

Board of Museums and History March 1, 2024 Staff Report

February 21, 2023

National Register of Historic Places Listings – Press Releases Attached

- 1. Leroy and Carrie Christensen House, Las Vegas, Clark County. Listed February 9, 2024
- 2. El Rancho Hotel and Casino, Wells, Elko County. Listed February 7, 2024.
- 3. Gem Theater, Pioche, Lincoln County. Listed February 7, 2024.

Nevada State Register of Historic Places Listings – Press Release Attached

Cactus Theatre, Hawthorne, Mineral County. Listed January 8, 2024.

Pending Nominations to the National Register

Black Springs Volunteer Fire House, Reno Vicinity, Washoe County

This nomination has been submitted to the SHPO for review and consideration. Black Springs became a predominantly Black neighborhood in the unincorporated North Valleys area north of Reno, Nevada in the 1950s. It was notable as an entire neighborhood where Black citizens could purchase property at a time when restrictive racial covenants and rampant discrimination limited Black land ownership throughout the closest cities of Reno and Sparks. The Black Springs Volunteer Fire House served as headquarters for the neighborhood's volunteer firefighting organization for just over a decade. It was constructed in 1970 during a period of increased self-determination and community uplift.

LULAC Multi-Purpose Senior Center located at 330 North 13th Street, Las Vegas, Clark County
The property is a single-story Spanish Colonial Revival Style building, which was constructed in 1985-86 as the League of United Latin Americans (LULAC) Senior Center (known subsequently as the Arturo Cambiero Senior Center) and currently functions as the Adult Day Healthcare Center at the Arturo Cambiero Senior Center. The core of the building is the original 1985-86 massing, which retains its key architectural elements, namely an irregular plan with an octagonal tower; a low pitched, red tiled roof; round arch windows and arcade; and asymmetrical facades of white stucco.

Old Spanish Trail Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), Clark County

In 2011, the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) received contract funding from the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (NM HPD) to create a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) and prepare National Register nominations for six trail segments of the Old Spanish Trail (OST). The trail segment nominations represented the diverse history and archaeology of the trail, all on BLM administered public lands because these areas exhibited the highest integrity of landscape corridors. Throughout this process six individual nominations for the trail segments were prepared to move through the nomination process under the MPDF, but the work on the MPDF was never completed.

The Colorado State Historic Preservation Office has picked up this project and will work with the Nevada SHPO to complete this project.

Future Nomination, Rafael Rivera Neighborhood, Las Vegas, Clark County

The City of Las Vegas received a second NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant for a historic resources survey, historic context, and NRHP nomination related to the Rafael Rivera neighborhood in eastern Las Vegas.

Nevada Historical Marker Program:

No update.

Rebecca Palmer

From: Jennifer M. Jackson

Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 8:34 AM

Subject: Pioche's Art Deco Gem Theater listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Attachments: Gem Theater.JPG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jennifer Jackson, jmjackson@dcnr.nv.gov

Pioche's Art Deco Gem Theater listed in the National Register of Historic Places

PIOCHE, Nev. – Nestled against a hillside in downtown Pioche is a jewel of a theater – a Gem, to be exact. Constructed in 1937, this Art Deco marvel played an important role in the community's social fabric, hosting a plethora of local, state, and national news and entertainment events. During the tumultuous era of World War II, the Gem Theater served as a vital source of information, with newsreels keeping patrons abreast of the war's developments. Now the building has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Melissa Clary, founder of Friends of Gem Theater, says, "several generations of Pioche residents have shared memories of meeting their future spouse at the Gem Theater for dates, dropping off children to watch weekend matinees, and relishing in the buttery movie theater popcorn."

The theater boasts a modest Art Deco design, featuring a striking neon marquee with faceted gem detailing. Recent efforts by Friends of Gem Theater have seen the meticulous restoration of this iconic marquee. Inside, the theater retains much of its historic charm, with original film equipment, box office furnishings, Art Deco lighting fixtures, and even a "sob room" for soothing crying babies without disturbing fellow moviegoers. Adjacent to the Gem Theater stands another historic landmark, Brown's Hall/Thompson's Opera House built in 1873 and listed in the National Register in 1984, a testament to Pioche's rich cultural heritage.

In recognition of its cultural significance, the Gem Theater has been added to the prestigious <u>National Register</u> of <u>Historic Places</u> by the National Park Service. This designation not only honors the theater's illustrious past but also opens avenues for grant funding and tax incentives aimed at its preservation and safeguarding for future generations.

Rebecca Palmer, Administrator of the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, notes, "The mining town of Pioche has many wonderful historic resources, including four that were previously listed in the National Register. We are thrilled to help list the Gem as well. It is a special building with a rich history and a high level of historic integrity."

