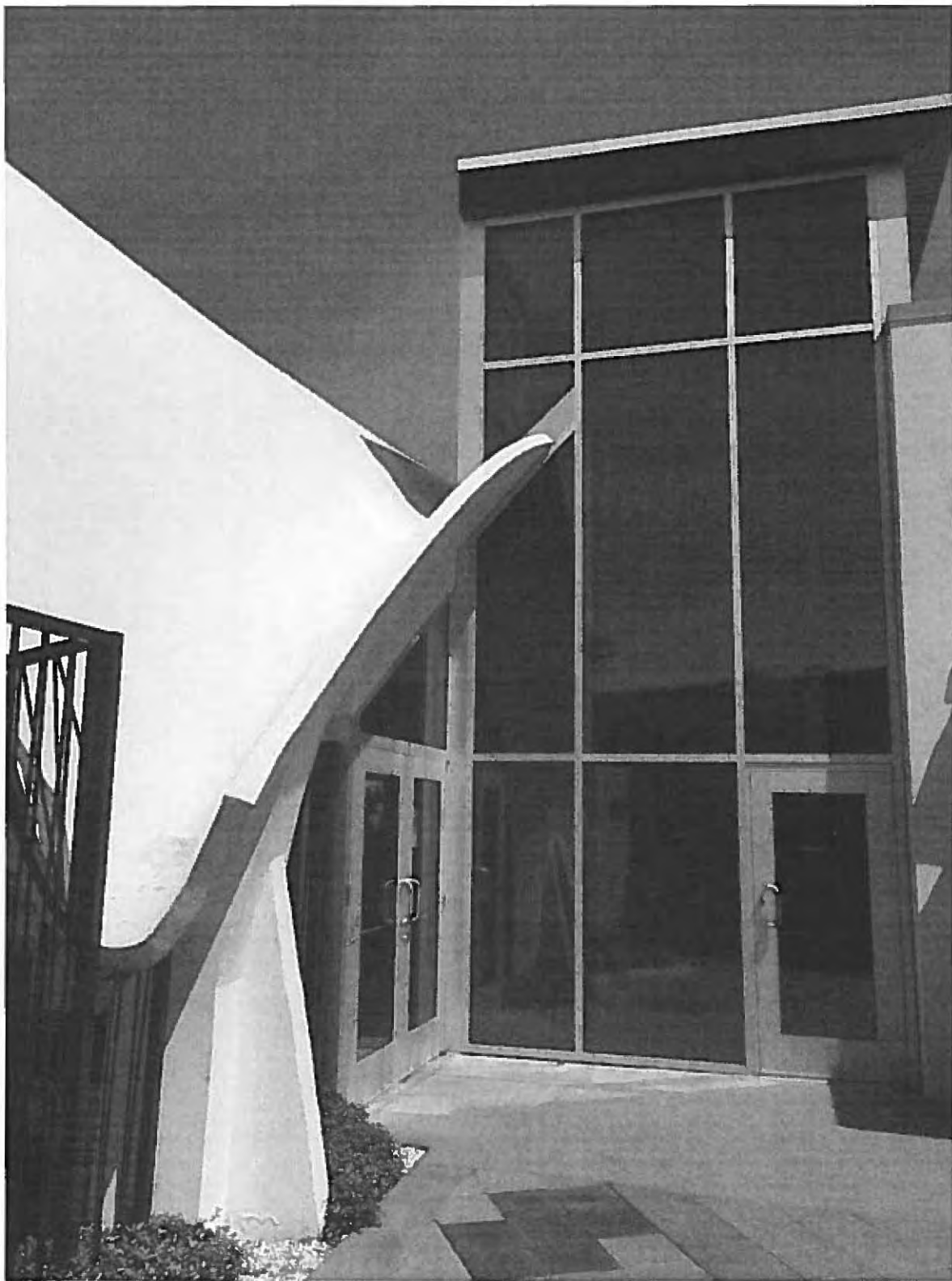


Junction between addition and original shell, looking south.

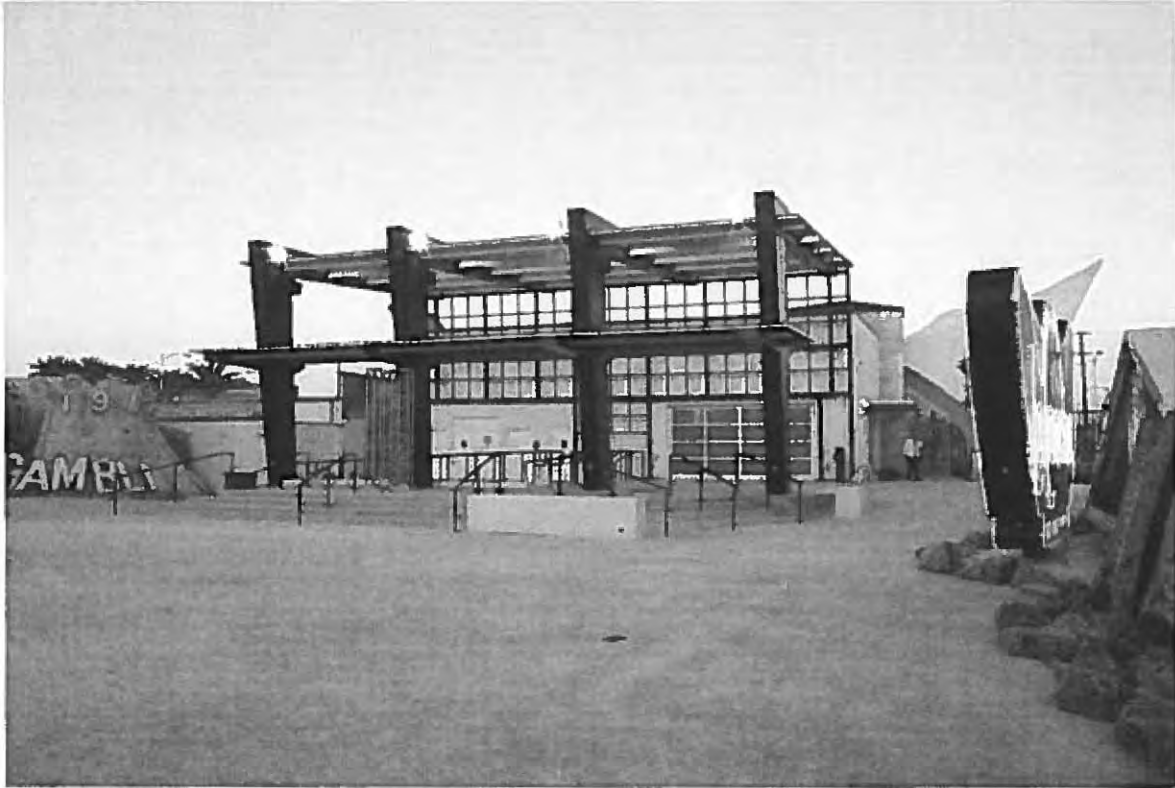




South bay, looking north.



Junction between historic shell and addition, looking north.



Rear addition, looking west.



Wide-angle photo, north elevation.





Addition under construction, looking southwest.



Interior glass paneling, looking southeast.



Interior glass paneling, looking north.



**BOARD OF MUSEUMS & HISTORY MEETING**  
**JUNE 19, 2015**

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**  
***Staff Recommendations***

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School (Amendment), Las Vegas, Clark County.**

The City of Las Vegas is amending the existing documentation for the Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School (or Westside School) to include new historical information and to add an additional resource as contributing. The school was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The school is located at 330 West Washington Avenue in Las Vegas, Nevada. The campus sits on a rectangular parcel at the northeast intersection of D Street and Washington Avenue. The campus contains two buildings, occupying approximately half of the parcel, with a surface parking lot located to the east and north. A single story, Mission Revival concrete building constructed in 1923 with a substantial addition constructed in 1928 is located at the center of the parcel (1923 building, listed in the National Register in 1978). The second building, a single-story, Ranch building constructed of concrete block in 1948 with a small addition constructed in 1960 is located on the west side of the parcel, adjacent to D Street (1948 annex, subject of this amendment). Both buildings retain historic integrity.

The 1923 building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 as “Las Vegas’ oldest remaining schoolhouse” without defining a period of significance. The school was also recognized for its “significant role in the individual and collective beginning of the heritage of Black citizens and their community.” At the time of the designation, the 1948 annex was 30 years old and was not included. The 1948 annex is now more than 50 years of age, has gained significance over time and contributes to the Westside School campus. Westside School is significant under Criterion A in the area of Education as the sole elementary school on the Westside until 1945, developing from a two room schoolhouse into a campus supporting education for more than 500 students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade; and in the area of Ethnic Heritage as an important community center for the predominantly African American residents of the Westside. The 1923 building is significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of the Nevada Schoolhouse: Custom Architectural Design property type. The new period of significance is 1923 to 1967, reflecting the time period it served as an educational institution and community center for the Westside neighborhood.

