

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 15 1978

DATE ENTERED APR 2 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School

AND/OR COMMON

Westside School

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington and "D" Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

At-Large

STATE

Nevada

VICINITY OF  
CODE

32

COUNTY

Clark

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Las Vegas

STREET &amp; NUMBER

City Hall - 400 East Stewart Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Nevada

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Clerk's Office - Las Vegas City Hall

STREET &amp; NUMBER

400 East Stewart Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas,

STATE

Nevada

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE "Inventory of Historically and Archaeologically Significant Sites  
Within the City of Las Vegas"

DATE

April 30, 1978

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

UNLV Library - Special Collections

CITY, TOWN

Las Vegas,

STATE  
Nevada

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Westside School is an empty school complex containing Las Vegas' oldest remaining schoolhouse. It is located in the core of Las Vegas' worst census district from a poverty standpoint and is adjacent to the nine other districts that comprise the "Top Ten" in poverty.

The school site is directly off the freeway exits and is easily accessible not only to EOB's prime target community, but to residents throughout the city. It is easily visible from the freeway and, in its present condition, does not present an attractive picture of what is the first branch of the Las Vegas Grammar School.

Though time and indifference have taken their toll, the building retains an appearance of quiet dignity. To preserve its architecture, characteristic of the era in which it was built, would be a source of pride to the citizens of the community as well as a way by which a part of Las Vegas history would be preserved for future generations of Nevadans and Clark County residents.

The school is presently closed and boarded to prevent entry. The original 1922 portion was constructed in a modest Mission Revival style; possessing a centrally placed curvilinear parapet wall which denotes the main entry.

The one-storey stucco and frame structure faces to the south (Washington Street). Please refer to attached site map for property layout.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1922/1928 (addition) BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History of Westside School has great historical significance in that it is Las Vegas' oldest remaining schoolhouse. It was the original "Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School". The original building, the one proposed for renovation through this funding was built in 1922, at Washington and "D" Streets. The original building consisted of just two classrooms--the front two rooms of the existing structure. The back two rooms which make up the building were added in 1928.

The school was built on land donated to the Clark County School District by Helen J. Stewart in 1921. The first two rooms contained 1st and 2nd grades only and the two remaining rooms added in 1928 housed 3rd and 4th grades. The first principal of the school was Ms. Ruth Fyfe who served from 1924-1935. She currently resides in Las Vegas and may be reached at 384-1472.

The second principal of the school was Mr. Howard A. Wasden, who served from 1935-1942. He also resides in Las Vegas and may be reached at 734-6977. It is interesting to note that there were no black students at the school in its early days. The first black students were in attendance in 1926-27. Some early students of note who attended the Westside School included Dr. Sam Davis and Mrs. Mendoza, mother of District Judge John Mendoza.

It should also be noted that the original building was painted grey, not the pink color that it is now. The Westside School location is also historically significant as the original Las Vegas town site.

In 1948, eight block classrooms were added to the school complex, under the construction supervision of Mr. Ben O. Davey. The facility as it now stands is partially wood frame and partially concrete block and is situated on a 2.6 acre parcel. The school was phased out for use on June 8, 1967--the last principal being Mr. D. French--and on November 24, 1974, the School Board of Trustees declared it to be surplus property and adopted a resolution to sell at its appraised market value of \$25,000.

In the spring of 1975, the Economic Opportunity Board received \$37,500 from 1st Year Community Development Block Grant funds from the City of Las Vegas. \$25,000 was spent to purchase the facility and the remaining \$12,500 was used for preliminary restoration of the block structure. (Cont'd, see attachment)



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews by R.F. with Otis Harris, Las Vegas (former student) and H.P. Fitzgerald (former teacher) May, 1978.  
Las Vegas Cultural Resources Survey (to be published) 1978 by Charles H. Page and Associates and Margaret Lyneis, Ph.D

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Las Vegas NW, NEV. (1967)

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,1 6,6 7,8,0 4,0 0,5 4,5,0

B                  

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block A of Valley View addition to City of Las Vegas, Beginning at SE corner of said Bloc A; thence South 88 degrees 19' 36" West along the South Line North 77 (See Cont. Sheet)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE N/A CODE COUNTY N/A CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Blaine Rose, Planning Officer / Robert Fink, SHPO CONTACT

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County

2/24/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

2228 Comstock Drive

(702) 647-1477

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Las Vegas,

Nevada 89106

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Pamela Crowell*

TITLE PAMELA CROWELL, Administrator, DHP&A/SHPO

DATE July 20 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*John Charles ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4-2-79

ATTEST: *John ...*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/30/79



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

The Westside School is significant to the Black Community of Las Vegas from a social and education stand point. It was the school for the Black citizens; enabling many to obtain a basic education and /or go on to secondary educational facilities. The community leaders of the Westside still regard the old school with affection and esteem.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

The Westside School played a key role in the historical development of Las Vegas.

Westside School, opening in 1921, was the first grammar school in West Las Vegas. It was the first public school attended by Native American students from the Piute Indian Colony, which is located approximately one mile from the school.

Westside School was also the first school of attendance for two major waves of migrants to the Las Vegas area. The first wave occurred in the early 1930's and was caused by the construction of Hoover Dam. The latter took place in early 1940, with war-related industry being the prime attractor. Many of the latter group were Blacks coming from the rural south and their arrival marked the physical beginning of today's West Las Vegas-North Las Vegas Black community.

Although socially significant to many groups, the Westside School is more significant to the Black community. Many Blacks had their first experience with racially integrated education at Westside. It was also the school they attended while making the transition from a rural to an urban life style and Westside is located in the current Black community.

Although regarded with affection and esteem by many citizens of Las Vegas, the Black community has a stronger emotional attachment to the school. Westside School played a significant role in the individual and collective beginning of the heritage of Black citizens and their community.

Finally, upon restoration of Westside School, community members have expressed the desire to be a part of the use of the school. Plans have been made to accommodate a senior-citizen project and historical artifacts room.

Alumni have agreed to maintain the school.

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PAGE 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Continued

