NPS Form	10-300			OMB No. 1024-0018 (R	ev. 10-90)
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Register of information materials, a	Historic Places Registration requested. If any item and areas of significanc	or requesting determinations for individual properties an ration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete does not apply to the property being documented, enter e, enter only categories and subcategories from the inst e a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete	each item by marking "x" "N/A" for "not applicable ructions. Place additiona	in the appropriate box or by ent "For functions, architectural of	tering the lassification
1. Name	of Property				-
		ans of Foreign Wars Building			
other nar	mes/site number:_				
2. Locati	ion				
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city or toy	wn Reno			vicinity	
state	Nevada	code NV county Washoe	code z	zip code 89509	
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OMB No. 1024-0018

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- _ private X public-local
- _ public-State
- _public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X building(s)
- district 1
- _ site
- ____structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) C

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
2 2	structures
	objects

1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register_ 0

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

N/A

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

United States I National Park S		he Interior	
NATIONAL RE		ISTORIC PLACES	
Section _7_	Page <u>1</u>	Veterans of Foreign Wars Building name of property	Washoe County, NV county and State

OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86)

Section 7: Description

NPS Form 10-900-a

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) building is located in Reno's Moana Park, now known as Tighe Park, at 301 Burris Lane. The Moana Hot Springs opened in 1905 and has been a center of community recreation since that time. The VFW building dates to 1946, opening during the post war period when hundreds of veterans were returning to northern Nevada.

The VFW Hall is a non-descript one-story structure of vernacular, utilitarian design constructed partially underground. It has an "L"-shaped footprint with a minimal above-ground profile. Two covered outdoor staircases on the north and west elevations lead to doors at the lower level. A ramp on the southern elevation provides disabled access to a third, sub-surface door. Notable features above ground include the flat roof trimmed in wood in an architectural reference to a Mansard roof. The remainder of the structure is composed of concrete-block walls that rise to an average of 6 feet above ground. Brick chimneys, rising to 9 feet above ground are located on the southeast corner, serving a brick fireplace, and in the center of the structure, serving a large gas stove. Original horizontal, casement windows on the eastern (1), northern (2), western (3), and southern (2) elevations provide natural light for the interior.

In addition, there is a prominent flag pole near the southern ramp. The flagpole extends from a concrete platform consisting of two steps and an obelisk-like structure, rising to 6 feet. Large steel beams support the roof, which provides a ceiling that is roughly 12 feet above the subsurface rooms. Below ground there is a bar/canteen area and a larger auditorium as well as a kitchen, restrooms, storage areas, and a hall with refrigeration units. Inside, concrete block walls clothed with plaster board and asbestos floor tiles are the principal architectural features. A long, undistinguished, wooden bar resting on a brick wall dominates the canteen. In the southeast corner there the brick fireplace intrudes into the room at an angle. The auditorium includes a small raised stage at one end.

The semi-subsurface building is painted in horizontal bands of red, white and blue (bottom-top), in keeping with the colors of the U.S. flag.

The use of a functional design for the VFW is in keeping with the historic context of the Moana Springs development. Baseball fields with wooden bleachers and various other simple structures have dominated the area through most of the history of its development. The area retains a high level of integrity of setting. There have been changes over the years, but overall, the resort still exhibit large open spaces for parking and recreational pursuits.

The VFW Hall survives unaltered with no significant changes since its construction. Most of the changes internally consist of the use of wood paneling in a few locations.

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)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- _ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- ____C a birthplace or a grave.
- ____D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ____F a commemorative property.
 - G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance <u>1946-1958</u>
Significant Dates ______
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) ______
Cultural Affiliation ______
Architect/Builder ______

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- _ Federal agency
- _Local government
- _ University

X Other

Name of repository: VFW Post 9211, Reno, Nevada

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8	Page 2	Veterans of Foreign Wars Building	Washoe County, NV
	100 C	name of property	county and State

Section 8: Significance

Reno's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under "Criterion A" for its association with social history and entertainment/recreation. The building is locally significant for the role in the development of fraternal clubs and recreation facilities in the Reno area. The VFW Hall dates to 1946. Throughout its history, the hall has served as a principal refuge for local members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, advocating for veterans causes and issues and providing a meeting place for the community.

