

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mesquite High School Gymnasium

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 144 E. North 1st Street

not for publication

city, town Mesquite

vicinity

state Nevada code NV

county Clark

code 003

zip code 89024

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Ronald A. Jones Date: 1/31/92

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date

5. 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: Duane... Date of Action: 3/10/92

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE, Sports Facility

Education, School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health Care, Clinic

Social, Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/

Italian Renaissance Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof Asphalt

other Terra Cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Please see continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1939-1942

Significant Dates
1939

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder

Miller, Miles

Salzner-Thompson

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheet.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	1
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7	6	2	7	5	0
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4	0	7	7	1	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the northwest corner of East North 1st Street and Willow Street proceed 445.5 feet north and then proceed 396 feet west. Then proceed 445.5 feet south to the northeast corner of Yucca Street and East North 1st Street. Then proceed 396 feet east to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the original school parcel which has historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Osmon, Historian; James Woodward, Archtiectural Historian
 organization Woodward Architectural Group date June, 1991
 street & number 398 South Mill Avenue, Suite 202 telephone (602) 829-7667
 city or town Tempe state AZ zip code 85281

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MESQUITE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

7. Description:

The Mesquite High School Gymnasium was built in 1939 and represents the Italian Renaissance Revival style. The gymnasium was designed by Salt Lake City architect Miles M. Miller, and its construction was funded through the federal PWA program. Except for the infilled windows at the north facade, the integrity of the building remains high, especially in design, materials, and workmanship. Its integrity of location and setting also remains intact, although the historic schoolhouse associated with the gymnasium is no longer standing. Currently the building houses several small agencies including the Virgin Valley Medical Clinic, the Mesquite Justice Court, and the Mesquite Senior Center.

The Mesquite High School Gymnasium is located at 144 East North First Street, Mesquite, Nevada. It is located in the NW 1/4 of Section 26, T13S, R71E. The original school site was rectangular, measuring 445.5 feet long by 396 feet deep, and is bounded by Yucca Street to the west, Willow Street to the east, and East North First Street to the south. The primary facade is oriented south onto First Street at mid-block between Yucca Street and Willow Street. Concrete basketball courts are located directly to the north of the building. The site includes no outbuildings.

The Mesquite High School Gymnasium is a one-story structure with classroom spaces forming a lower massing around three sides of the taller gymnasium. The building measures 119 x 73 feet. The walls are constructed of red tinted concrete bricks, and the foundation is cast concrete with a plinth. The three-part facade at the main elevation is created from the stepped back walls of the side wings. The rear wall of the gymnasium is divided into five bays by concrete brick pilasters. The classroom areas are topped with a flat roof behind a parapet, while the main gym has a hipped roof supported on steel trusses and covered with composition shingles.

Exterior features include tall steel windows with 15 lite fixed sash and 6 lite awning sash. The windows are in groups of five on each side of the entrance. Smaller steel sash windows are located along the east and west walls. The round arch windows of the gymnasium's north wall have been infilled. The paired door entrance is centrally located at the projecting, classically detailed frontispiece.

The frontispiece is constructed of terra cotta as are the paired classical pilasters and entablature, and the cornice that extends the length of the facade. The doorway is highlighted with a terra cotta round arch surround. In addition, the stylized frieze at the gymnasium eave is

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decorated with glazed terra cotta medallions. A stepped concrete water table with a brick soldier course at the base, and an offset brick reveal at the building corners are distinguishing architectural details.