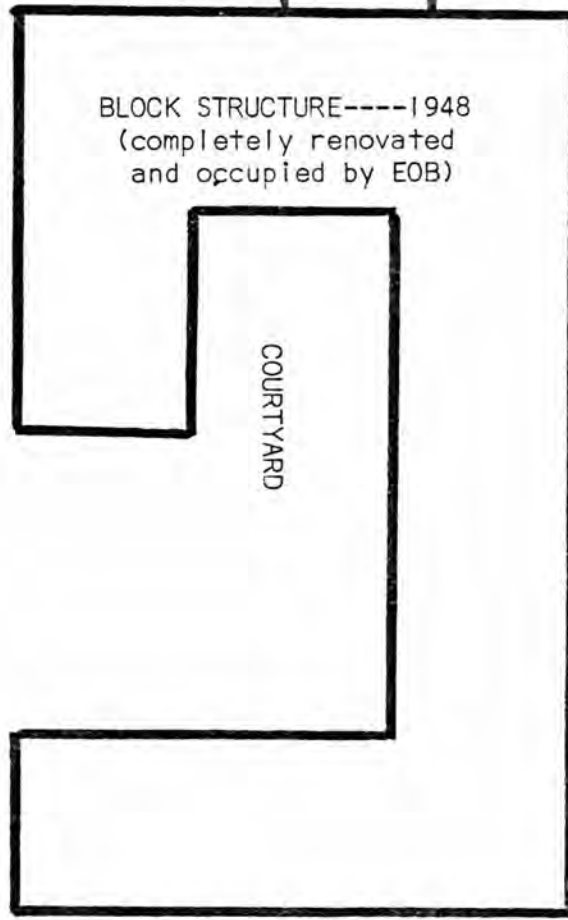
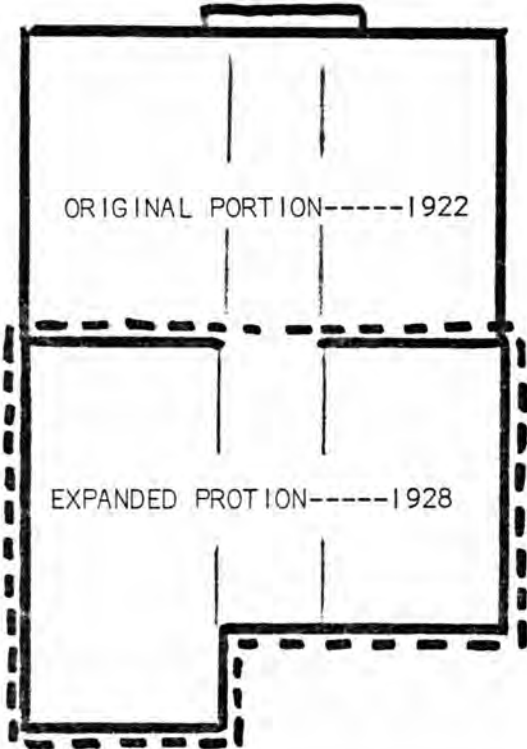
Block A, a distance of 154.80 feet; thence leaving said South Line North 77 degrees 21' 31" East a distance of 157.68 feet to a point on the East line of said Block A; thence South 01 degrees 41' 02" East along said East Line a distance of 30.00 feet to the point of beginning.



WASHINGTON AVENUE

BLDG #1

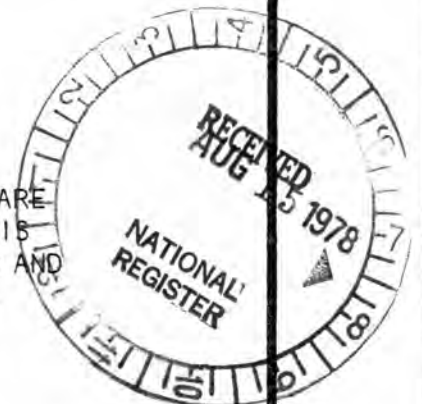
BLDG #2



D STREET



IT IS BUILDING # 1 FOR WHICH WE ARE APPLYING AS HISTORICAL SITE. THIS FACILITY IS PRESENTLY UNOCCUPIED AND IS BOARDED-UP AS PER THE PHOTOS.



APR 2 1979





LAS. VEGAS GRAMMAR School, Branch NO. 1  
CLARK County  
# 1 of 4

AUG 15 1978

side view —  
facing east

APR 02 1979

PHOTO: E.O.B. OF CLARK COUNTY  
1977

7-5 81 2 1



LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR School, Branch No. 1  
Clark County  
#2 of 4