Under the stewardship of Friends of Gem Theater, the theater is currently undergoing restoration with plans to revive it as a vibrant community hub. The restoration efforts will encompass modern upgrades for accessibility and technology, while preserving the theater's historic architectural integrity.

Melissa Clary envisions the Gem Theater's restored neon marquee once again illuminating Main Street, serving as a beacon of community spirit and a catalyst for economic growth in Lincoln County. "The Friends of Gem Theater is honored to rehabilitate the movie theater and bring it back for all to enjoy, as we celebrate its listing in the National Register."

For more information about this listing or the National Register program, please contact the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office at (775) 684-3448 or shpo-info@shpo.nv.gov.

Photo Credit: Courtney Mooney, North Wind Resource Consulting, LLC.

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The **National Register of Historic Places** was established in 1966 under the National Historic Preservation Act to recognize historic resources important to national, state, and local history. For a resource to be eligible it should generally be 50 years of age, possess historical significance, and retain strong physical evidence of that story.

Jenny Jackson

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Historic El Rancho Hotel and Casino in Wells listed in the National Register of Historic Places

WELLS, Nev. – Celebrating a significant milestone, the El Rancho Hotel and Casino proudly marks its 75th anniversary this year, standing as a steadfast icon in downtown Wells. Since its inception in 1949, this historic establishment has beckoned travelers and locals alike, offering lodging, dining, gambling, and entertainment throughout the mid-20th century.

To commemorate its long history and importance to the community, the National Park Service (NPS) recently listed the building in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. The National Register recognizes places that are of historic and cultural significance, and expands opportunities for grant funding and tax incentives aimed at preserving and protecting these special sites for generations to come.

The El Rancho holds a special place in the heart of Wells, serving as a hub for entertainment, recreation, and commerce along the Victory Highway. Its two-story brick structure retains much of its original charm, including the iconic gaming room, Ranch Room restaurant, main bar, and café, all steeped in nostalgia. A striking neon sign adorns its roof, a beacon of its enduring allure.

The El Rancho stands as a symbol of resilience, having weathered a magnitude 6 earthquake that damaged many of the city's masonry buildings. In recent years, the City of Wells has leveraged local, state, and federal funds to perform critical repairs and begin a building-wide rehabilitation project. **Rebecca Palmer, Administrator of the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office**, notes that building walls damaged by the earthquake were restored using a grant from the State of Nevada's Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation. "The grant funds were successfully used to replace missing bricks, seismically reinforce the upper wall sections, and install a new roof. The new bricks are a wonderful match to the historic bricks, and it is gratifying to see the building in one piece again," said Administrator Palmer.

Looking ahead, the City of Wells is committed to furthering its rehabilitation efforts, with plans to transform the El Rancho into a vibrant community center. **Wells City Manager Jason Pengelly** said, "El Rancho Hotel & Casino remains standing in the center of what was the thriving business district of downtown Wells. In the past the property echoed with parties,

friends, food, and entertainment and filled our community with memories. We are proud to be revitalizing the building to create future memories for generations to come."

For more information about this listing or the National Register program, please contact the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office at (775) 684-3448 or shpo-info@shpo.nv.gov.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jennifer M. Jackson, jmjackson@dcnr.nv.gov

Historic Westside House listed in the National Register of Historic Places

LAS VEGAS, Nev. – The Christensen House in Las Vegas was built in 1938 by Leroy and Carrie Christensen, prominent former members of Las Vegas' Westside neighborhood. Today, the house is one of the earliest and most visually striking examples of middle-class residential construction remaining in the neighborhood.

To commemorate its history and importance to the community, the National Park Service (NPS) recently listed the house in the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>. The National Register recognizes places that are of historic and cultural significance, and expands opportunities for grant funding and tax incentives aimed at preserving and protecting these special sites.

The Christensen House is a unique, French Eclectic style building that features a stone tower with a conical roof, a large stone chimney, and rusticated concrete block walls. The house was among the first permanent homes constructed in the neighborhood and is representative of the way in which the newly emerging and economically empowered African American middle class worked to develop their own version of suburban homeownership amid a period of widespread discrimination and residential segregation in other parts of the city. The Christensen's stylish residence frequently hosted neighborhood events and functioned as a social hub for middle-class African Americans in the Westside.

Today, the house is cared for by its current owner, Las Vegas Catholic Worker, whose mission centers around social justice and assisting the poor. Julia Occhiogrosso, founder of the organization, says, "Adding the Christensen Home to the National Register of Historic Places honors the legacy of Elder Leroy and Carrie Christensen, preserving the unique and beautiful home that they constructed, as well as their inspirational story of ingenuity, fortitude, and resilience."