The Development of Reno

Reno began in the late 1850s and early 1860s as a place to cross the Truckee River. In 1868, the transcontinental railroad platted a town at that location, naming Reno after a Civil War general. Development sprawled on the north side of the river, coinciding with the railroad tracks, the rail stop, and the commerce the railroad brought to the region. Myron Lake, who was a major early developer in the community and who owned land south of the river, did what he could to encourage southern development. He donated land on South Virginia Street for the Washoe County Courthouse when Reno acquired county seat status in 1872. At first, development continued to favor the north side of town and Lake was only partially successful in pursuing his goal of enhancing land values on the south side of the river. Although the courthouse still stands on the south side of the river, many residents initially complained that the location was removed from the center of town.¹

By 1890, Reno was Nevada's largest town, although it remained modest in size, depending on commerce, transportation, and the location of the state university as principal components of its economy. The turn-of-century mining booms that gave birth to Goldfield and Tonopah infused wealth throughout the state and caused Reno to thrive. Gold camps came and went, but Reno was able to perpetuate its role as a principal Nevada town.²

The development of Reno can be regarded as unfolding in four quadrants separated by the Truckee River, running east-west, and by Virginia Street – the route taken to reach Virginia City to the south – running roughly north-south. The two northern quadrants were the first to develop, while the southern half was much slower to establish itself. Much of the early southern development consisted of light industry and warehousing, taking advantage of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, which passed through the southeastern quadrant. A prominent early exception to this was the Newlands Heights district, a neighborhood of exclusive homes perched on the

¹ Ronald M. James, *Temples of Justice: County Courthouses of Nevada* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1994).

² William D. Rowley, *Reno: Hub of the Washoe County* (Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, 1984).

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Section <u>8</u>	Page <u>3</u>	Veterans of Foreign Wars Building name of property	Washoe County, NV county and State	-

OMB No. 1024-0018 (8-86).

Section 8. Significance (cont'd)

NPS Form 10-900-a

bluff overlooking the Truckee River from the south. Development in that area dates to the turn of the century and centers on the house and estate of Senator Francis Newlands, completed in 1890 and listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1966. Subsequent development sprawled along the crest of the bluff to the east and west and then to the south.³

An additional early development in the southwest quadrant occurred in 1927 with the opening of Idlewild Park, founded in 1927 as part of Transcontinental Highway Exposition.⁴ This center of recreation was on the south side of the river to the west of town and like the Newlands Heights district, it did not represent a significant spread to the south, clinging as it did to the river itself. Throughout the first decades of the twentieth century, development in the southwestern quadrant slowly spread south block by block until it reached Plumb Lane, running east-west and leading to the Reno airport to the west, and intersecting Virginia Street approximately 1.5 miles south of the river. The construction of Virginia Lake Park, a New Deal project dating to the 1930s, is a notable early development just to the south of Plumb Lane in the southwest quadrant.

Reno's southeastern quadrant was the slowest to develop. Widespread residential development in the region did not occur until after the Second World War. The Reno School District had planned to build elementary schools in each of the quadrants, but the southeastern section was the last to have a school, the Veterans Memorial School, opened in 1949 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1995.⁵ In general, development south of Plumb Lane did not occur in any substantial way until the 1960s.

Moana Springs

The VFW Hall is located at Moana Springs far south of the boundaries of Reno as defined during its first several decades of development. The springs were located just to the west of Virginia Street in Reno's southwestern quadrant, approximately 2.5 miles south of the Truckee River in what was a rural area with only a few scattered ranches. The Moana Springs development was an attempt to provide a recreational venue far removed from town so Reno residents could regard the place as a pleasant retreat to the country.

Charles T. Short opened Moana Springs with John N. Evans and Al North on October 29, 1905, taking its name from a place in Hawaii. The complex included a large bath house fed by natural hot springs in the area. Within a few years, the development featured a hotel, a clubhouse, a baseball diamond, and picnic grounds.

³ Marylyn Larew, "Newlands Mansion," nomination for listing as a National Historic Landmark, 1978; Paula Bogoshian and Roger Scharmer, "Newlands Historic District," draft nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, 1982.

⁴ Christine Fey, "California Building," nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, 1992.