AUG 15 1978

APR 02 1979

front  
view —  
facing south

PHOTO: E.O.B. OF CLARK COUNTY  
1977

APR 03 1979





Las Vegas Grammar School, Branch No. 1  
Clark County  
#3074

AUG 15 1978

APR 02 1979

back  
view —  
Facing north

PHOTO: E.O.B. OF CLARK COUNTY  
1977







LAS VEGAS GRAMMAR School Branch No. 1  
Clark County  
#4 of 4

AUG 15 1976

APR 02 1979

side  
view -  
facing west

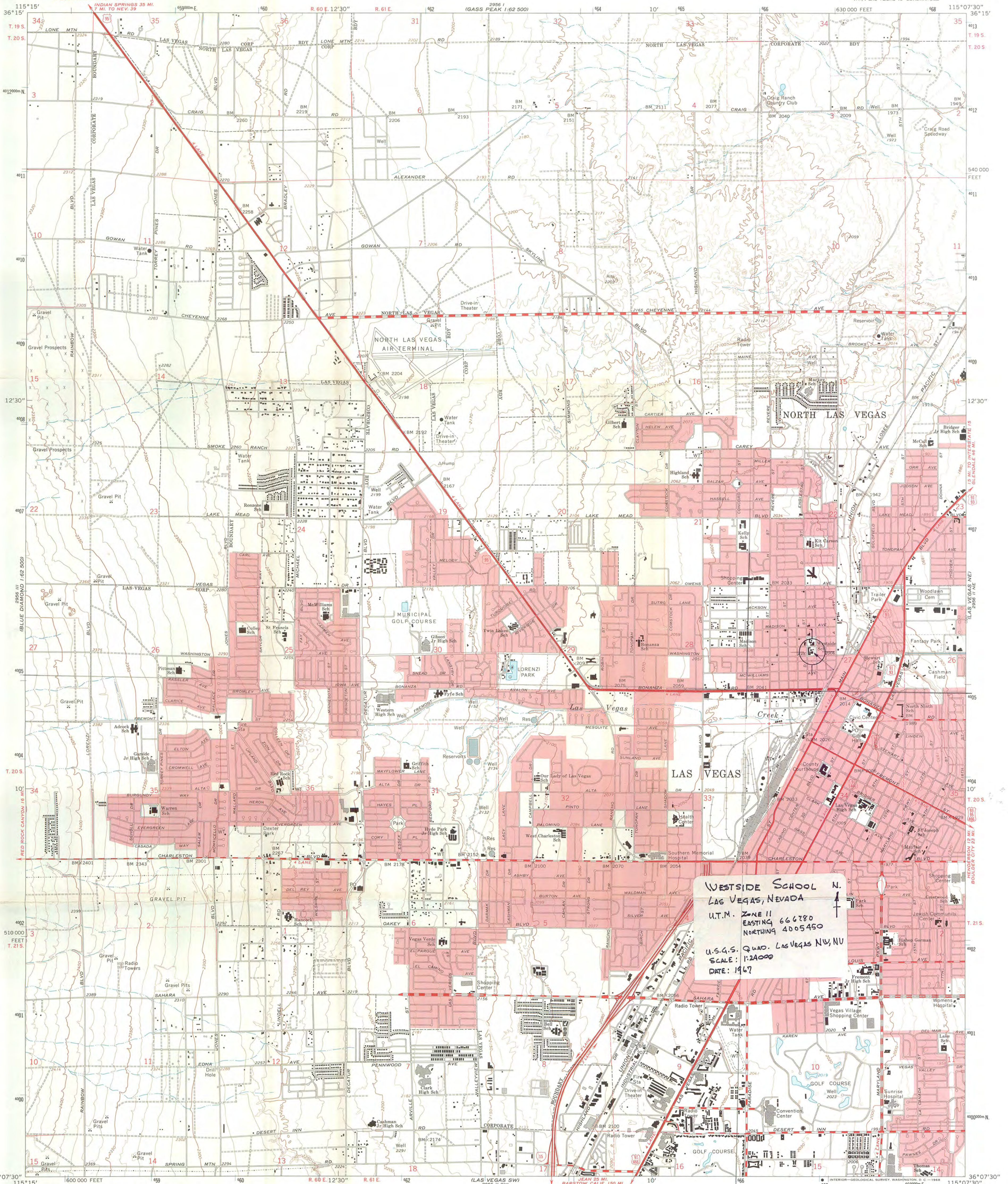
PHOTO: E.O.B. OF CLARK COUNTY  
1977

V.6 6 3 198



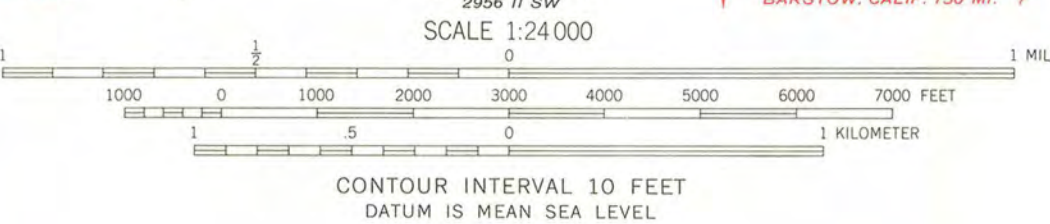
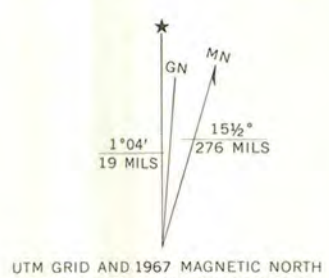
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LAS VEGAS NW QUADRANGLE  
NEVADA-CLARK CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NW/4 LAS VEGAS 15' QUADRANGLE



WESTSIDE SCHOOL N.  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
U.T.M. ZONE 11  
EASTING 666780  
NORTHING 4005450  
U.S.G.S. QUAD. LAS VEGAS NW, NV  
SCALE: 1:24000  
DATE: 1967

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1967  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Nevada coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 11, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines  
This map lies within a subsidence area



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20542  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LAS VEGAS NW, NEV.  
NW/4 LAS VEGAS 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3607.5—W11507.5/7.5

1967

AMS 2956 11 NW—SERIES V896

APR 2 1978



# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2015

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 (Additional Documentation)

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 Avenue

City or town: Las Vegas State: NV County: Clark

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

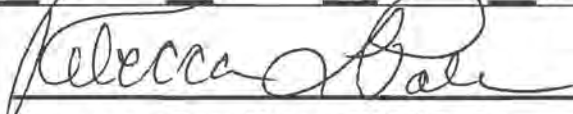
I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

	<u>7/27/15</u>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>Nevada State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>



Las Vegas Grammar School (Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

Clark, Nevada  
County and State

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#### 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

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Las Vegas Grammar School (Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

Clark, Nevada  
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**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	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/schools

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

VACANT/NOT IN USE

OTHER: Community Center

\_\_\_\_\_

Las Vegas Grammar School (Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

Clark, Nevada  
County and State

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## 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.)

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#### 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.

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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

Las Vegas Grammar School (Additional Documentation)

Clark, Nevada

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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.

#### Grammar School. 1923. Contributing Building (previously listed in NRHP)

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 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,

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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.

<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.



Las Vegas Grammar School (Additional Documentation)

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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.

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).

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>

#### Annex. 1948. Contributing Building

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.

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

Las Vegas Grammar School (Additional Documentation)

Clark, Nevada

Name of Property

County and State

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 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).

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).

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.

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

Las Vegas Grammar School (Additional Documentation)

Clark, Nevada

Name of Property

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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 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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Branch No. 1, Las Vegas

Grammar School

Name of Property

Clark County, NV

County and State

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

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### 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.)

- 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



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Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School
Name of Property Clark County, NV
County and State Historic School Building in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada
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### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION  
ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black  
ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

### 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.)

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Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School
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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 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

<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. Sources indicate that in the early twentieth century, this area was also referred to as 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.

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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 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

<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.

<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.



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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, 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.

<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.

<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.**

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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 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

<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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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>

<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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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 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>

<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.



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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 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.

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

<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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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,

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

<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.

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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.

### *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 Phillippe 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

<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.

<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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 20

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas

Grammar School

Name of Property

Clark County, NV

County and State

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

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 21

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School
Name of Property Clark County, NV
County and State Historic School Building in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

- City of Las Vegas. *Historic Resources Survey and Inventory: West Las Vegas*. September 2003.
- City of Las Vegas. *Historic Westside School and Variety Early Learning Center Master Plan*. KME Architects. December 2011.
- 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."
- Hershwitzky, Patricia. *West Las Vegas*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2011.
- Moehring, Eugene P. *Resort City in the Sunbelt, Las Vegas, 1930-1970*. Las Vegas, Nevada: University of Nevada Press, 1989.
- National Register of Historic Places. Las Vegas Grammar School. Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada. National Register #79001460.
- National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. *Historic School Buildings in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada*. Nevada. National Register #64500438.
- Schroeder, Phoebe. "'All Our Yesterdays': The Spanish Fantasy Past and Politics of Public Memory in Southern California, 1884-1939." Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, San Diego, 1999.
- 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* 84, No. 4 (Fall 2007).
- United States Census 1920, 1930, 1940 and 1950. [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

#### 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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School
Name of Property Clark County, NV
County and State Historic School Building in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 22

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

**Acreage of Property** 2 acres \_\_\_\_\_

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.179485                      Longitude: -115.179485

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 23

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School
Name of Property Clark County, NV
County and State Historic School Building in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### 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  
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.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 24

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School
Name of Property Clark County, NV
County and State Historic School Building in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### 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)

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)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 25

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School
Name of Property Clark County, NV
County and State Historic School Building in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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)

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)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 26

Branch No. 1, Las Vegas Grammar School
Name of Property Clark County, NV
County and State Historic School Building in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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)

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

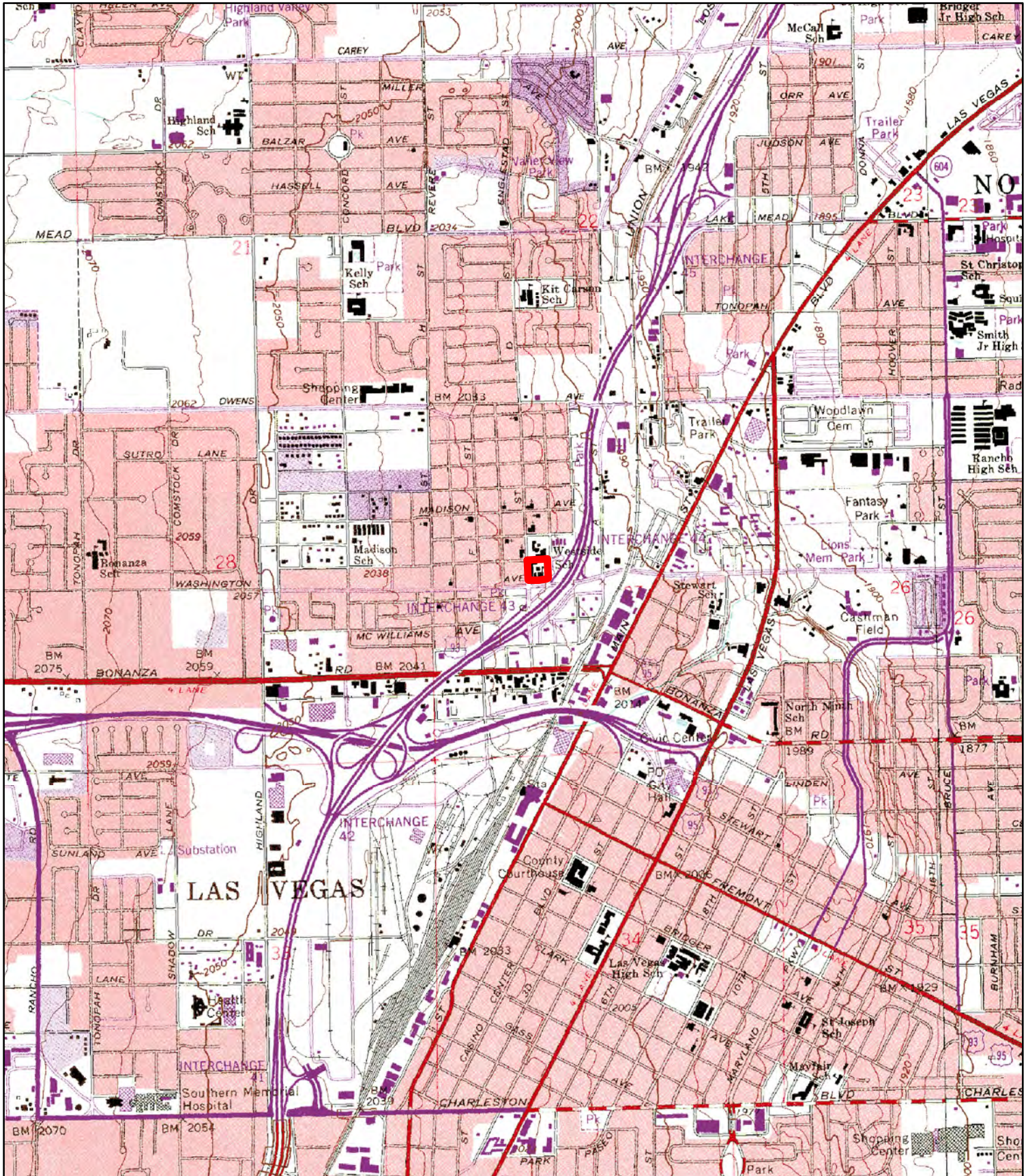
Photo 36 of 36: Westside School, Las Vegas, Clark County, NV. 1948 annex, storage room in 1960 addition, view southeast (Chattel, 2012)