The National Register nomination for the house is the result of an Underrepresented Communities grant from NPS, which funded an intensive-level architectural survey of the Westside. The survey documented buildings built between 1930 and 1970 that are associated with the African American community. The survey identified the Christensen House as a significant building worthy of listing in the National Register. Bob Stoldal, Chairman of the City

of Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission notes, "The national acknowledgment of the history and beauty of the Christensen House is a well-deserved honor and a salute to its current owners, whose work and passion are preserving this vital piece of the history of the community of Las Vegas."

In Spring 2021, the National Trust for Historic Preservation featured the Christensen House on the cover of its magazine, *Preservation*, and included it in an article about other buildings associated with African American history in the neighborhood. The Historic Westside contains other resources listed in the National Register, including the Las Vegas Grammar School ("Westside School"), Harrison's Guest House, and the Berkeley Square Historic District.

For more information about this listing or the National Register program, please contact the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office at (775) 684-3448 or shpo-info@shpo.nv.gov.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jennifer M. Jackson, jmjackson@dcnr.nv.gov

Hawthorne's historic Cactus Theatre now listed in the Nevada State Register of Historic Places

HAWTHORNE, Nev. – The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office is excited to announce that the Cactus Theatre has been listed in the Nevada State Register of Historic Places. Because of its unique style and long history in the community, the Cactus is an iconic landmark in downtown Hawthorne. Listing the Cactus Theatre in the State Register recognizes the theater's architectural and cultural significance and its high degree of historic integrity.

Constructed in 1946, the theater is housed within a Quonset hut, a distinctive architectural type that is rare for theaters. Quonset Huts are semi-cylindrical metal buildings that were invented during World War II and used extensively on military installations due to their low cost and versatility.

"The Cactus Theatre is a wonderful historic resource whose military-style architecture speaks to the history of Hawthorne. During World War II, the Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot employed thousands of people and remained a busy base for decades. The theater provided entertainment for base employees from the time of its construction throughout much of the 20th century," said Rebecca Palmer, Administrator of the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. "The State Register listing recognizes the theater's historic significance and will help advance efforts to preserve and protect this iconic landmark."

The Cactus Theatre is currently owned by the non-profit Old Glory Theatre Co. They are focused on rehabilitating the building and reopening it as the Old Glory Theatre – a revival house playing 35mm prints that will also feature a collection of artwork and movie memorabilia honoring veterans in Nevada and veterans in film. Much of the restoration work has been accomplished with a grant from the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation, a State of Nevada Commission that awards financial assistance to governmental entities and nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate historic resources for use as cultural centers.

"I feel so lucky that I am able to bring the Cactus Theatre back to life as the Old Glory Theatre in Hawthorne," **said Kansas Bowling, President of the Old Glory Theatre Co.** "With the Fallon Theatre, Central Theatre (Ely), and Crystal Theatre (Elko) in operation, and the tentative



STATE OF NEVADA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Joe Lombardo, *Governor*James A. Settelmeyer, *Director*Rebecca L. Palmer, *Administrator*

reopening of the Gem Theatre in Pioche and the McGill Theatre, Nevada will have a strong rural historic cinema coalition.'

For more information about this listing or the State Register program, please contact the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office at (775) 684-3448 or shpo-info@shpo.nv.gov.

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Created in 1979 by the Nevada Legislature, the Nevada State Register is an official list kept by the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office of places and resources worthy of preservation (NRS 383.085). These resources reflect history, architecture, archaeology, and culture that are important to Nevadans. For a resource to be eligible it should generally be 50 years of age, possess historical significance, and retain strong physical evidence of that story.



Name of Resource	City	County	Date Reviewed by the Board of Museums and History	Current Status	SHPO Comments or Action
Leroy and Carrie Christensen House	Las Vegas	Clark	12/7/2023	Listed, 2/9/2024	
Gem Theater	Pioche	Lincoln	12/7/2023	Listed, 2/7/24	
El Rancho Hotel and Casino	Wells	Elko	12/7/2023	Listed, 2/7/24	
Cactus Theatre	Hawthorne	Mineral	12/7/2023	Listed, 1/8/24	
Dunkahni Archeological District		White Pine	N/A (federal agency nomination)	Listed, 10/10/2023	
Las Vegas High School Historic District	Las Vegas	Clark	12/9/2021	Listed, 3/3/22	District includes the previously listed resources
St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral Complex	Reno	Washoe	12/9/2021	Listed, 2/17/22	
First Church of Christ, Scientist (Lear Theater)	Reno	Washoe	6/11/2021	Amended, 12/20/21	Amended existing listing to include additional information
Frazier Hall - Las Vegas High School	Las Vegas	Clark	12/4/2020	Amended, 7/23/21	Amended existing listing to include Frazier Hall
Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse	Reno	Washoe	N/A (federal agency nomination)	Listed, 3/22/21	
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral	Reno	Washoe	6/11/2020	Listed, 10/5/20	
Maine Street Historic District	Fallon	Churchill	3/20/2019	Listed, 06/27/2019	
Lund Grade School	Lund	White Pine	9/27/2018	Listed, 12/7/2018	
Fire Stations in Nevada MPDF	State-wide	State- wide	11/30/2017	Approved for use, 2/5/2018	