*Staff recommends listing.*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School (amendment)Other names/site number: Westside School

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic School Buildings in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District,  
Nevada

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**Street & number: 330 West Washington AvenueCity or town: Las Vegas State: NV County: ClarkNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title:\_\_\_\_\_  
Date\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School  
Name of Property

Clark County, NV  
County and State

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐

Site

☐☐



Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School  
Name of Property

Clark County, NV  
County and State

Structure

Object

☐

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/schools

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

VACANT/NOT IN USE

OTHER: Community Center

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Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School  
Name of Property

Clark County, NV  
County and State

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Ranch style

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Mission Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, stucco, asphalt

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School (Westside School or campus) is located at 330 West Washington Avenue in Las Vegas, Nevada (Photo 1; Figures 1-2). The campus sits on a rectangular parcel at the northeast intersection of D Street and Washington Avenue. US Interstate 15 is located to the east with a highway off-ramp adjacent to the southeast corner of the campus. The campus is located in the Westside neighborhood, which is located to the northwest of US Interstate 15. The campus contains two buildings, occupying approximately half of the parcel, with a surface parking lot located to the east and north. A single story, Mission Revival concrete building constructed in 1923 with a substantial addition constructed in 1928 is located at the center of the parcel (1923 building, listed in the National Register in 1978). The second building, a single-story, Ranch building constructed of concrete block in 1948 with a small addition constructed in 1960 is located on the west side of the parcel, adjacent to D Street (1948 annex, subject of this amendment). Significant features of the 1948 annex include roughly U-shape in plan, shaped rafter tails, inset porch with decorative wood corbels, and wood louvers above the breezeway. Significant features of the 1923 building include its rectangular plan, symmetrical façade composition, curvilinear parapet, wood sash windows and doors, and projecting eaves with exposed rafter tails. Both buildings retain historic integrity.

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School  
Name of Property

Clark County, NV  
County and State

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

The surrounding neighborhood is located west of downtown Las Vegas, known today as the Westside. It encompasses the area bounded by US Interstate 15 to the east, Bonanza Road to the south, H Street to the west, and Owens Avenue to the north. The topography of the area is relatively flat. The surrounding neighborhood is primarily residential with several religious buildings in the immediate vicinity.

The campus is bounded by C Street to the east, Washington Avenue to the south, D Street to the west, and a parcel containing the former Variety Early Learning Center to the north. US Interstate 15 curves around the campus, making the highway's large sound walls visible to the east and south. Washington Avenue and D Street pass under the highway to the east and south of the campus, and a highway off-ramp to Washington Avenue is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the campus. To accommodate the off-ramp, C Street was closed to traffic from Washington Avenue, creating a dead-end street on the east side of the school lot. A large triangular landscaped median is located immediately south across Washington Avenue. Ethel Pearson Park is located to the southwest, diagonally across the Washington Avenue and D Street intersection.

The campus contains two buildings with a surface parking lot located to the east and north. The parking lot is accessed from C Street at the lot's northeast corner. The two buildings occupy the west half of the parcel and front Washington Avenue. The 1923 building is set back from the street, while the 1948 annex has little setback. Both buildings have a north-south orientation, parallel to each other in plan, and are similar in height. The 1948 building is roughly U-shaped in plan with an extended east-west wing on the north side of the building. This plan creates a semi-enclosed interior courtyard, open on the east side to the parking lot and the 1923 building.

### 1923 building exterior

The physical appearance of the 1923 building was minimally described in the original National Register nomination (1979). The following updates the information in that source. The 1923 building<sup>1</sup> is set back from West Washington Avenue and is fronted by a gravel area containing a flagpole and large satellite dish. Constructed in Mission Revival style, the one story plus partial basement, in the 1923 building is roughly rectangular with a small bump out on the rear (north) elevation. The concrete building with painted stucco finish has a concrete water table with painted stucco finish and crawl spaces with metal screens on all four elevations. The standing seam metal hipped roof has narrow projecting eaves with exposed rafter tails. Wood frame attic vents with metal screens are located beneath the eaves on all elevations.

The south façade is symmetrical with three bays. The center bay projects slightly and has a curvilinear parapet wall with three wood louver attic vents. Wood paneled double doors with wood-sash side lights and a transom provide access to the interior. A metal grille covers the transom. Concrete stairs and a ramp with metal handrails lead to the front doors. The two flanking bays have

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<sup>1</sup> Dates ranging from 1921 to 1923 have been proposed by numerous sources as construction dates for the first building at the Westside School campus. The building was constructed in 1923, as indicated in the 1923 Sanborn Fire Insurance map and in two articles in the *Las Vegas Age*, "Las Vegas Public School Block a Credit to the City," December 30, 1922; and "Old Town School House Presents Fine Appearance," March 10, 1923.



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pairs of recessed arches with projecting sills (Photos 2-3).<sup>2</sup> East and west elevations are nearly identical. Both elevations have fenestration consisting of, from end to end, five multi-light, wood casement windows with transom, four smaller double-hung, wood-sash windows, and five additional multi-light, wood casement windows with transoms (Photos 4-5). A partial basement, containing a boiler room, is accessed through an exterior wood hatch on the east elevation (Photo 6). There are openings into the crawlspace underneath the building that are covered in wire mesh.

The rear (north elevation) consists of three bays. Like the façade, the rear elevation center bay has wood paneled double doors with wood-sash side lights and transom covered by a metal grille. Concrete stairs and a ramp provide access to the doors (Photo 7). A small hipped roof projection is located in the east bay and features three double hung wood sash windows and a single door in its west elevation.

#### 1923 building interior

The building is entered through a small lobby which leads to a central, double-loaded interior corridor running north-south (Photos 8-10). Offices, storage areas, and broadcasting rooms are accessed from the corridor (Photos 11-12). Restrooms are located at the center of the building on either side of the corridor (Photo 13). Carpet, dropped ceilings with acoustical tiles and contemporary office partitions have been installed throughout (Photos 14-17). Remaining interior historic fabric appears to consist of a pair of wood cabinets with glazed upper doors located in an office on the northeast side of the building (Photo 18).

#### 1923 building alterations

When constructed in 1923, the building consisted of two rooms, or approximately the southernmost half of the existing building. In 1927-28, two additional rooms were constructed at the rear (north elevation), expanding the building to its existing footprint. The building served as an elementary school with four classrooms until it was closed in 1967. In 1980, the roof framing system was stabilized with a new truss and bracing. In 1982, a major renovation of the building included in-kind replacement of existing wood casement and double hung, wood sash windows. Interior walls, office partitions and other finishes were removed and replaced at the same time to accommodate the offices and broadcasting rooms of KCEP radio station. A new compatible standing seam roof was installed in 2005.<sup>3</sup>

#### 1948 annex exterior

The 1948 annex is located on the west side of the parcel with a limited setback from West Washington Avenue and D Street (Photos 19-20). The one story building was designed in Ranch style with elements of Mission Revival style. It is roughly U shape in plan with an extended east-west wing on the north side of the building. The plan creates a semi-enclosed interior courtyard.

The annex is constructed of painted concrete block, and the majority of the window openings have been infilled with concrete block. The gabled roof has several pop-up ridge vents and is covered with asphalt shingles. The narrow projecting eaves have shaped rafter tails.

The façade (south elevation facing West Washington Avenue) is symmetrical and is three bays consisting of a central bay with side gable roof and chimney, flanked by bays with front-gabled roofs. The center bay consists of a recessed, covered porch supported by metal posts with decorative

<sup>2</sup> Although the recessed arches may appear to be infilled windows, early historic photographs of the building show that these arches have always been decorative elements, not window openings.

<sup>3</sup> KME Architects, "Historic Westside School and Variety Early Learning Center Master Plan," City of Las Vegas, December 2011, 7.

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wood corbels. Ceramic art tile panels are installed on the walls of the porch, covering original window and door openings (Photos 21-22). One panel infills a breezeway which originally provided access to the interior courtyard. A wood louver is located above the center tile panel and two metal plaques flank the panel. The two flanking bays each have one inset ceramic art tile panel with brick surround and decorative terra cotta attic vents.

The west elevation (facing D Street) has two small, evenly spaced bump outs with shed roofs (Photos 23-24). All window openings have been infilled with concrete block, but the window sills remain. On the north end of the west elevation, a breezeway with wood louver and metal gate provides access to the interior courtyard (Photo 25). The north elevation has infilled window openings and one bump out with shed roof, similar to the west elevation. The east elevation (facing the 1923 building) also has one bump out with shed roof and infilled window openings. One wood door at the north end remains operable.

The courtyard contains a flagpole and is covered with gravel with limited landscaping in the form of two trees (Photos 26-28). A concrete walkway covered by a wood canopy lines the courtyard on three sides, abutting the exterior walls of the building (Photo 29). The courtyard-facing elevations contain wood doors and fixed frame aluminum windows. The west and north courtyard elevations have original multi-light, steel sash windows in three locations (Photo 30).