**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.



# NRHP - Las Vegas Grammar School (Westside) USGS Las Vegas Quadrangle (large extent)



Author: NVSHPO  
Date: July 27, 2015  
Datum: NAD 83

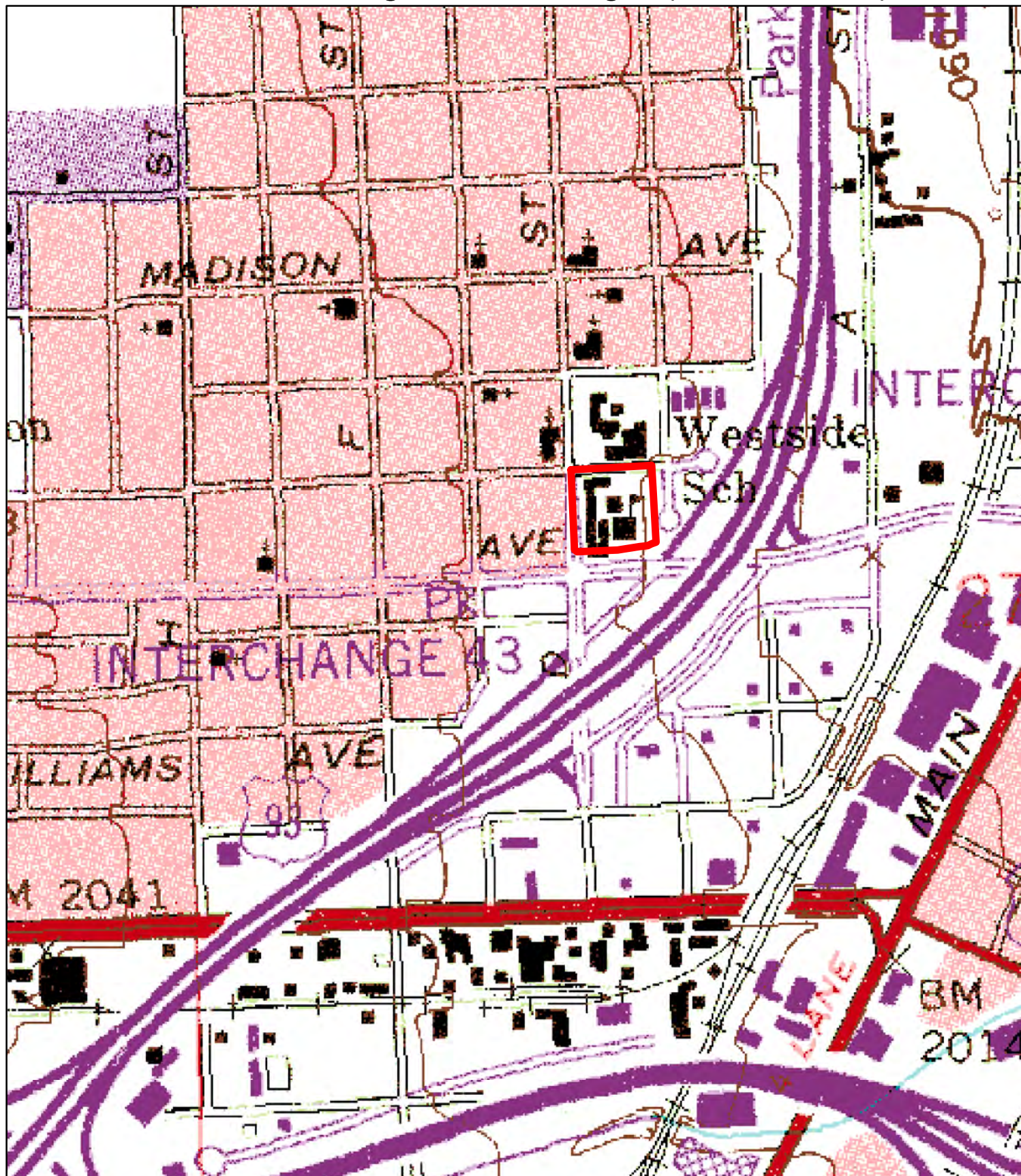
0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

Projection: UTM Zone 11 North





NRHP - Las Vegas Grammar School (Westside)  
USGS Las Vegas Quadrangle (small extent)