Name of Resource	City	County	Date Reviewed by the Board of Museums and History	Current Status	SHPO Comments or Action
Pioche Fire House	Pioche	Lincoln	11/30/2017	Listed, 2/5/2018	
Ely City Hall and Fire Station	Ely	White Pine	11/30/2017	Listed 2/5/2018	
Sandstone Ranch - Additional Doc. & Boundary Increase	Blue Diamond	Clark	11/30/2017	Accepted, 4/25/2019	Full history and resource inventory added, including archaeology
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Administration & Cultural Center (Reed Whipple Center)	Las Vegas	Clark	11/30/2017	Returned by Keeper	Comments received from NPS; forwarded to CLG (Las Vegas) for decision on future action
Tookatudu	Nixon (vicinity)	Washoe	N/A (federal land only)	Comments with BLM - Humboldt River Field Office	SHPO informal review sent to BLM on 8/28/2017
Agriculture on the Carson River in Nevada's Douglas and Ormsby Counties	Multiple	Carson; Douglas	6/15/2017	Approved for use, 3/12/2018	
Lampe, Wilhelm & William, Ranch	Gardnerville	Douglas	6/15/2017	Listed, 4/12/2018	
Bahsahwahbee	Major's Place (vicinity)	White Pine	N/A (federal land only)	Listed, 5/1/2017	Nomination drafted by Goshute Tribe consultant; submitted by BLM
Newlands Heights Historic District	Reno	Washoe	9/14/2016	Listed, 12/27/2016	

Name of Resource	City	County	Date Reviewed by the Board of Museums and History	Current Status	SHPO Comments or Action
Barrel Springs Archaeological District and Traditional Cultural Place	Vya (vicinity)	Washoe	N/A (federal land only)	Comments on review with BLM - Applegate Field Office	SHPO sent comments to BLM on 12/23/2016
lt-goom-mum teh-weh- weh ush-shah-ish	Dresslerville Washoe Indian Community (vicinity)	Douglas	N/A (federal land only)	Listed, 2/1/2016	USFS
Douglass-Frey Ranch	near Fallon	Churchill	9/11/2015	Listed, 11/17/2015	
Las Vegas Grammar School - Amendment	Las Vegas	Clark	6/19/2015	Approved by Keeper, 10/2/2015	
Nevada State Prison	Carson City	Carson City	4/8/2015	Listed 10/2/2015	
Nevada Northern Railway - McGill Depot	McGill	White Pine	12/12/2014	Listed 2/17/2015	
Harrison's Guest House	Las Vegas	Clark	12/12/2014	Listed 5/3/2016	
Hampton-Sullivan House	Virginia City	Storey	3/7/2014	Returned by Keeper; already listed in NRHP under selected Area of Significance	No SHPO action pending
de-ek wadapush (Cave Rock)	Lincoln Park	Douglas	4/11/2013	Listed 1/31/2017	
El Cortez Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Clark	12/7/2012	Listed 2/13/2013	
Reno Southern Pacific Railroad Depot	Reno	Washoe	9/14/2012	Listed 11/12/2012	
Washoe County Library	Reno	Washoe	9/14/2012	Listed 2/13/2013	
Morelli House	Las Vegas	Clark	12/2/2011	Listed 6/3/2012	
Westside Historic District	Carson City	Carson City	9/9/2011	Listed 11/2/2011	
Galena Creek Schoolhouse	Reno	Washoe	3/11/2011	Listed 5/4/2011	