⁵ Clement Spring and Michelle McFadden, revised by Mella Rothwell Harmon, "Veterans Memorial School," nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, 1995.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8	8	Page	4	Veterans of Foreign Wars Building	Washoe County, NV	
				name of property	county and State	

Section 8. Significance (cont'd)

Eventually, the complex included carnival rides. Nearby summer homes were built after 1910 for people in Reno and for other visitors. These houses only later had heat for year-round residents.

Louis W. Berrum acquired Moana Springs in 1913. Berrum ran the Nevada Interurban Trolley Line from 1907 to 1920 connecting Moana with the rest of Reno. Moana Springs was the site of dances, rodeos, boxing matches, trap shoots, circuses, and aviation exhibitions. The location of the VFW Hall at this location enhanced the area's reputation as a place to go for recreation. There was also the good possibility that a steady stream of veterans would augment attendance at baseball games and other events.

Moana Springs remained in the Berrum family until the 1950s. The City of Reno purchased the area in 1956, at which time the buildings were demolished to make way for the development of a new recreation complex. City development included the construction of a large indoor pool. The area is now known as Tighe Park. The VFW Hall remained in place throughout these transitions. Moana Lane is a prominent east-west corridor bordering the springs on the north side, its name signifying a time when the resort was the principal destination for travelers to the area.⁶

Today, Moana Springs remains a center of recreation, but sprawl places the enclave in the center of urban Reno. A new indoor swimming pool and new baseball fields retain the original function of the complex, but historic materials have long since been replaced. The VFW Hall is the only historic part of the complex that survives.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars

Nationally, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) dates to 1899, having roots that reach back to American Veterans of Foreign Service organized to help veterans returning from the 1898 Spanish-American War and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines, to assist those involved in the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902). Wounded and sick veterans were returning to their homes and finding a lack of medical care and benefits. Some veterans consequently formed the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States as a mutual aid society. Chapters quickly formed in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania. In 1915, membership numbered 5,000. Twenty years later – and in the wake of World War I – membership had reached nearly 200,000. The VFW mission is to "honor the dead by helping the living."

Reno VFW Chapter

VFW Post 407 in Reno has a charter dating to 1926, largely intended for World War I veterans. VFW Post 9211 organized in 1944 to serve veterans returning from World War II. The two organizations consolidated

⁶ Karl Breckenridge, "Reminiscing with the boys of summer," <u>Reno Gazette-Journal</u>, October 26, 2002, 8-9

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8	Page 5	Veterans of Foreign Wars Building	Washoe County, NV	
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Section 8. Significance (cont'd)

efforts shortly after the end of the war in 1945 in order to build a permanent home. Details about the building of the hall are limited and derive solely from oral tradition. The original plans for a VFW hall called for a twostory structure with meeting room and offices, but a lack of funds curtailed the design. Initially, fundraising consisted of weekly dances in Reno. Tradition maintains that at some point, local prostitutes volunteered to perform "dance acts" at the weekly fundraiser. Although this raised attendance at the dances and enhanced fundraising in the short term, the older members of Post 407 and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary objected, eventually ending these fundraising events.

Because funds were curtailed, the design of the building was abbreviated, but the facility opened in 1946 to greet returning veterans at a time when the organization reached its zenith. During the 1970s and 1980s, membership declined. The older Post 407 went into bankruptcy and dissolved. Post 9211 absorbed members wishing to continue to participate while others drifted away. The hall continues to serve veterans in the area.

Integrity

In conclusion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Reno retains a high level of integrity in the areas of association, materials, design, feeling, workmanship and location. The VFW Hall is significant in terms of local history (Criterion A) in the areas of social history and entertainment/recreation. It is the only historic element that survives from the development of the Moana Springs Resort as it was built from 1905 to its sale to the City of Reno in 1956.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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		name of property	county and State	

Section 9: Bibliographical Information

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.25 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

 Zone Easting Northing
 Zone Easting Northing

 1
 11
 259320
 4374660
 3

 2
 4
 4
 4
 4

 See continuation sheet.
 5
 5
 6

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

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ronald M. James.	fficer			
organization NV State Historic Prese	rvation Office	date	February 12, 2008	
street & number 100 N. Stewart Stre	et	1.0	telephone 775-684-3448	
city or town Carson City	state NV		zip code89701	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

