

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

04 1992

### 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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Douglas County High School

other names/site number Douglas Junior High School

#### 2. Location

street & number 1477 Highway 395  not for publication

city or town Gardnerville  vicinity

state Nevada code NV county Douglas code 005 zip code 89423

#### 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  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Jones 1/31/92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Antoinette J. Lee 3/9/92

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
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	5	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	5	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Neo-Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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, 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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1916-1942

Significant Dates

January 7, 1916 (Completion date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Frederick J. DeLongchamps, Architect

Davies Bros. Construction Company, Minden

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

University of Nevada, Reno

University Library, Special Collections Dept.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 13.66 Acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>11</u>	<u>261620</u>	<u>4313920</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

Ronald J. James, State Historic Preservation Officer  
name/title Michelle McFadden, Architectural Historian

organization Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology date January, 1992

street & number 123 West Nye Lane, Room 208 telephone (702) 687-5138

Capitol Complex  
city or town Carson City state Nevada zip code 89710

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1

The Douglas County High School is a one-story, masonry structure designed in 1915 by Frederick J. DeLongchamps. The Neo-Classical style building was constructed as the Douglas County High School and has served as such until 1958, when the school was moved to another location. The building, currently being rehabilitated, retains its historic integrity. Current plans for the building include locating a community cultural center here.

The school fronts the main highway through Gardnerville, Highway 395, and is bordered by various commercial and residential buildings of the twentieth century. The school is set back from the highway approximately 50'; the landscaping includes a lawn bisected by a sidewalk leading to the front entry and some evergreens planted directly in front of the school. The building sits on a lot (13.66 acres) owned by the Douglas County School District (APN No. 25-090-04); several non-contributing buildings also occupy the site.

West of the High School, the "Old Gym Playhouse," a one-story, concrete auditorium building stands empty. The simple, Moderne style auditorium was constructed in the early 1930s with Works Progress Administration funds, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There are basketball courts to the west of the Old Gym Playhouse. Four other non-contributing buildings comprise the Carson Valley Middle School. The single and multi-story concrete buildings, with flat and gable roofs, form a separate complex. This complex, surrounded by playing fields to the north, is located to the northeast of the Douglas County High School. Only one, low building of the middle school complex is visible from Highway 395.

The Neo-Classical style, Douglas County High School is a symmetrical building supported by a raised concrete foundation. The walls rise to a flat roof banded by a low brick parapet terminating in a narrow concrete cap course. A galvanized iron dentiled cornice with full entablature is found beneath the parapet. Exterior wall planes are faced in red brick. A brick soldier course separates the basement from the first story and a second soldier course runs below the entablature.

The principle elevation (south) includes a central projecting pavilion defined by terra-cotta Doric columns and reached by way of an open, concrete stair. The building's windows are one-over-one double hung sash windows; the original windows remain in

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

place on the main facade. Smaller one-over-one light windows allow light into the basement level. The paired, central doors are surmounted by a transom window.

Upstairs, the interior floor plan provides for two large classrooms in each of the arms of the "T" and an auditorium space in the leg of the "T." A similar floor plan exists downstairs. Smaller spaces include the vestibule inside the front doors, the teacher's break room and principal's office, and below, the boiler room and restrooms. Rooms and corridors are finished with baseboards, dado rails, picture moldings, and plaster ceilings. The corridor and auditorium flooring is maple. Many of the original blackboards and chalk rails remain in place.

In 1991, rehabilitation work begun. The roof, which is not visible from the grounds, has been reinforced with new glue-lam beams and the roof surface has been replaced. The masonry walls have been strengthened from the interior, and some windows on the side and rear elevations will be filled in with brick. A concrete foundation has been poured in one area of the basement to provide stability for the new elevator. Repair to the galvanized iron cornice, terra cotta columns, wood window frames, and other exterior features has been planned but not executed. These modifications do not alter the historic integrity of the Douglas County High School and will preserve the building for its future use as a community cultural center.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

---

The Douglas County High School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. As one of the most significant expressions of the Neo-Classical style in the Carson Valley, and the work of the prominent Nevada architect Frederick J. DeLongchamps, the building qualifies for criterion C. The building is also eligible under criterion A, for its association with the development of Gardnerville and of local politics after the turn of the century.