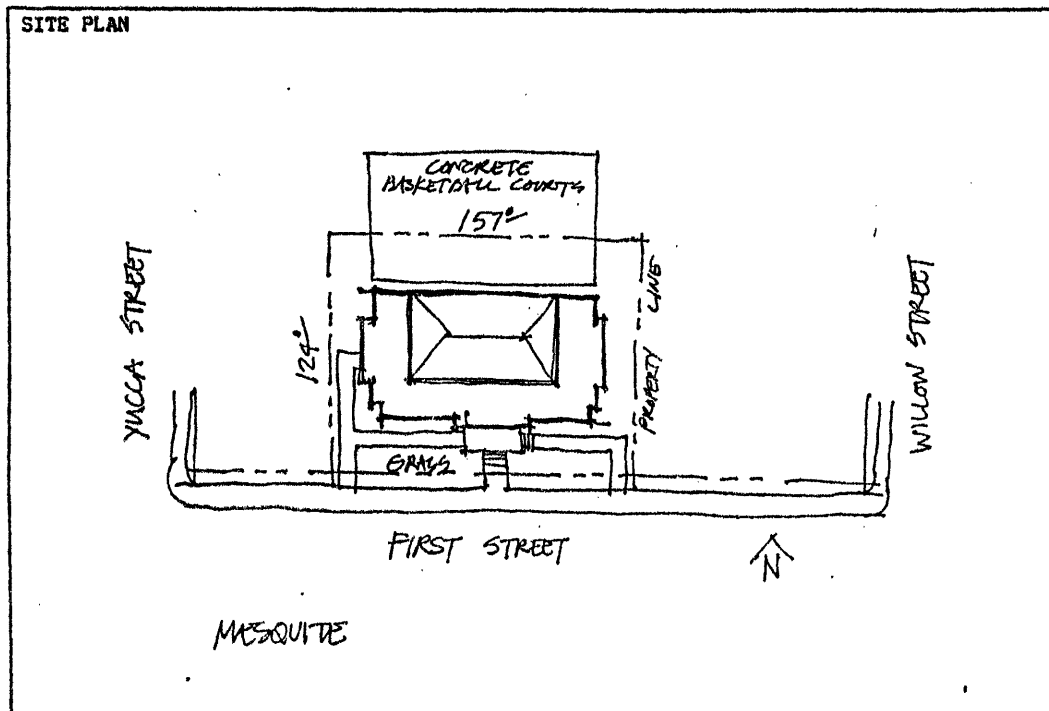
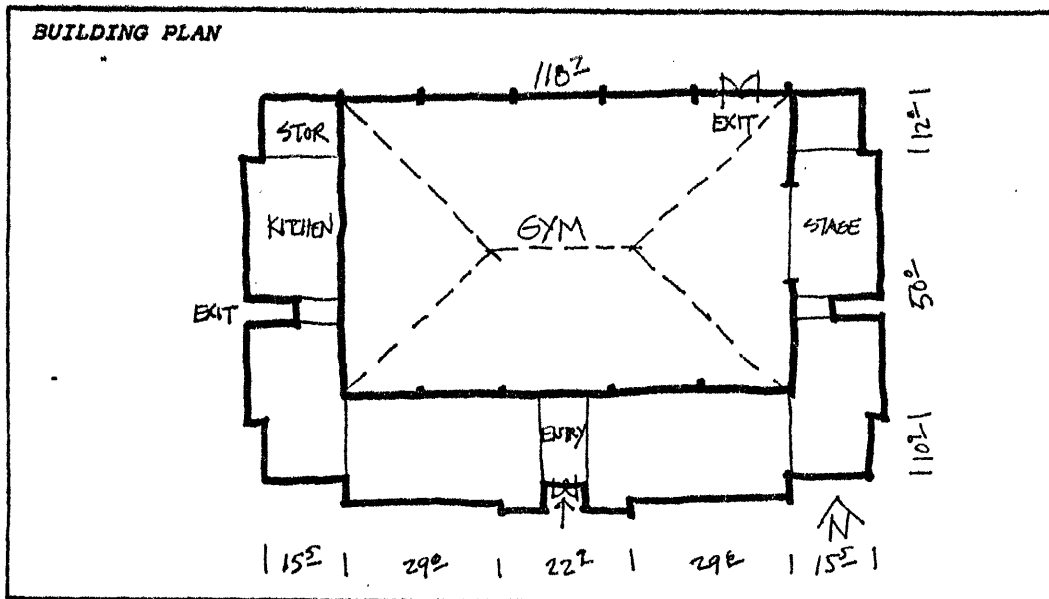
Interior details include fluted pilasters, stuccoed walls and wood tongue-in-groove ceilings. The spatial volume of the gymnasium interior remains intact. Metal roof ventilators and the infilled rear windows are the only major alterations to the building's exterior.