Author: NVSHPO  
Date: July 27, 2015  
Datum: NAD 83

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

Projection: UTM Zone 11 North



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

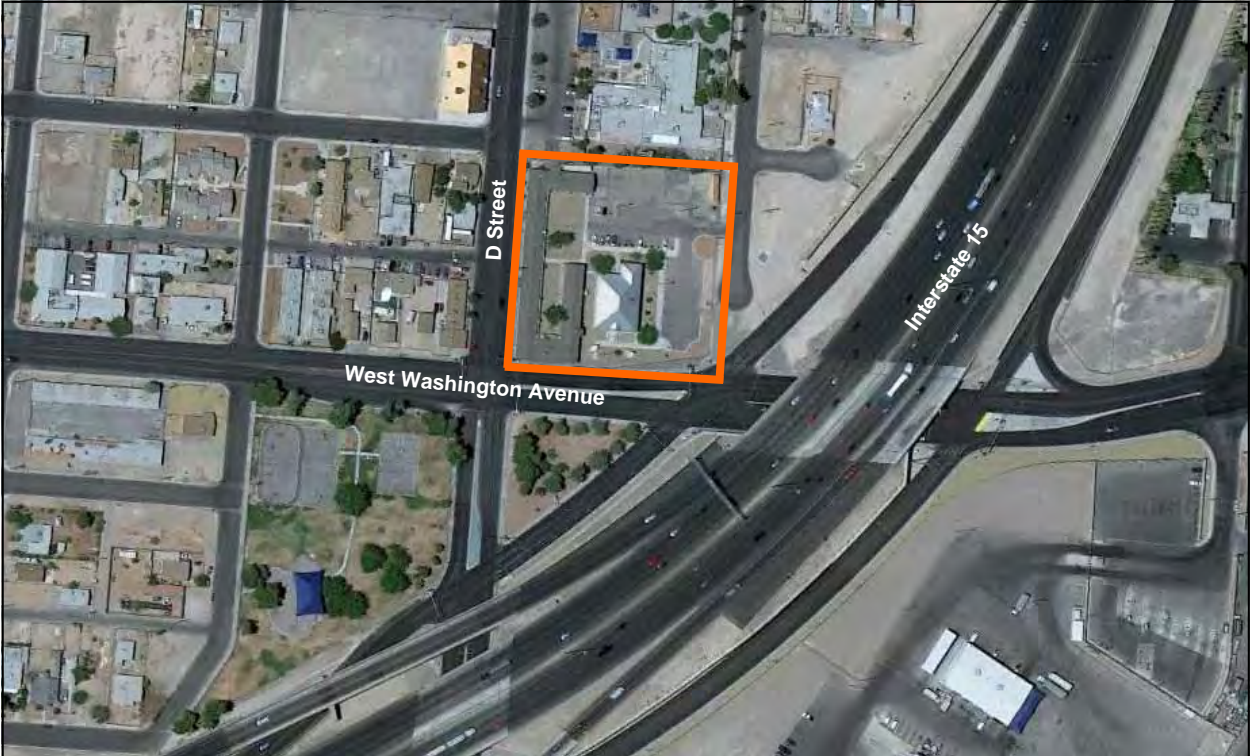


Figure 1: Aerial, Westside School property outlined in orange (Google Earth)

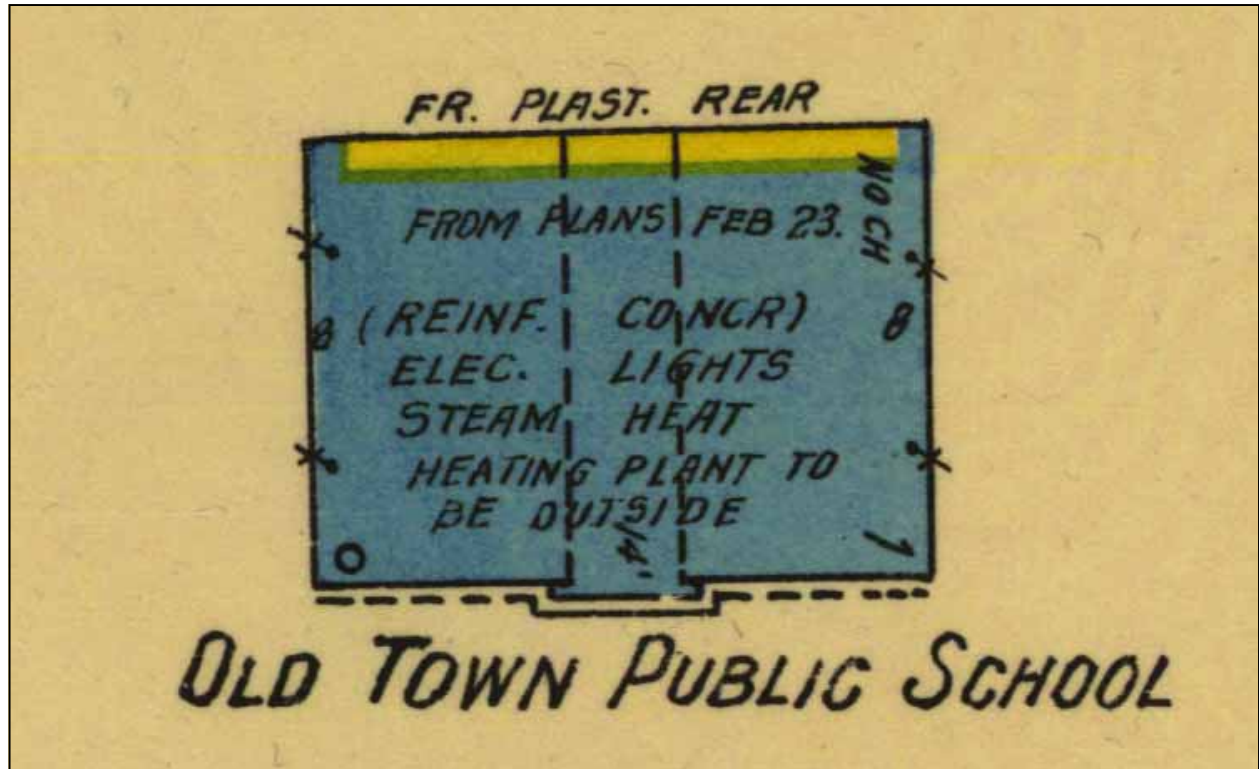


Figure 2: Aerial, detail of Westside School property outlined in orange (Google Earth)



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



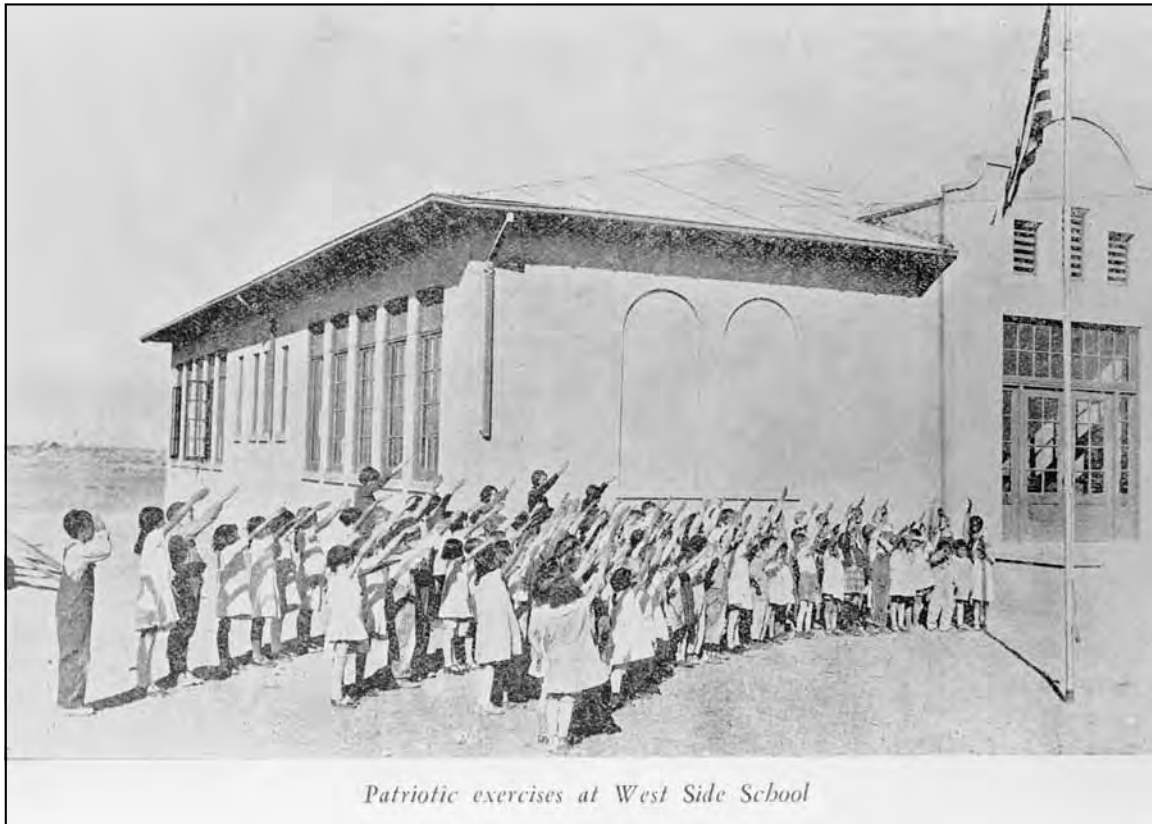
**Figure 5:** Fifth Street School campus, c. 1925. Note one story building in left foreground appears identical to Westside School 1923 building (Clark County School District Archive)