#### 1948 annex interior

The annex is entered through doors opening onto the exterior courtyard. The floorplan consists of a series of rooms, entering onto one another with no defined corridor system. Carpet and contemporary office partitions have been installed throughout, along with dropped ceilings with acoustical tiles below existing plaster (Photos 32-35). Restrooms are located in the center of the west and south wings (Photo 34).

#### 1948 annex alterations

The 1948 annex served as an elementary school with eight classrooms and administrative offices until 1967. In 1960, a one-room addition was constructed on the east end of the north wing of the building (Photo 36). In 1977, the building underwent a major renovation including removal and replacement of interior walls, office partitions and other finishes to accommodate offices of the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County. Original window openings were infilled, ceramic art tile panels were installed, and courtyard wood canopies were added at the same time. A new compatible asphalt shingle roof was installed in 2008.<sup>4</sup>

#### Integrity

Both buildings on the Westside School campus retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance under Criterion A. In addition, the 1923 building retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance under Criterion C. The 1923 building retains a high degree of integrity. Although the 1948 annex has lost some features, these alterations do not detract from the physical qualities that convey its significance under Criterion A.

Both buildings retain integrity of location on the Westside School campus at the intersection of D Street and Washington Avenue. Several alterations to the area surrounding the campus have impacted integrity of setting. Large sound walls for US Interstate 15 are visible to the east and south of campus. Prior to construction of the interstate, these areas to the east and south, along Washington Avenue and C Street, were residential neighborhoods. Improvements to the street

<sup>4</sup> KME Architects, "Historic Westside School and Variety Early Learning Center Master Plan," City of Las Vegas, December 2011, 7.

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system to accommodate the highway off-ramp have also altered the setting. C Street, which bounds the east side of the campus, was closed to through traffic and turned into a dead-end.

The 1923 building has a high degree of integrity of design. The form, plan, structure and style of the building have been retained. The building's simple Mission Revival design is conveyed through the stucco wall cladding, curvilinear parapet wall, and pairs of recessed arches with projecting sills on the façade. Overall it retains integrity to convey its high artistic merit. Alterations have been made to the interior, including removal of the historic corridor, limiting its ability to convey its original functional design.

The 1948 annex retains integrity of design, although it has a greater number of alterations. The form, plan structure and style of the building have been retained. The Ranch style with elements of Mission Revival is conveyed through shaped rafter tails, an inset porch with decorative wood corbels, and wood louvers above the breezeway. Window openings in the west elevation and window and door openings on the south façade have been infilled with slump block and ceramic art tile panels. In the infill locations, the slump block is smoother in texture than the surrounding historic concrete block. Historic concrete sills have also been retained, which allows the viewer to "read" these locations as infilled openings rather than solid exterior walls. Although removal and infill of the windows is a considerable alteration, the infill that was completed allows the building to retain its overall integrity of design, as well as integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

The 1923 building retains integrity of materials and workmanship. Although some elements of the building have been replaced, such as the wood casement and double-hung window sashes on secondary elevations, the replacement materials accurately reflect the historic materials and do not detract from integrity. Removal and infill of the windows in the 1948 building has impacted integrity of materials and workmanship. Overall the campus' character as an educational facility has been maintained, and both buildings retain integrity to convey their significance.

#### Work in Progress

The property is currently undergoing rehabilitation, including landscaping and interior and exterior work on both the 1923 building and 1948 annex. Upon completion, the buildings will be used as a community center, non-profit radio station, as well as contain additional non-profit and for-profit space.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### **Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values,



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or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☒ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Period of Significance  
1923-1967

Significant Dates  
1923  
1948

Significant Person  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder  
Worswick, A.L.  
Allison & Allison

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School (Westside School or campus) consists of two buildings: one constructed in 1923 (1923 building) and one constructed in 1948 (1948 annex). In 1978, the 1923 building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), as "Las Vegas' oldest remaining schoolhouse" without defining a period of significance. The school was also recognized for its "significant role in the individual and collective beginning of the heritage of Black citizens and their community." At the time of the designation, the 1948 annex was 30 years old and was not included. The 1948 annex is now more than 50 years of age, has gained significance over time and contributes to the Westside School campus. Westside School is significant under Criterion A in the area of Education as the sole elementary school on the Westside until 1945, developing from a two room schoolhouse into a campus supporting education for more than 500 students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade; and in the area of Ethnic Heritage as an important community center for the predominantly African American residents of the Westside. The 1923 building is significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of the Nevada

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Schoolhouse: Custom Architectural Design property type. The period of significance is 1923 to 1967, reflecting the time period it served as an educational institution and community center for the Westside neighborhood.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Westside Neighborhood Development

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Las Vegas was a small, informal settlement of miners and ranchers, poised for expansion with the arrival of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad. In anticipation of the railroad's construction, engineer J.T. McWilliams purchased and platted 80 acres of land on the west side of the proposed rail line. In January 1905, he began selling lots in this area under the name Original Las Vegas Townsite<sup>5</sup>, and also established one of the earliest business districts in Las Vegas.<sup>6</sup> Land on the east side of the rail line was owned by the Las Vegas Land & Water Company, a subsidiary of the railroad which controlled the majority of the area's water rights. When the railroad arrived in 1905, the Las Vegas Land & Water Company strongly promoted land on the east side of the tracks, selling to people from Los Angeles and Salt Lake City and developing a competing, and ultimately more successful, town site, called Clark's Townsite.<sup>7</sup> While settlers continued to live in the Westside neighborhood, land in this area was less desirable than land on the east side of the rail line, and public services, such as paved roads, were slow to materialize. The initial Westside neighborhood was confined to the area bounded by Bonanza and Owens Avenues, and A and H Streets. However, as the community expanded by the mid-1950s, the Westside became known as a broader area bounded by Bonanza Road on the south, Rancho Drive to the west, Caren Avenue to the north, and US Interstate 15 on the east.

Public Education in Las Vegas

In the first half of the twentieth century, administration of public education in Nevada was organized into five statewide supervision districts, enabled by the Reorganization Act passed by the state legislature in 1907. In southern Nevada, the Fifth Supervision District encompassed Lincoln, Clark, Nye, and Esmeralda counties.<sup>8</sup> Although the Nevada Legislature had passed laws in 1856 that provided both state and county tax money for education, the funding was never enough. The local school districts were responsible for making up the difference. For example, in Las Vegas, school

<sup>5</sup> The area was also known as McWilliams Townsite. By late 1905 the area was also called "Rag Town" because of the number of abandoned tents left by people and businesses that had moved nearby to the newly platted Clark Townsite. From about 1906 to 1923 the area was called Old Town. Around the late 1920s or early 1930s until the early 1940s the area was called West Side. Today the community calls itself the Westside. The name represents more than a geographic location, but also a sense of social pride and historic importance.

<sup>6</sup> Patricia Hershwitzky, *West Las Vegas* (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2011), 9.

<sup>7</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Century Preservation, "City of Las Vegas Historic Resources Survey and Inventory: West Las Vegas," 2003, 7.

<sup>8</sup> Clark County School Board, *Education in the Neon Shadow* (Stephens Press LLC: 2009). Las Vegas is located in Clark County.



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improvements and new construction were funded through the sale of bonds approved by voters in 1922.<sup>9</sup>

The first school in Las Vegas was held in 1904 in a wooden shack with a canvas roof near Stewart Avenue and Main Street. The first school building was constructed in 1905 at Lewis and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets (no longer extant, destroyed by fire in 1910). Almost immediately, this school proved too small to accommodate the student population. Following arrival of the railroad, the population in Las Vegas had grown from 947 residents in 1910, to 5,165 in 1930.<sup>10</sup> This population expansion caused a corresponding need for expanded public education facilities. A two-story building with 14 classrooms facing Fourth Street between Bridger and Lewis streets was completed in 1911 (no longer extant, demolished in 1964), which served as both elementary and high schools until a separate high school was constructed in 1917. By 1922, the existing schools were overcrowded, and Las Vegas voters approved the sale of bonds to raise funds for construction of new school buildings.<sup>11</sup> Two buildings, a Manual Arts/Domestic Science building and a kindergarten, were proposed for the existing school campus facing Fourth Street between Bridger and Lewis streets. Local residents also petitioned and received funding for a third two-room school building at the intersection of Washington Avenue and D Street in today's Westside neighborhood.<sup>12</sup>

The two buildings on the existing campus were completed in 1922. As described in the *Las Vegas Age* article below, construction of the Westside School was completed in 1923:

Shortly after the beginning of the New Year [1923] work will be commenced on another new school building in Old Town [Westside]. Two rooms will be built at the present time on what, in the future will be a four room school house, an exact reproduction of the two new ones just completed. The younger children who reside in Old Town will attend this school. It has always been conceded that these little folk had altogether too long a walk and the fact that they were obliged to cross a railroad track has been deplored. By the beginning of another school year this building will be ready for occupancy and these dangers removed.<sup>13</sup>

The Westside School, opened in 1923, contained two classrooms (Figure 3). Ethely Smith taught first and second grade in one classroom and Mary West taught third and fourth grade in the other.<sup>14</sup> By 1927-28, population increases in Las Vegas prompted the addition of two rooms at the rear of the building, effectively doubling its size and providing classrooms for each grade (Figures 4-10).<sup>15</sup>

In 1931, Las Vegas became a supply center for the nearby Boulder Dam project which brought federal dollars and local jobs into the economy, which meant more tax money for education. With the placement of defense bases and the birth of the gambling and tourist industries in the 1940s,

<sup>9</sup> Clark County School Board, *Education in the Neon Shadow*.