Name of Resource	City	County	Date Reviewed by the Board of Museums and History	Current Status	SHPO Comments or Action
Piper, Henry, House	Virginia City	Storey	3/11/2011	Listed 5/4/2011	
B-29 Serial No. 45- 21847 (Heavy Bomber)	Overton	Clark	N/A (federal land only)	Listed 4/20/2011	NPS
Gypsum Cave	Las Vegas (vicinity)	Clark	N/A (federal land only)	Listed	
"Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" Sign	Las Vegas	Clark	3/13/2009	Listed 5/1/2009	
Las Vegas Post Office and CH - NHL (courtesy review)	Las Vegas	Clark	3/13/2009	Returned by NHL program; National significance not adequately demonstrated	No SHPO action pending
Berkley Square Historic District	Las Vegas	Clark	12/5/2008	Listed 10/23/2009	
<i>Kurangwa</i> (Mount Grant)	Hawthorne (vicinity)	Mineral	N/A (federal land only)	No action pending by U.S. Army	SHPO review sent to Walker River Paiute representative for possible completion
Lorenzi Park	Las Vegas	Clark	12/5/2008	Returned by Keeper – Period of Significance and issues with context	No SHPO action pending

Name of Resource	City	County	Date Reviewed by the Board of Museums and History	Current Status	SHPO Comments or Action
Las Vegas Main Street Historic District	Las Vegas	Clark	12/5/2008 and 12-14-2006	Significant owner objection in nominated area; the Board of Museums and History voted to adjust boundaries and reconsider district; application not resubmitted by the City.	No SHPO action pending. Note on NRHP boundaries: boundaries should be based on historical extent of nominated area and integrity, not on owner objection. District nominations that exclude contributing elements due to owner objection may be rejected by the Keeper.
Walking Box Ranch	Searchlight	Clark	9/5/2008	Listed 1/30/2009	
Spanish Trail, Old, Mormon Road Historic District (Boundary Increase)	Moapa	Clark	N/A (federal land only)	Listed 3/21/2008	BLM
Cottage Schools, The	Fallon	Churchill	3/19/2008	Listed 6/10/2008	
Veterans of Foreign Wars Building	Reno	Washoe	3/19/2008	Listed 6/10/2008	
Smith HotelCornelius Hotel	Caliente	Lincoln	3/19/2008	Listed 6/10/2008	
Schools in Nevada MPDF	Statewide	Statewide	12/3/2007	Approved by Keeper, 2/19/2008	
Gardnerville Elementary School	Gardnerville	Douglas	12/3/2007	Listed 2/19/2008	
Minden Elementary School	Minden	Douglas	12/3/2007	Listed 2/19/2008	
Bank of Sparks	Sparks	Washoe	6/14/2007	Listed 9/28/2007	
Lamoille Organization Camp	Lamoille	Elko	N/A (federal land only)	Listed 6/14/2007	USFS
Robison House	Sparks	Washoe	6/7/2006	Listed 9/29/2006	

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Name of Resource	City	County	Date Reviewed by the Board of Museums and History	Current Status	SHPO Comments or Action
Woodlawn Cemetery	Las Vegas	Clark	6/7/2006	Listed 11/21/2006	
Fleischmann Atmospherium Planeterium - Additional Documentation	Reno	Washoe	3/1/2006	Approved by Keeper, 4/21/2006	Additional documentation argued for national significance for the Planeterium, listed in the NRHP in 1994
Federal Building and Post Office	Fallon	Churchill	12/7/2005	Listed 3/8/2006	
Manhattan School	Manhattan	Nye	12/7/2005	Listed 3/8/2006	
Kind, J. Clarence, House	Reno	Washoe	6/1/2005	Listed 10/5/2005	
US Post Office, Ely, Nevada	Ely	White Pine	6/1/2005	Listed 10/5/2005	
McKeen Motor Car #70	Carson City	Carson City	6/1/2005	Listed 9/6/2005	
Foreman-Roberts House - Amendment	Carson City	Carson City	4/5/2005	Approved by Keeper, 5/27/2005	Amended to correct construction date to 1863-1864, changed name to Foreman-Roberts house, and period of significance to 1863-1874, along with corrections to errors in 1978 NRHP nomination.
Fernley and Lassen Railway Depot	Fernley	Lyon	4/5/2005	Listed 6/1/2005	
Las Vegas Post Office and CH - Amendment	Las Vegas	Clark	4/5/2005	Approved by Keeper, 5/27/2005	Amended 1983 NRHP listing to include role in the 1950 Kefauver Hearings
Miller-Rowe/Holgate House	Reno	Washoe	4/5/2005	Listed 5/26/2005	

Name of Resource	City	County	Date Reviewed by the Board of Museums and History	Current Status	SHPO Comments or Action
Winnemucca Hotel	Winnemucca	Humboldt	4/5/2005	Listed 5/26/2005	
Dave Canyon, Se'aquada, Table Mountain	Lovelock (vicinity)	Pershing	N/A (federal land only)	Listed 3/23/2005	BLM