**Figure 6:** Fifth Street campus, c. 1940 (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 7:** 1923 building, c. 1931. Note entrance doors, sidelights and transom (Clark County School District Archive)



**Figure 8:** Entrance to 1923 building, c. 1931. Note detail of entrance doors and sidelights (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 Archive)



**Figure 10:** 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 11: 1923 building classroom, 1935 (Clark County School District)

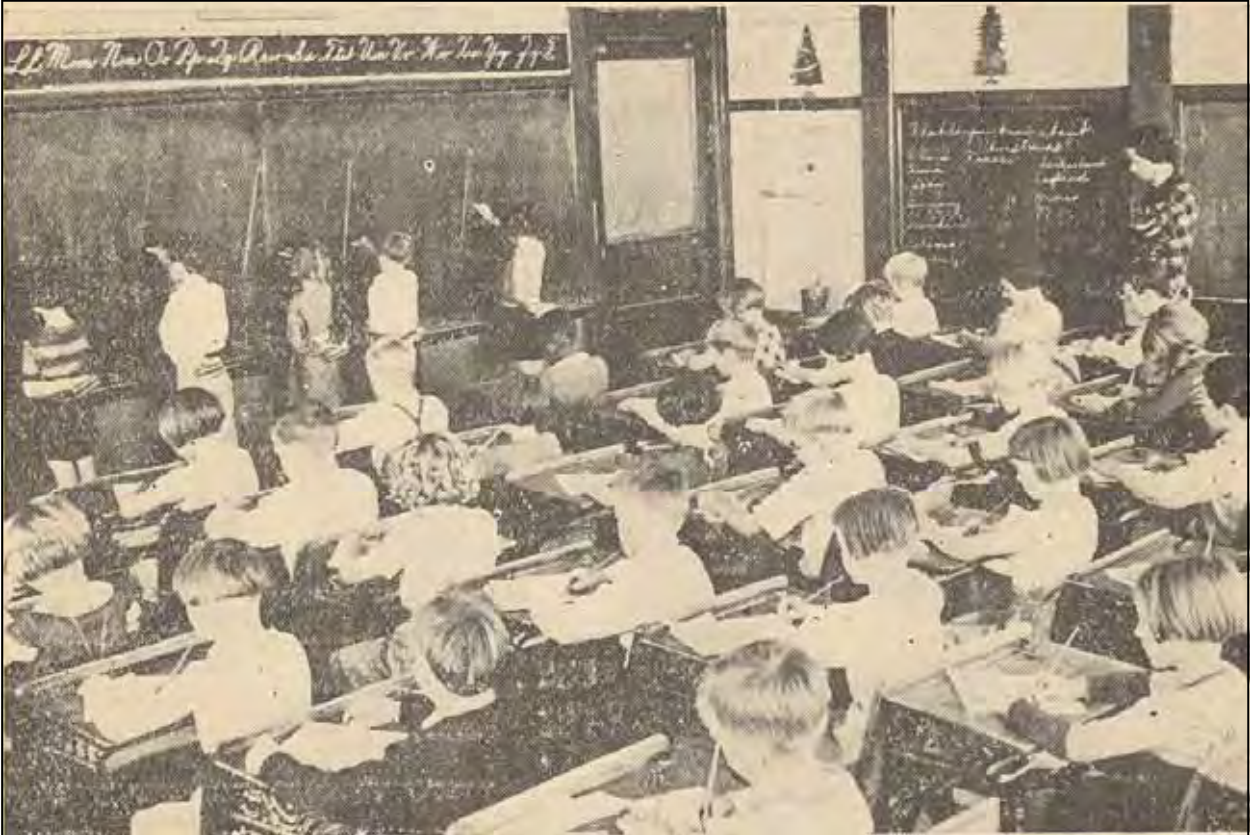


Figure 12: 1923 building classroom, 1935 (Clark County School District)



PART 1: FIGURES

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

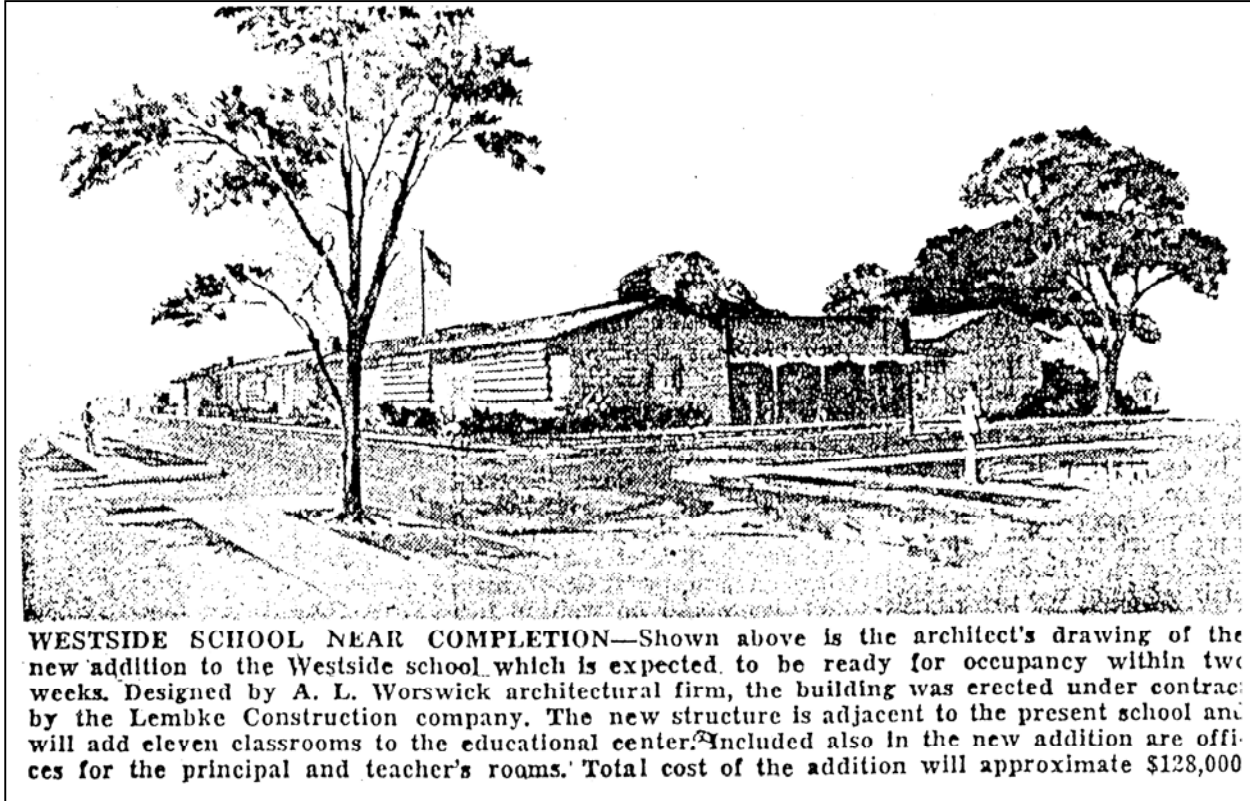


Figure 13: Drawing of 1948 building (*Las Vegas Review Journal*, 1948)