<sup>10</sup> Eugene P. Moehring, *Resort City in the Sunbelt, Las Vegas, 1930-1970* (Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 1989), 294.

<sup>11</sup> "School Bond Election is Almost Unanimous," *Las Vegas Age*, March 4, 1922.

<sup>12</sup> "Old Town People Petition for Branch Grammar School," *Las Vegas Age*, February 11, 1922.

<sup>13</sup> "Las Vegas Public School Block a Credit to the City," *Las Vegas Age*, December 30, 1922.

<sup>14</sup> "Teaching Staff Has Many New Members," *Las Vegas Review*, September 14, 1923.

<sup>15</sup> Heritage Architecture, "Historic American Buildings Survey documentation No. NV-65," n.d., 3.

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people from all over the United States relocated to Las Vegas to fill new jobs created by these industries. The population jumped from 8,422 in 1940 to 25,625 in 1950. During this time period, many new schools and were constructed in Las Vegas and existing schools were added onto in order to accommodate the children of these new residents.<sup>16</sup>

Increased enrollment in all Las Vegas public schools followed the rapid population increases during the late 1930s and 1940s. In 1942, Las Vegas elementary schools served 4,703 students. By 1953, enrollment had more than doubled to 11,671 students.<sup>17</sup> The Westside experienced substantial overcrowding in elementary schools. In 1942, an "old county building" was moved to the Westside School campus to accommodate a fifth grade classroom. This building proved inadequate, and Westside residents soon began petitioning for construction of a new school building on campus. In 1947, the Clark County School District hired architect A.L. Worswick to develop plans for a building to accommodate sixth through eighth grades. According to the *Las Vegas Review Journal*,

The Westside project calls for the construction of concrete block buildings.... The new structures will be erected in a quadrangle to the west of the present building.... The classrooms, each provided with ample windows for lighting will be connected by canopies and of single story construction. The buildings will have asphalt shingle roofs. Each classroom will be of 22 by 30 feet in size. Lavatory facilities for boys and girls are included in the new program. The administration building, which will face south, will contain the principal's office and restrooms for teachers.<sup>18</sup>

Although the article describes construction of several buildings, only one building was constructed in 1948, to the west of the 1923 building (Figure 11). The 1948 building contained eight classrooms and administrative offices. Construction cost approximately \$128,000. By 1949, Westside School served 535 students. It was the third school in Las Vegas to contain all eight grades on a single campus.<sup>19</sup>

In 1974, the School Board of Trustees declared the Westside School campus to be surplus property and offered it for sale. The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County (EOB) purchased the property and renovated both buildings to accommodate EOB offices in the 1948 annex and KCEP radio station in the 1923 building. KCEP is a non-commercial radio station, owned by EOB, which has broadcast on 88.1 FM since its launch in 1972.

### Segregation in Las Vegas and the Westside neighborhood

During the 1920s, Las Vegas was a diverse settlement, populated by African American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian American and white residents. Although the Las Vegas Land & Water

<sup>16</sup> National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. "Historic School Buildings in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada."

There are no sources in the current document.

<sup>17</sup> Elbert B. Edwards, "Schools and Education in Southern Nevada," *Inside Nevada Schools: A Challenge for the Future* (Nevada: State Retired Teachers Association), 1976.

<sup>18</sup> "Disclose Plans for School Improvements: Estimated Cost \$180,000; Bids to be Opened July 9," *Las Vegas Review Journal*, June 26, 1947.

<sup>19</sup> "First Class is to be Graduated from Westside," *Las Vegas Review Journal*, May 24, 1949.

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Company attempted to restrict African Americans to residences and businesses in the blocks around First and Stewart streets, public interest in residential segregation was limited due to the relative lack of minority residents. The 1920 Census shows there were only 60 African Americans and 287 Native Americans and Asian Americans compared to 3,607 white residents living in Clark County.<sup>20</sup> Public education was integrated, and students with diverse ethnic identities attended classes together. However, other social institutions, such as the Elks and Free Masons restricted membership to whites.

Racial discrimination increased in the 1930s. The massive Boulder (Hoover) Dam federal construction project in 1931 brought thousands of new residents into southern Nevada. At the start of construction, inadequate worker housing in nearby Black Canyon forced workers either to commute from Las Vegas or to live in tents adjacent to the site, a situation that increased the population of Las Vegas almost overnight. Although the federal construction project promised high-paying wages for large numbers of workers, the Six Companies, a joint venture of construction companies formed to construct the Hoover Dam (1931-1935), adopted an unstated policy of excluding African Americans from these jobs.<sup>21</sup> After repeated civic action from the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a token number of African American workers were hired for dam construction. By completion, of the more than 20,000 total workers on the dam, only 44 were African American.<sup>22</sup>

Prior to World War II, the African American population in Las Vegas remained small. According to the 1930 Census, only 150 African Americans lived in Las Vegas. By 1940 the number had increased to only 165.<sup>23</sup> The largest influx of African Americans to Las Vegas came during World War II, due to recruitment efforts by the defense industry. However, factories started to close in 1944 and most of the 10,000 plus workers moved away, but many remained to work in service industries or in the defense-related industries that continued during the Cold War. Five years after the end of World War II, 2,725 African Americans lived in Las Vegas.<sup>24</sup> At the same time, segregationist barriers increased. African Americans were prohibited from bars and gaming tables at many of the city's hotels and resorts. Property owners added racially restrictive covenants to deeds, and landlords refused to rent to African American tenants. White businessmen and government officials informally supported these efforts, forcing African Americans to move to the Westside. Two-time Mayor Ernie Cragin's administration in the 1930s and again in the 1940s openly promoted racist policies by refusing to renew licenses of African American-owned businesses downtown unless owners moved to the Westside.<sup>25</sup>

Segregation in public education also increased, as elementary schools on the Westside filled with African American children whose families were restricted from living in other Las Vegas

<sup>20</sup> United States Census, 1920, accessed January 8, 2015, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). Information in the 1920 Census is tabulated by county only, likely due to the small size of the state population of 77,407.

<sup>21</sup> Moehring, *Resort City in the Sunbelt*, 174.

<sup>22</sup> Moehring, *Resort City in the Sunbelt*, 175.

<sup>23</sup> United States Census, 1930 and 1940, accessed January 8, 2015, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>24</sup> United States Census, 1950, accessed January 8, 2015, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

<sup>25</sup> Moehring, *Resort City in the Sunbelt*, 176.



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neighborhoods. A report by the United States Commission on Civil Rights described this segregation as a result of long-standing discriminatory housing practices:

The Clark County School District and the city of Las Vegas developed a tradition of segregation similar to that of urban schools in most other cities in the North, Midwest and West. As in these cities, school segregation in Las Vegas resulted, not from laws requiring it, but from racially separate housing patterns upon which neighborhood school attendance was imposed.<sup>26</sup>

Although the 1954 decision in the United States Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* declared that laws establishing separate schools for black and white students were unconstitutional, public education in Las Vegas remained segregated. Students continued to attend local neighborhood schools, and the city government provided no policies to integrate schools.

With hundreds of African American workers forced into the Westside, the neighborhood quickly became overcrowded. Population growth outpaced residential construction, and city officials refused to develop basic civic amenities, such as sewers and paved streets, until well into the late 1940s. In the face of blatant racism from their white neighbors, African Americans formed a community by supporting their own commercial enterprises on the Westside.

Physically and spiritually united by the growing tide of Jim Crow, blacks patronized their own merchants who now thrived with the trade of a captive market. Overnight, the demand for black barbers, waitresses, and salesgirls boosted the community's economy just as it had in the black, Irish, Jewish, and other ethnic enclaves throughout the country.<sup>27</sup>

With limited services provided by the City to African Americans, the Westside School became a community center for the neighborhood. The United Services Organization (USO) established a center at the Westside School campus, offering Monday evening movie screenings and Wednesday game nights.<sup>28</sup>

Between 1955 and 1956, the Las Vegas school district merged with other school districts in Clark County to create the Clark County School District (CCSD). After the merger, CCSD began a construction campaign of five new schools on the Westside. While these schools helped to address issues of overcrowding in the neighborhood, they were also placed in specific locations to maintain segregation. The newly constructed neighborhood schools drew students from immediately surrounding residential areas. Classroom segregation was based on housing patterns, and CCSD chose to place new Westside schools in predominantly African American residential neighborhoods to ensure segregated classes. At the same time, schools on the borders between white and black neighborhoods, which would have had more integrated classes, were closed.<sup>29</sup> The newly

<sup>26</sup> Martin E. Sloane, Ed., "School Desegregation in Ten Communities," (Washington, D.C.: United States Commission on Civil Rights), 1973.