### Criterion C: Architecture

The Douglas County High School is an excellent expression of the first phase of the career of Frederick J. DeLongchamps. The noted architect began his solo career in design six years before his work on this high school. Throughout the first decade of his career, the architect was preoccupied by the Neo-Classical style. The Douglas County High School is one the purest expressions of the style among the architect's buildings of the period. The school is also part of DeLongchamps' attempt to broaden the geographic base of his clientele. Together with the Douglas County Courthouse and other buildings from the neighboring town of Minden, the high school is an expression of the architect's success in the rural Douglas County, far to the south of his home base in Reno. Please refer to the nomination "Thematic Nomination of the Architecture of Frederick J. DeLongchamps" for a detailed discussion of DeLongchamps' work.

### Criterion A: Politics/Government

The Nevada Territorial government created Douglas County in 1861. Genoa, the oldest settlement in the territory, was selected as the original county seat. For most of its history, the County relied on agriculture as its chief industry, and Genoa, at the foot of the Sierra, provided an excellent location to market produce to immigrants on their way to California. By the turn of the century, the local economy and demography had shifted. Without the influx of pioneers, local farmers and ranchers found it increasingly expedient to deal with entrepreneurial, market and governmental services in the center of the County. As a result, two communities roughly the same size, Minden and Gardnerville, were founded and grew up near one another in that location.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   2  

---

Consequently, Genoa ceased to be the primary population center and became a likely target for a loss of its county seat. While Minden and Gardnerville were both likely candidates for the honor, neither was able to secure the shift without the support of the other. When the Douglas County Courthouse in Genoa burned in 1910, the leaders of Minden and Gardnerville realized that the need for a governmental shift was urgent since further expenditures in tiny Genoa would be unproductive.

Community leaders reached, therefore, a compromise: Minden would be the new seat of government (effective January 1, 1916) and Gardnerville would become the home of the new high school. The year before the State Legislature designated the county seat shift to be effective, Douglas County commissioned DeLongchamps to design both a new courthouse and a new high school. The architect, undoubtedly understanding the nature of political compromise and the potential rivalry between the two communities, designed two structures which are remarkably similar in design and scale. The Neo-Classical style Douglas County Courthouse and Douglas County High School are one-story masonry buildings with central projecting pavilions on the main facade. The high school is, therefore, both an architectural expression of local politics and of the architect's ability to understand and address his client's concerns. The school, soon to serve as a community museum and cultural center, will preserve this local history for interpretation to future generations.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   1  

---

Bibliography

- DeLongchamps, Frederick J., "Plans for the Douglas County High School," Special Collections, Getchell Library, University of Nevada, Reno.
- Douglas County Commissioner's Minutes (Douglas County Courthouse, Minden, Nevada) April 5, June 6, July 3, and July 6, 1915 and January 7, 1916.
- Krick, Grover L., "History of the Douglas County Courthouse," The Nevada State Bar Journal IV:3 (July 1939).
- Record-Courier (Gardnerville, Douglas County, Nevada) March 26, April 9, May 7, May 14, June 4, June 5, June 10, June 15, July 2, July 4, July 8, July 9, September 3, October 15, and December 31, 1915; March 6, March 24, June 2, July 5, July 15, July 26, and October 6, 1916; May 18, 1917; September 8, 1936.
- State of Nevada, Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, (Carson City, Nevada: State Printing Office, 1915-1916)
- Research file available in the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, Carson City, Nevada.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Section number** 10 **Page** 1

---

Parcel No. 25-090-04

The boundary includes the property owned by the Douglas County School District and historically associated with the property.