Figure 14: 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 15:** Aerial, view west, 1969 (Clark County School District Archive)



**Figure 16:** 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 17:** 1923 building classroom, 1982 (Clark County School District Archive)



**Figure 18:** 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 19:** 1923 building classroom, 1982 (Clark County School District Archive)



**Figure 20:** Westside School campus, date unknown (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 21:** 1948 annex, date unknown (Clark County School District Archive)









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NEW YORK  
LAS VEGAS  
LONDON  
TOKYO

KCEP  
POWER





Women



WOMEN















**ATTENTION**  
PLEASE PUT YOUR PAPER  
TOWELS PROPERLY IN THE  
TRASH AND WEAR YOUR  
HEAT COVERINGS AND  
SHOES AND COMPLETELY  
WASH YOUR HANDS  
THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.

**WASH HANDS**  
BEFORE RETURNING TO WORK









ON AIR  
THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

KCEP-FM 40th Anniversary Give  
Raffle

POWER 88

Time	Artist	Album
12:00	...	...
12:30	...	...
1:00	...	...
1:30	...	...
2:00	...	...
2:30	...	...
3:00	...	...
3:30	...	...
4:00	...	...
4:30	...	...
5:00	...	...
5:30	...	...
6:00	...	...

OCTOBER 2012

POWER 88























330

Public Hearing  
Notice

EO 12812  
ED 1

EO 12812  
ED 1







WEST  
LAS VEGAS  
ARTS CENTER









**PRIVATE PROPERTY**  
**NO**  
**TRESPASSING**  
VIOLATORS  
WILL BE PROSECUTED









2007











SUITE  
3

EXIT

NO  
SMOKING



















RESTRICTED  
AREA

07630

Kleenex

PAQUETE ECONOMICO

BANKERS BOX

MADE IN THE U.S.A.





OUT OF SERVICE

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DO NOT FLUSH PAPER TOWELS

DO NOT FLUSH PAPER TOWELS

DO NOT FLUSH PAPER TOWELS





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Las Vegas Grammar School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEVADA, Clark

DATE RECEIVED: 8/07/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/22/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 79001460

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9.22.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Additional Documentation Approved**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 9.22.15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

Property Las Vegas Grammar School

State Nevada

Working Number 8.15.78.3882

79001460

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 4  
Maps 1

OK-  pl  
8.16.78

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

Documentation is OK except that Statement of Significance gives inadequate justification that the school is historically significant according to Criterion A. Association of the school with the black community needs to be further explained and documented. Role of blacks in the City of Las Vegas should be delineated. Recommend return

**OTHER**

Saxe 11/18/78

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

statement of significance too general - In the end it says only that it is the oldest school in the city and the school for Blacks. - Is probably eligible, but we need more elaboration on why it is significant

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Return  
W.R. Luce  
12/12/78

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back 12.13.78  
Re-submit 3.6.79

Entered \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



NAME OF PROPERTY Las Vegas Grammar School STATE Nevada

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

**7** Description: 3.6' DEC 22 1978

**8** Statement of Significance: Please enlarge statement of significance to discuss ~~the~~ significance of the school in the city and to the Black community

**9** Bibliography: \_\_\_\_\_

**10** Geographical Data -- Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM Reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**12** Certification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographic Coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

Map Coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Ray Luce on the National Register staff, telephone 202/343/6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Bill Labovich for

Date: 12/13/78

Chief, Branch of Registration

Property

Las Vegas Grammar School

State

Nevada (Clark)

Working Number

8.15.78.3882

2nd Control  
79001460

**TECHNICAL**

Photos

4

Maps

1

**CONTROL**

OK pl  
3.9.79

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

Although much of the social significance of the school derives from the growth of Las Vegas in the last 50-yrs, the school was providing unique educational opportunities to Native Americans & Blacks even in the 1920's. Because of this more than half a century of service, this early school is a highly valued local historic resource and will be restored.

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accepted 3/30  
Joe Turner

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register Entry

5-1-79

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered

APR 2 1979





**THE NEVADA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHEOLOGY**  
 201 South Fall Street, Nye Building, Room 116, Carson City, Nevada 89710  
 Administrator Telephone (702) 885-5138

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

NORMAN HALL, Director

**MIKE O'CALLAGHAN**  
GOVERNOR

July 24, 1978

William J. Murtagh, Keeper  
 National Register of Historic Places  
 Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
 Department of the Interior  
 Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

I am pleased to submit the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for your review. The Las Vegas Westside School has played an important social part in the history of the Black Community and is nominated in recognition of that role.

The owner of the property, the City of Las Vegas, has been notified of the State Historic Preservation Officer's intention to process the property for nomination. The City of Las Vegas has offered no formal comment either pro or con regarding the property's significance or its nomination to the Register. City personnel have, however, assisted the nomination preparation by arranging a meeting between State Historic Preservation Office staff and leaders of the Las Vegas Westside community.

I look forward to hearing of your determination for this nomination.

Sincerely,

PAMELA CROWELL  
 Administrator  
 State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: J. David Hoggard, Executive Director, E.O.B. of Clark County  
 Russell W. Dorn, Jr.  
 City Manager

Enclosed: Nomination



Recycling  
 Nevada's Heritage

4P  
Las Vegas Grammar School  
FR 8.29.78

MAYOR BILL BRIARE

COMMISSIONERS  
PAUL J. CHRISTENSEN  
RON LURIE  
MYRON E. LEAVITT  
ROY WOOFER

CITY ATTORNEY  
MIKE SLOAN

CITY MANAGER  
RUSSELL DORN



# CITY of LAS VEGAS

August 15, 1978

Mr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation  
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

We are in receipt of a copy of a letter to your agency from Pamela Crowell, Administrator, of the Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology which was sent with the submission of the nomination of the Las Vegas Westside School to the National Register of Historic Places. Accompanying this letter was a request from Mr. J. David Hoggard, Executive Director of the Clark County Economic Opportunity Board for comment from the City of Las Vegas on the Westside School nomination.

Our agency, the Cultural and Community Affairs Branch of the City of Las Vegas Department of Recreation and Leisure Activities, serves as liaison to Historic Preservation for the City of Las Vegas. In this capacity, we are pleased to be able to comment on the nomination of the Las Vegas Westside School to the National Register of Historic Places. The Westside School is included in the recently completed City of Las Vegas Historic Preservation Inventory and is listed as having exceptional historic merit to our community. We concur with Ms. Crowell's assessment of the important social role the School has played in the history of the Black Community and would add that the Inventory indicates that "aside from the myriad Westside churches, this school and its neighbor are the only remaining public buildings which provide an established cultural and social focus to the area," (West Las Vegas).