<sup>27</sup> Moehring, *Resort City in the Sunbelt*, 177.

<sup>28</sup> "New Westside USO Plan Open," n.d., referenced in Heritage Architecture, Historic American Buildings Survey documentation No. NV-65.

<sup>29</sup> *KELLY v. GUINN*, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, February 22, 1972.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 16

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas  
Grammar School

Name of Property  
Clark County, NV

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Historic School Building in the Evolution of  
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Nevada

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

constructed schools limited integration to the extent that by 1968, more than 95 percent of students at six Westside School campuses were African American.<sup>30</sup>

Buoyed by civil rights struggles in other states and cities, the Las Vegas African American community was active throughout the 1950s and 1960s to reverse racist policies in hiring at hotels and resorts, housing, and education. Racism in housing, employment, and education was entrenched; it was a 1954 article in *Ebony* magazine that first popularized the phrase "Mississippi of the West" to describe Nevada.<sup>31</sup>

During this period, African American residents of the Westside organized to improve their neighborhood and bring greater attention to segregationist practices. The Moulin Rouge Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas' first integrated entertainment facility, opened on the Westside in 1955. Although the Moulin Rouge operated for only five months, it represented an important shift in attitudes against segregation of the Las Vegas Strip and helped lead to the Strip's eventual desegregation in 1960. Westside residents also organized to improve housing conditions. A new housing development, Berkley Square, opened on the Westside. Designed by Los Angeles architect Paul Revere Williams, the first African American admitted to the American Institute of Architects, this housing development was funded and developed by African American businessmen in 1955.

Promoting access to and from the Westside was a major focus of residents' civic action. In the late 1960s, Interstate 15 was constructed immediately to the east and south of the Westside School campus, creating a substantial barrier between the neighborhood and downtown. Residents regularly protested street closures caused by the interstate, but it was not until 1971 that D Street was reconfigured to restore access to downtown.

As discriminatory housing covenants and hiring practices were gradually reversed throughout the city, African Americans were able to move to more affluent neighborhoods. Population on the Westside began to decline, and the Westside School campus was closed in 1967, before any official policies on school integration were developed. Five years later, in 1972, the City of Las Vegas responded to a lawsuit filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and began bussing Westside students to other neighborhood schools. This practice continued until 1992.

### Campus Architecture

The 1923 building is a well-preserved example of the "Schoolhouse: Custom Architectural Design" property type. Because it was designed by the prominent architectural firm of Allison and Allison, stylistic, educational, and functional criteria are combined into a unified architectural statement. As a school located in a larger community, the building was originally constructed with more than one classroom and unique architectural distinction. According to the Multiple Property Documentation Form for schools in the Fifth Supervision District,

<sup>30</sup> Clark County School District archives.

<sup>31</sup> James Goodrich, "Negroes Can't Win in Las Vegas," *Ebony*, March 1954.

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The Custom Architectural Design property type is significant for its overall association with an architectural statement placed within the contexts of stylistic and design theory and educational reform. The property type is associated with the development of education in the Fifth Supervision District in Southern Nevada between 1907 and 1942, and is exemplary of the movement toward specialized treatment of educational buildings. Custom architecturally-designed schools are significant as representative of the complexity and diversity of educational ideals in Nevada's larger 20th Century communities and the growth in the importance of educational buildings as statements of a community's identity. These buildings exemplify the transformation of the school house as simply a place for learning to an integral cultural component of the built environment.<sup>32</sup>

In keeping with the existing campus at Bridger and Lewis, all proposed school buildings in the district were designed with elements of Mission Revival style by architectural firm Allison & Allison.<sup>33</sup> Loosely based on designs of missions, presidios, and pueblos, Mission Revival style developed as a regional architectural style inspired by romantic myths of Spanish Colonial and Mexican heritage. In the late 1800s, public interest increased in regional history during the eras of Spanish (1769-1821) and Mexican (1821-1848) rule over Alta California, the province encompassing much of the present southwestern United States, including Nevada. Helen Hunt Jackson's 1884 novel *Ramona*, one of the most widely read books of its time was one of several literary works that romanticized life during eras of Spanish and Mexican rule.<sup>34</sup> Although these books included themes seeking to increase awareness of unjust treatment toward indigenous people, readers focused instead on evocative descriptions of rambling haciendas, arched verandas, and ringing mission bells. Mission Revival style designers reflected and reinforced such nostalgic imagery by integrating interpretations of decorative features from early Alta California buildings within new building designs. Decorative features included terra cotta tiled roofs, bracketed eaves, arched arcades, and *espadañas*—curvilinear parapets, often with arched openings housing bells, similar to those featured prominently in many missions. Mission Revival buildings were also distinguished by plain exterior stucco finished walls referencing early adobe buildings. This provided an architectural departure from other late nineteenth century buildings, typically clad in wood siding.<sup>35</sup>

By the twentieth century, Mission Revival style became increasingly popular, serving as the focus of articles and illustrations in regional and national publications, including *Sunset*, *The Architect and Engineer*, and *Craftsman*.<sup>36</sup> Prominent examples of Mission Revival style throughout the western United States included buildings serving tourists and visitors; as well as multiple Southern Pacific Railroad and Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway stations. In Las Vegas, use of Mission Revival style for school campuses tied the relatively young settlement to an established regional architectural tradition and suggested permanence and stability.

<sup>32</sup> National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. "Historic School Buildings in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada."

<sup>33</sup> "Architect to Submit Plans for New Building," *Las Vegas Age*, January 21, 1922.

<sup>34</sup> Phoebe Schroeder, *"All Our Yesterdays": The Spanish Fantasy Past and Politics of Public Memory in Southern California, 1884-1939* (Ph.D. diss, University of California, San Diego, 1999), 17.

<sup>35</sup> David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California," *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 26, May 1967, 132.

<sup>36</sup> Gebhard, 134.



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### *Allison and Allison*

The architectural firm of Allison and Allison, led by brothers James Edward (J.E.) Allison (1870-1955) and David Clark (D.C.) Allison (1881-1962), designed the 1923 building. J.E. Allison studied at Oakdale Academy in Pennsylvania before apprenticing as a draftsman with Adler and Sullivan in Chicago and Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge in Pittsburgh. He opened his own practice in 1892, and in 1905, he formed a partnership with his youngest brother, David Clark. D.C. graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, where he worked with Paul Philippe Cret, and also traveled extensively in Europe. The brothers moved to California in 1910 and set up their architectural firm in downtown Los Angeles. Among their first designs in California was Monrovia High School, completed in 1912, which received praise in national architectural press.<sup>37</sup> They soon began specializing in educational buildings, using historical styles, including Mission Revival, while embodying progressive theories of education through practical considerations of cleanliness, light, and fire safety. They were particularly well known for their school buildings, including Santa Monica High School (1912-13), buildings at the University of California, Los Angeles, Van Nuys High School (1914) and buildings at Whittier College (1918).

Although the 1948 annex is not significant for its architecture, it was designed by a prominent architectural firm.

### *A.L. Worswick<sup>38</sup>*

Prominent Las Vegas architect, A.L. Worswick designed the 1948 annex on the Westside School campus. Worswick was a graduate of Kansas State University and worked in San Francisco before moving to Las Vegas around 1929. He was a prolific architect in Las Vegas, designing the Henderson House, the Palace Theater, the War Memorial Building, the Chief Hotel Court on Fremont Street, and the old McCarran Airport terminal building. In 1932, he designed the Hotel Apache, one of the most luxurious early hotel-casinos built in Las Vegas shortly after gambling was legalized. Worswick also served on the Las Vegas City Planning Commission.

### Conclusion

The Westside School campus served as an educational institution and community center for the Westside neighborhood from 1923 to 1967. As the sole elementary school on the Westside until 1945, it developed from a two room schoolhouse into a campus supporting education for more than 500 students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. At the same time, changes in the Las Vegas education system and continued reluctance from the school district to promote integrated education resulted in the spread of segregated elementary schools on the Westside. The campus became an important community center for the predominantly African American residents during a period of transition in Las Vegas.

<sup>37</sup> Sally Sim Stokes, "In a Climate Like Ours: The California Campuses of Allison & Allison," *California History*, Volume 84, Number 4, Fall 2007.

<sup>38</sup> Adapted from Historic American Buildings Survey documentation prepared by Heritage Architecture.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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| Branch No. 1, Las Vegas<br>Grammar School  |
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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

20<sup>th</sup> Century Preservation, "City of Las Vegas Historic Resources Survey and Inventory: West Las Vegas," September 2003, 7.

Clark County School Board, *Education in the Neon Shadow* (Stephens Press LLC, 2009).

Edwards, Elbert B., "Schools and Education in Southern Nevada," *Inside Nevada Schools: A Challenge for the Future* (Nevada State Retired Teachers Association), 1976. Gebhard, David, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California," *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 26 (May 1967): 132.