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MESQUITE GYMNASIUM



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PHOTOGRAPH DESCRIPTIONS-MESQUITE GYMNASIUM

Photo 1- Mesquite Gymnasium
Mesquite, Nevada
Jim Garrison
June 1990
Nevada SHPO
Looking North, Front Elevation Detail

Photo 2- Mesquite Gymnasium
Mesquite, Nevada
Jim Garrison
June 1990
Nevada SHPO
Looking Northwest, Front Elevation

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8. Significance

The Mesquite High School Gymnasium is significant under Criteria C in the area of significance of Architecture. Built in the Italian Renaissance Revival Style, it is representative of the historic context "Schoolhouse Architecture in Southern Nevada's Fifth Supervision District, 1870 to 1942." It is significant as an example of its style as well as its rare use of terra cotta and tinted concrete brick. The Mesquite Gymnasium is illustrative of the School Support Building property type, and possesses the characteristics of that type in terms of its historic use, which reflected the expanding educational curriculums of the 1930s, and its functional design, which incorporated a central gymnasium with classrooms on the perimeter. The building is representative of the Custom Architecturally Designed Schoolhouse property type as well. It embodies the characteristics of that type in terms of the formality of its style, and the special attention paid to the spatial organization of the building's uses.

School support buildings were important components of the expanding role of education that occurred beginning in the early 20th Century. Their function and necessary large size often required designs and methods of construction quite different from traditional school buildings. Almost always designed by architects, and usually in the formal styles, the school support building became symbolic, not only of educational reform, but also of community stature.

Funded by the federal Public Works Administration (PWA), the Mesquite Gymnasium was designed by Salt Lake City architect Miles E. Miller, and built by Salzner-Thompson, contractors. Miller also designed gymnasiums in the nearby towns of Bunkerville (1939) and Overton (1938) under the PWA program. The Mesquite Gymnasium exemplifies the public architecture sponsored by the federal relief programs of the Depression era. The federal government promoted subdued or minimal versions of the traditional styles associated with public buildings. Those styles were mostly drawn from Italian Renaissance or classical examples. They also promoted the use of modern, fireproof materials, particularly concrete and steel.

The design of the Mesquite Gymnasium illustrates that preference through its incorporation of elements of the Italian Renaissance Revival Style in a simple, straightforward manner. Stylistic features of the Mesquite Gymnasium that typify the Italian Renaissance Revival model are strict attention to symmetry at the principal facade, a division of the facade into three primary bays, and classical detailing of the cornice, entry frontispiece, pilasters, and doorways. The gymnasium entrance bay is designed with a pair of fluted classical pilasters flanking each side of

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the recessed, round arch doorway. The pilasters terminate at an ornate entablature and cornice that extends the length of the facade. Those elements are built of tan terra cotta. Although a common architectural product, its application on Southern Nevada school buildings is rare. The stylized frieze at the gymnasium eave is also decorated with terra cotta, in the form of medallions.

Aside from the application of terra cotta ornamentation and symmetry of the building, the design makes little additional reference to classical architecture. The balance of the gymnasium's design is, however, in keeping with the concepts of minimalism, simplicity, and use of modern materials, as promoted by the federal government. Windows along the front of the building, which shed light into classrooms, are organized in groups of five and are tall, steel sash awning windows. Other windows are symmetrically located and also constructed of steel. Tall, arched windows along the rear wall of the gymnasium, now infilled, were also constructed of steel sash.

The use of brick-size, red-tinted concrete masonry units is regionally rare, but reflects the desire to use modern fireproof materials that simulated traditional clay brick. Although briefly popular during the 1920s and 1930s, the use of concrete brick was not economical and was soon replaced with larger concrete block, which required less material to manufacture and less labor to erect. The masonry work at the gymnasium is well detailed, with stepped back reveals at the building corners, and soldier courses at the water table and as a decorative band along the upper walls of the lesser facades.

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9. Major Bibliographical References:

Dondero, Harvey, N. History of Clark County Schools. (Las Vegas: Clark County School District, 1988).

Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. (Washington: D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1981).

Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-39, Vol. 1. (New York: De Capo Press, 1986).

Russell, Elliott. History of Nevada. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987).

Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1969).

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000119 Date Listed: 3/10/92

Mesquite High School Gymnasium
Property Name

Clark NV
County State

Historic School Buildings in the Evolution of the 5th Supervision
School District MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic
Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation
subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments,
notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included
in the nomination documentation.

for *Autawicki A. Lee*
Signature of the Keeper

3/10/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The period of significance is amended
to read 1939.

This information was confirmed with Michelle McFadden of the
Nevada State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)