Mr. Murtagh  
Page 2  
August 15, 1978

We would like to add the endorsement of our agency on behalf of the City of Las Vegas in support of the Westside School nomination and look forward to a favorable determination on this matter.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR  
RECREATION & LEISURE ACTIVITIES



Pat Marchese, Administrator  
Cultural & Community Affairs Branch  
749 Casino Center Boulevard North  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

PM/ga

cc: Russell W. Dorn, City Manager  
J. David Hoggard, Executive Director,  
EOB of Clark County

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE	AUG 24 1978
	(NAME ATTACHED)
	YP
	(NAME ATTACHED)
DATE	SL
INITIALS	9-4-78





**THE NEVADA DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHEOLOGY**  
201 South Fall Street — Nye Building — Room 113 — Carson City, Nevada 89710  
MIMI RODDEN, Administrator Telephone (702) 885-5138

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

ROLAND D. WESTERGARD, Director

ROBERT LIST  
GOVERNOR

File #340.00

MEMORANDUM

February 27, 1979



TO: William Lebovich  
Architecural Historian

FROM: Mimi Rodden, Administrator  
Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology

SUBJECT: Resubmittal of Westside School Nomination

Enclosed is the original nomination material returned to the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office by the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, plus the additional information requested for the "Significance" portion.

The additional data is supplied by the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County; initiators of the original nomination.

If you have questions, please let me know.

BF:vh  
Encs:



Recycling  
Nevada's Heritage

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **MAR 05 1979**

\_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

\_\_\_\_\_ POSITIVE MATERIAL SENT

\_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE OF TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEVADA

Date Entered      APR 2 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Las Vegas Grammar School, <i>Branch No. 1</i>	Las Vegas Clark County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Laxalt

Honorable Howard W. Cannon  
Honorable James D. Santini

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Mimi Rodden  
Division of Historic Preservation &  
Archeology  
Capitol Complex  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

NR

Byers/bjr 4/5/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Las Vegas Grammar School, Branch No. 1  
 ② OTHER NAMES: Westside School  
 ③ date of entry: APR 2 1979  
 ④ county code: 003

⑤ LOCATION street & number: Washington and "D" Sts.  
 city / town: Las Vegas  
 vicinity of: \_\_\_\_\_  
 state: NV  
 county: Clark  
 NPS REGION: Western

⑦ OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 ⑥ ADMINISTRATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

⑧ EXISTING SURVEYS  HABS  HAER  NHL  
 ⑩ FUNDED?  YES  NO  
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL  
 if state who prepared form? \_\_\_\_\_

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  NO  
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  NO  
 ⑮ ACREAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION  
 excellent  deteriorated  altered  original site  
 good  ruins  unaltered  moved  
 fair  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  
 unexcavated  excavated

⑰ features:  
 INTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-4  NOT APPLICABLE-7  
 EXTERIOR  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-5  NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 ENVIRONS  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  NOT INTACT-0  UNKNOWN-6  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS  YES-Restricted  YES-Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown  
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO  
 ⑳ SAVED?  YES  
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  ENTERTAINMENT-26  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS / GOVT.-21  RECREATION-28  
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  COMMUNICATIONS-7  EXPLORATION-12  LAW-16  RELIGION-22  SETTLEMENT-29  
 AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  HEALTH-27  LITERATURE-17  SCIENCE-23  URBAN PLANNING-31  
 ARCHITECTURE-4  ECONOMICS-9  INDUSTRY-13  MILITARY-18  SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24  OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INVENTION-14  PHILOSOPHY-20  TRANSPORTATION-25

㉒ CLAIMS: explain  
 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

㉓ functions  
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:  
 CURRENTLY:  
 ㉔ dates of initial construction:  
 major alterations:  
 historic events:  
 ㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉖ architectural style(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉗ architect: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉘ master builder: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉙ engineer: \_\_\_\_\_

㉚ landscape architect / garden designer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉛ interior decorator: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉜ artist: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉝ artisan: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ㉞ builder / contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

㉟ NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL:  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP





NEVADA  
**STATE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION OFFICE**

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Brian Sandoval, Governor  
Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director  
Rebecca L. Palmer, Administrator, SHPO

July 28, 2015

**RECEIVED 2280**

AUG - 7 2015

**Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service**

Barbara Wyatt, ASLA  
National Register/NHL Programs  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: National Register (Additional Documentation), Las Vegas Grammar School, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, NRIS #79001460.

Ms. Wyatt,

The enclosed three (3) disks contain the true and correct copy of the additional documentation for the Las Vegas Grammar School, NRIS# 79001460, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 2, 1979.

Disk 1 includes a new 10-900 nomination form to be attached to the 1979 form, including a comprehensive revision of the National Register documentation, including:

- New historical information discussing the school's contribution to the history of African Americans in Las Vegas.
- New historical information discussing the architectural significance of the school resources under the 1992 MPDF *Historic School Buildings in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada*.
- The addition of the 1948 annex to the listing as a contributing building.

Disk 1 also includes related correspondence, reports, and GIS data related to the school. Photographs for the submission are included on disks 2 and 3.

If you have any questions about the nomination, please contact Jim Bertolini, National Register Coordinator, at (775) 684-3436 or [jbertolini@shpo.nv.gov](mailto:jbertolini@shpo.nv.gov)

Sincerely,

Rebecca Palmer  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Nevada SHPO  
(775) 684-3443  
[rlpalmer@shpo.nv.gov](mailto:rlpalmer@shpo.nv.gov)

901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5004 ✦ Carson City, Nevada 89701 ✦ Phone: 775.684.3448  
Fax: 775.684.3442

[www.shpo.nv.gov](http://www.shpo.nv.gov)

**NEVADA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER NOMINATION  
REVIEW REPORT FORM**

**Property Name:** Las Vegas Grammar School (Westside) (NRIS# 79001460)

**Address:** Washington and D Streets, Las Vegas, NV

**Certified Local Government:** City of Las Vegas

**Date of public meeting at which nomination was reviewed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check which Register this review is for:**

- State Register       National Register

**National Register Eligibility Criteria: (Check applicable boxes)**

- Criterion A       Criterion C  
 Criterion B       Criterion D

**Please check the boxes below appropriate to the nomination review:**

**Commission/Board**

- The commission/board recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.  
 The commission/board recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.  
 The commission/board chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

**Chief Elected Official**

- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.  
 The chief elected official recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.  
 The chief elected official chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

**Attach an additional sheet to make any further comments.**

Certify this report with both signatures below

**CLG Commission/Board Chair or Representative**

Print name: Chairman Robert Stoldal

Signature:  Date 2-15-2015

**Chief Elected Official or Designee**

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**NEVADA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
NATIONAL AND STATE REGISTER NOMINATION  
REVIEW REPORT FORM**

**Property Name:** Las Vegas Grammar School (Westside) (NRIS# 79001460)

**Address:** Washington and D Streets, Las Vegas, NV

**Certified Local Government:** City of Las Vegas

**Date of public meeting at which nomination was reviewed:** January 28, 2015

**Please check which Register this review is for:**

- State Register                       National Register

**National Register Eligibility Criteria: (Check applicable boxes)**

- Criterion A                                       Criterion C  
 Criterion B                                       Criterion D

**Please check the boxes below appropriate to the nomination review:**

**Commission/Board**

- The commission/board recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.  
 The commission/board recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.  
 The commission/board chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

**Chief Elected Official**

- The chief elected official recommends that the nomination meets the criteria checked above.  
 The chief elected official recommends that the nomination fails to meet any of the above criteria.  
 The chief elected official chooses not to make a recommendation on the nomination. Attach an additional sheet explaining the lack of a recommendation.

**Attach an additional sheet to make any further comments.**

**Certify this report with both signatures below**

**CLG Commission/Board Chair or Representative**

Print name: CAROLYN G. GOODMAN

Signature: *Carolyn Goodman*                      Date 2-2-15

**Chief Elected Official or Designee**

Print name: CAROLYN G. GOODMAN

Signature: *Carolyn Goodman*                      Date 2-2-15