Heritage Architecture, "Historic American Buildings Survey documentation No. NV-65," n.d., 3.

Hershwitzky, Patricia, *West Las Vegas* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2011).

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"New Westside USO Plan Open," n.d., referenced in Heritage Architecture, Historic American Buildings Survey documentation No. NV-65.

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Sloane, Martin E., Ed., "School Desegregation in Ten Communities," (Washington, D.C.: United States Commission on Civil Rights), 1973.

Stokes, Sally Sim, "In a Climate Like Ours: The California Campuses of Allison & Allison," *California History*, Volume 84, Number 4, Fall 2007.

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### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
☒ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 2 acres \_\_\_\_\_

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates



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### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.179485 | Longitude: -115.179485 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:             |

Or

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

- |              |                 |                   |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 11N | Easting: 666780 | Northing: 4005450 |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block A, a distance of 154.80 feet; thence leaving said south line North 77 degrees 21' 31" East a distance of 157.68 feet to a point on the East line of said Block A; thence South 01 degrees 41' 02" East along said East Line a distance of 30.00 feet to the point of the beginning.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries were selected to include the lot on which the 1923 building and 1948 annex are located.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Robert Jay Chattel, AIA/President

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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| Name of multiple listing (if applicable)   |

organization: Chattel, Inc. | Historic Preservation Consultants  
street & number: 13417 Ventura Blvd.  
city or town: Sherman Oaks state: CA zip code: 91423  
e-mail: robert@chattel.us  
telephone: (818)788-7954  
date: May 2015

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Photo 1 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. Westside School campus, view northwest (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 2 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, view north (Chattel, 2012)

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Photo 3 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, south façade, view northwest (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 4 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, west elevation at left, east elevation of 1948 annex at right, view southeast (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 5 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, west (left) and north (right) elevations, view southwest (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 6 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, basement, view west (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 7 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, north elevation, view southeast (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 8 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, lobby, view south (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 9 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, corridor, view south (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 10 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, corridor, view north (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 11 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, office, view south (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 12 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, office, view northwest (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 13 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, restroom, view west (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 14 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, office, view south (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 15 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, broadcasting suite, view north (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 16 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, corridor in broadcasting suite, view south (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 17 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, rear exit, view north (Chattel 2012)

Photo 18 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1923 building, detail of extant historic wood cabinet, view southeast (Chattel, 2012)



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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Photo 19 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, view northeast (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 20 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, south façade, view north (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 21 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, porch, south façade, view northeast (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 22 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, porch, south façade, view west (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 23 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, west elevation, view southeast (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 24 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, west elevation bump out, view north (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 25 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, breezeway, view east (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 26 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, west (left) and north (right) courtyard elevations, view northwest (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 27 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, courtyard, view northwest (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 28 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, courtyard, view southwest (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 29 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, courtyard, view south (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 30 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, detail of historic steel sash windows in north courtyard elevation, view southeast (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 31 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, infilled breezeway in south facade, view south (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 32 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, office, view south (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 33 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, office, view north (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 34 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, restroom, view northwest (Chattel, 2012)

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Photo 35 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, office, view northwest (Chattel, 2012)

Photo 36 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, storage room in 1960 addition, view southeast (Chattel, 2012)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL  
(BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**

**CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHS**



**NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL  
(BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**

**HISTORIC MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)**

**330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**



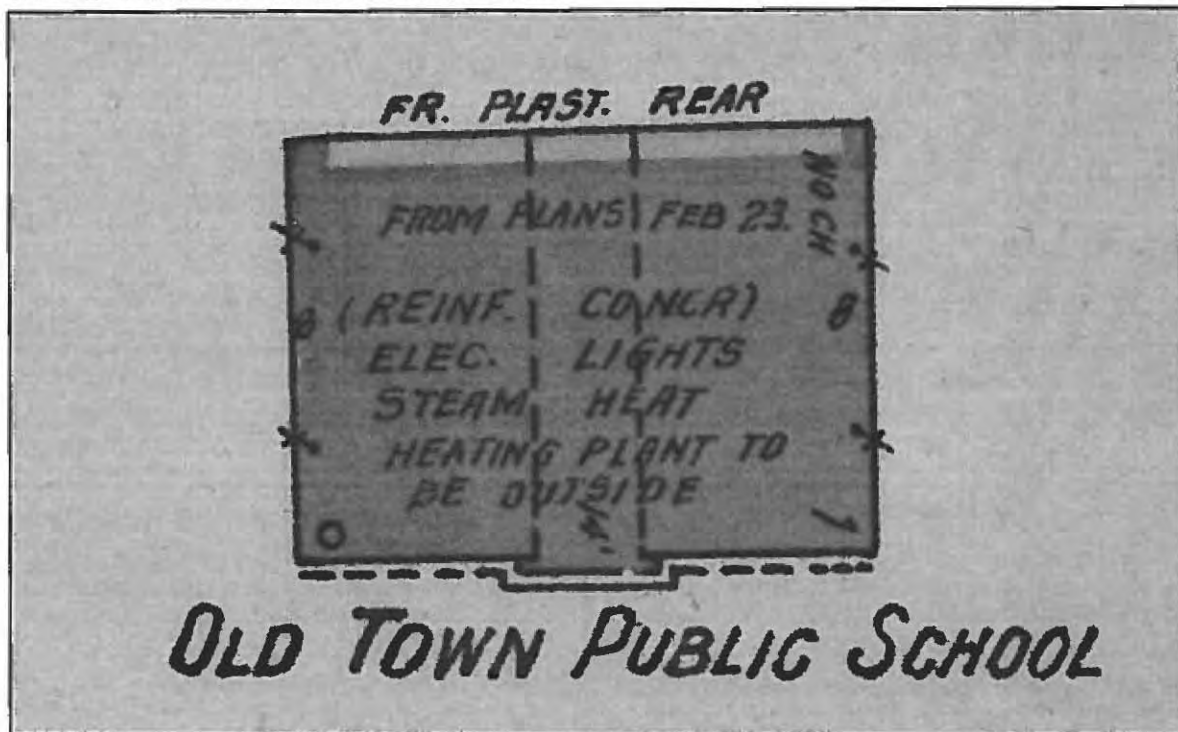
**Figure 1: Aerial, Westside School property outlined in orange (Google Earth)**



**Figure 2: Aerial, detail of Westside School property outlined in orange (Google Earth)**

**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**



**Figure 3:** Westside School 1923 building, Sanborn Fire Insurance map detail, Sheet 2, 1923. Note building in 1923 is two room schoolhouse, prior to addition in 1927-28 (University of Nevada, Reno, Mary B. Ansari Map Library, Nevada in Maps online)

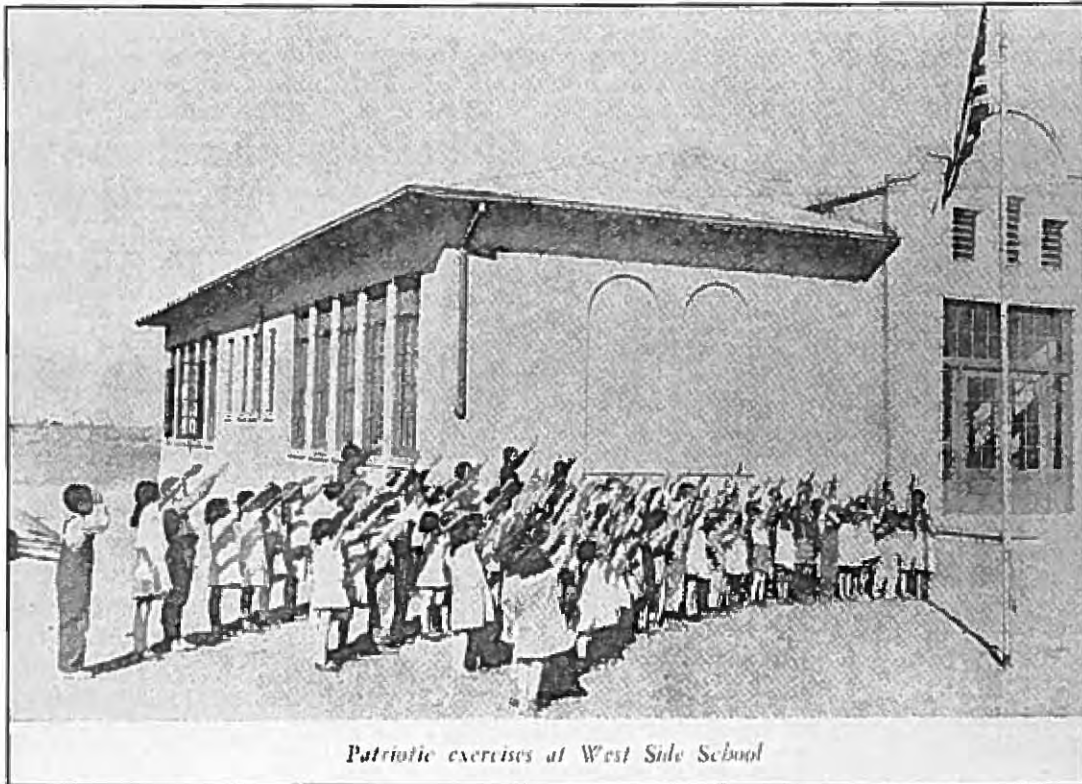


**Figure 4:** 1923 building, c. 1930 (Clark County School District Archive)



**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**

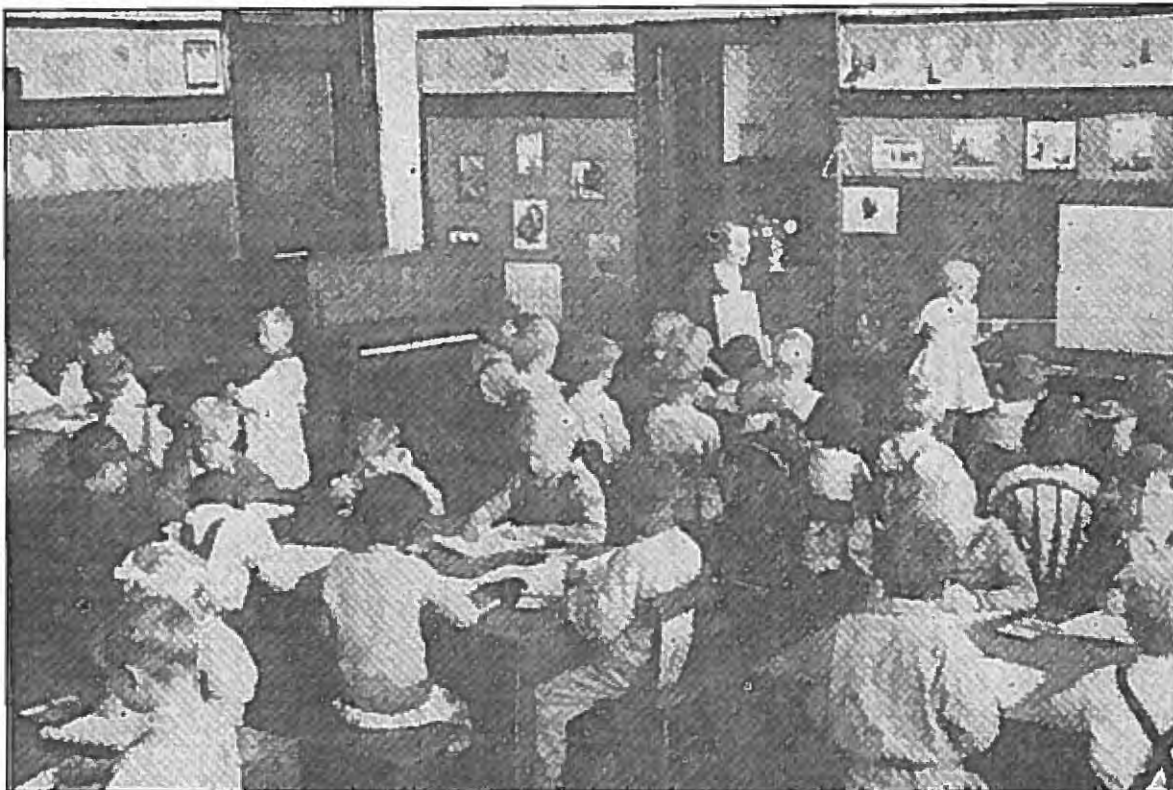


**Figure 5:** 1923 building, c. 1931. Note entrance doors, sidelights and transom (Clark County School District Archive)

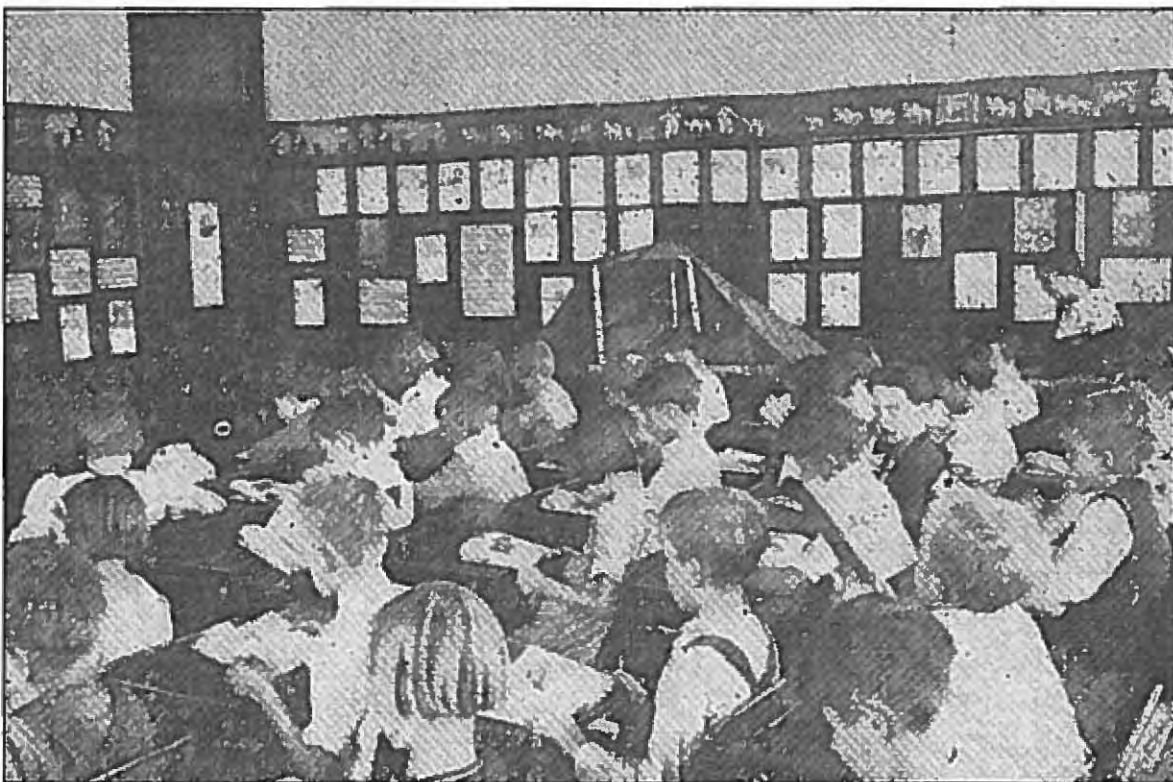


**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
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**Figure 7: 1923 building classroom, 1935 (Clark County School District Archive)**



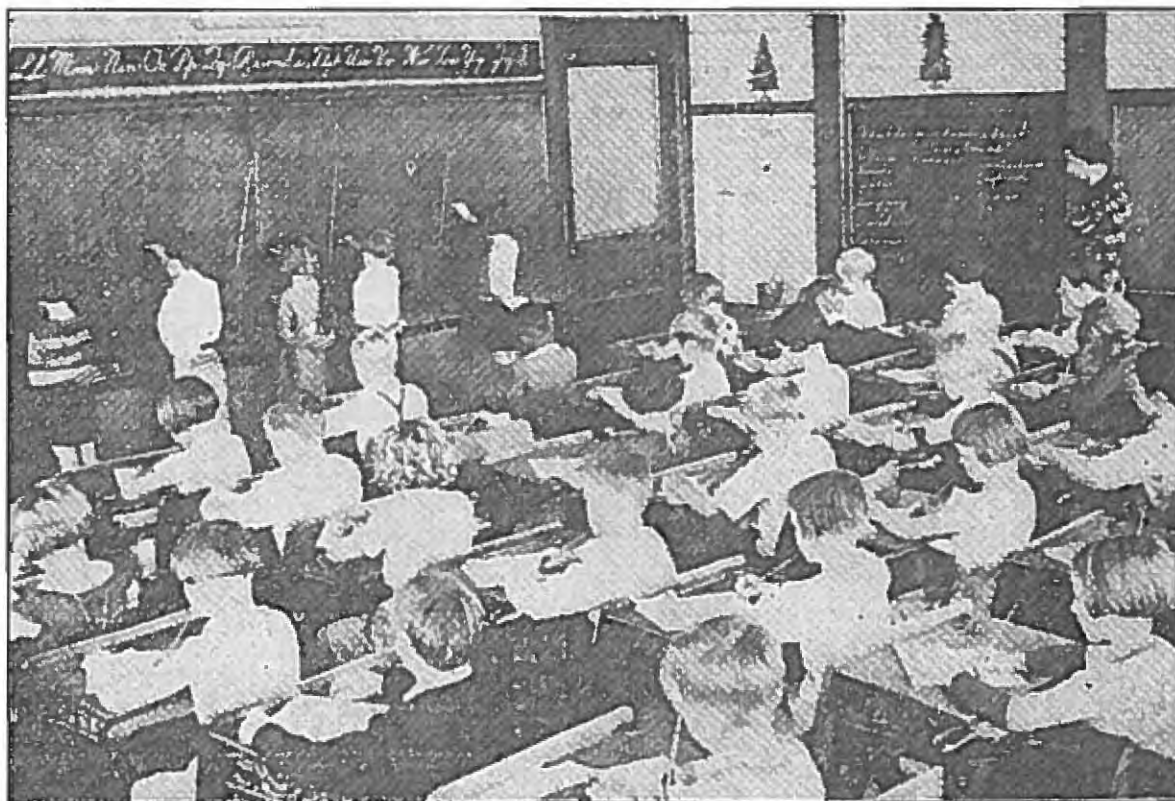
**Figure 8: 1923 building classroom, 1935 (Clark County School District Archive)**

**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**



**Figure 9: 1923 building classroom, 1935 (Clark County School District)**

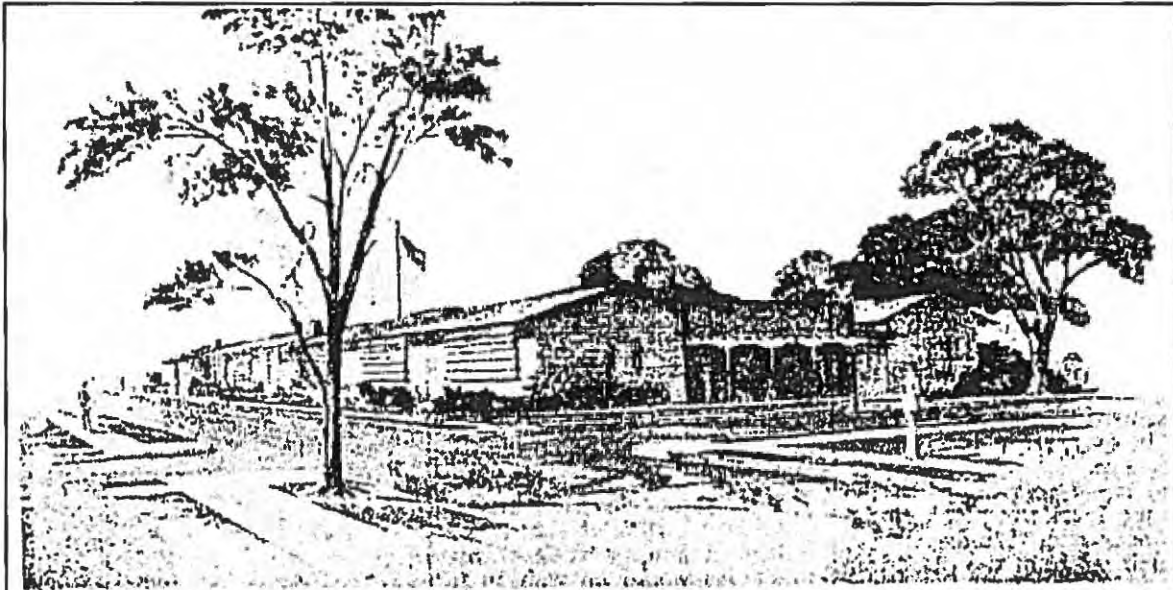


**Figure 10: 1923 building classroom, 1935 (Clark County School District)**



**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**



**WESTSIDE SCHOOL NEAR COMPLETION**—Shown above is the architect's drawing of the new addition to the Westside school which is expected to be ready for occupancy within two weeks. Designed by A. L. Worswick architectural firm, the building was erected under contract by the Lembke Construction company. The new structure is adjacent to the present school and will add eleven classrooms to the educational center. Included also in the new addition are offices for the principal and teacher's rooms. Total cost of the addition will approximate \$128,000

**Figure 11:** Drawing of 1948 building (*Las Vegas Review Journal*, 1948)



**Figure 12:** Aerial, view southeast, 1969 (Clark County School District Archive)

**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**



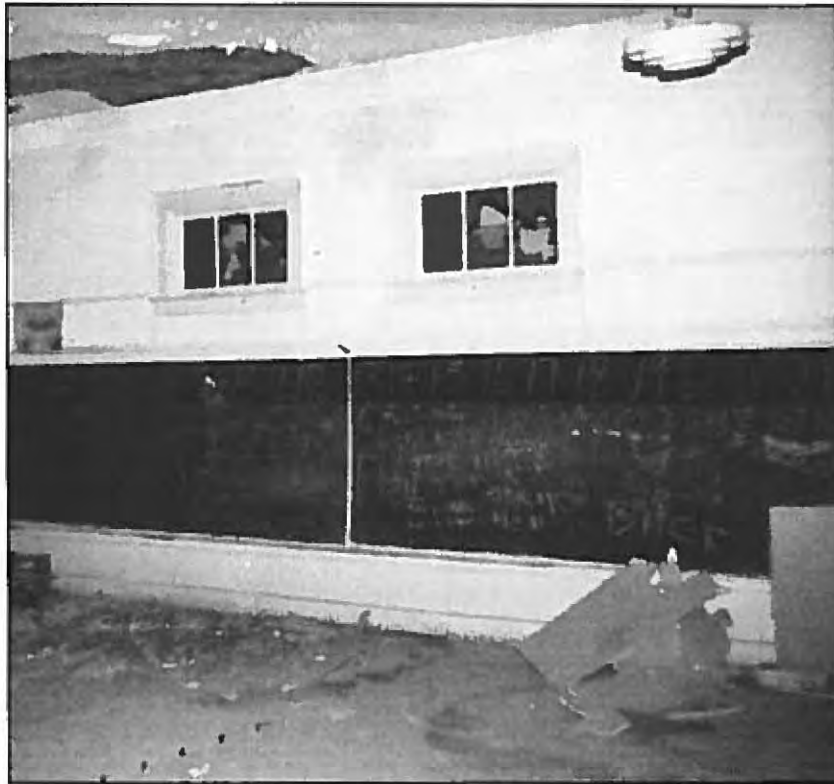
**Figure 13: Aerial, view west, 1969 (Clark County School District Archive)**



**Figure 14: 1923 building, 1982 (Clark County School District Archive)**

**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**



**Figure 15: 1923 building classroom, 1982 (Clark County School District Archive)**



**Figure 16: 1923 building corridor, 1982 (Clark County School District Archive)**

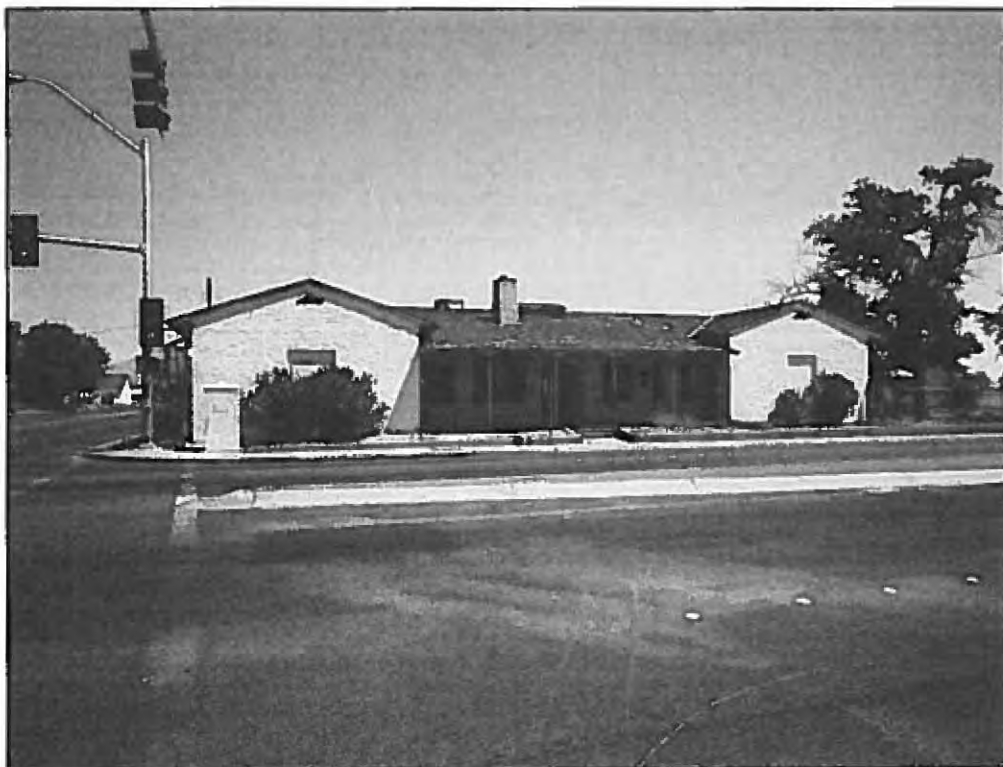


**PART 1: FIGURES**

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL (BRANCH NO. 1, LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR SCHOOL)  
330 WEST WASHINGTON AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106**



**Figure 17:** Westside School campus, date unknown (Clark County School District



**Figure 18:** 1948 annex, date unknown (Clark County School District Archive)