 Name
 VFW Building Association

 street & number
 P.O. Box 10026

 city or town
 Reno

 State
 NV

 zip code
 89510-0026

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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		name of property	county and State	

Section 10: Geographical Information

Boundary Description

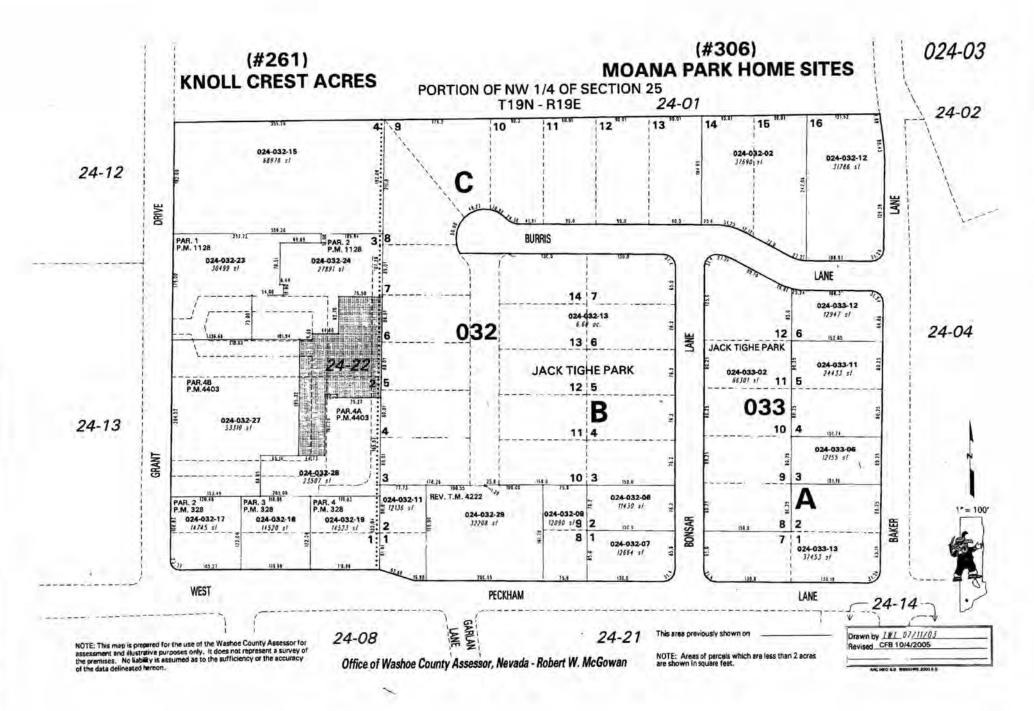
The National Register of Historic Places boundaries of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall include the land (0.25 acres) within Tighe Park within the parcel identified as Washoe County Assessor's Parcel Number 024-032-02, Washoe County, Nevada, in the E ½ of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 25, Township 19N, Range 19E (Mt. Diablo Meridian) on the Mt. Rose, SE, NV 7.5 Minute USGS topographic quadrangle map.

Boundary Justification

Resource boundaries include all land historically associated with the lot identified as Washoe County, Nevada 024-032-02.

Photo Log: Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 301 Burris Lane, Reno, Nevada (Washoe Co.). Digital images on file at the NV State Historic Preservation Office.

Photo Number	Description	Date/Photographer
1	Exterior, front façade, facing north/northwest.	February 12, 2008/ Ron James
2	Exterior, eastern elevation, facing west.	February 12, 2008/ Ron James
3	Exterior, northern elevation, facing southwest.	February 12, 2008/ Ron James
4	Interior, canteen, facing northeast.	February 12, 2008/ Ron James
5	Exterior, front façade detail, facing north/northwest	February 12, 2008/ Ron James
6	Overview, facing north/northeast, showing flag pole	February 12, 2008/ Ron James



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Veterans of Foreign Wars Building NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEVADA, Washoe

DATE RECEIVED: 4/30/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/14/08 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/29/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/13/08 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000511

REASONS FOR REVIEW: PROMESTRE ACTIONS MOMINATION 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

6-10-08 DATE REJECT RETURN

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in The National Register of Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE	DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attach	ed 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.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Building Washoe County NV Photo #1



Veterans of Foreign Wars Building Washoe County Photo #2



Veterans of Foreign Wars Building Washde County, NV hoto #3



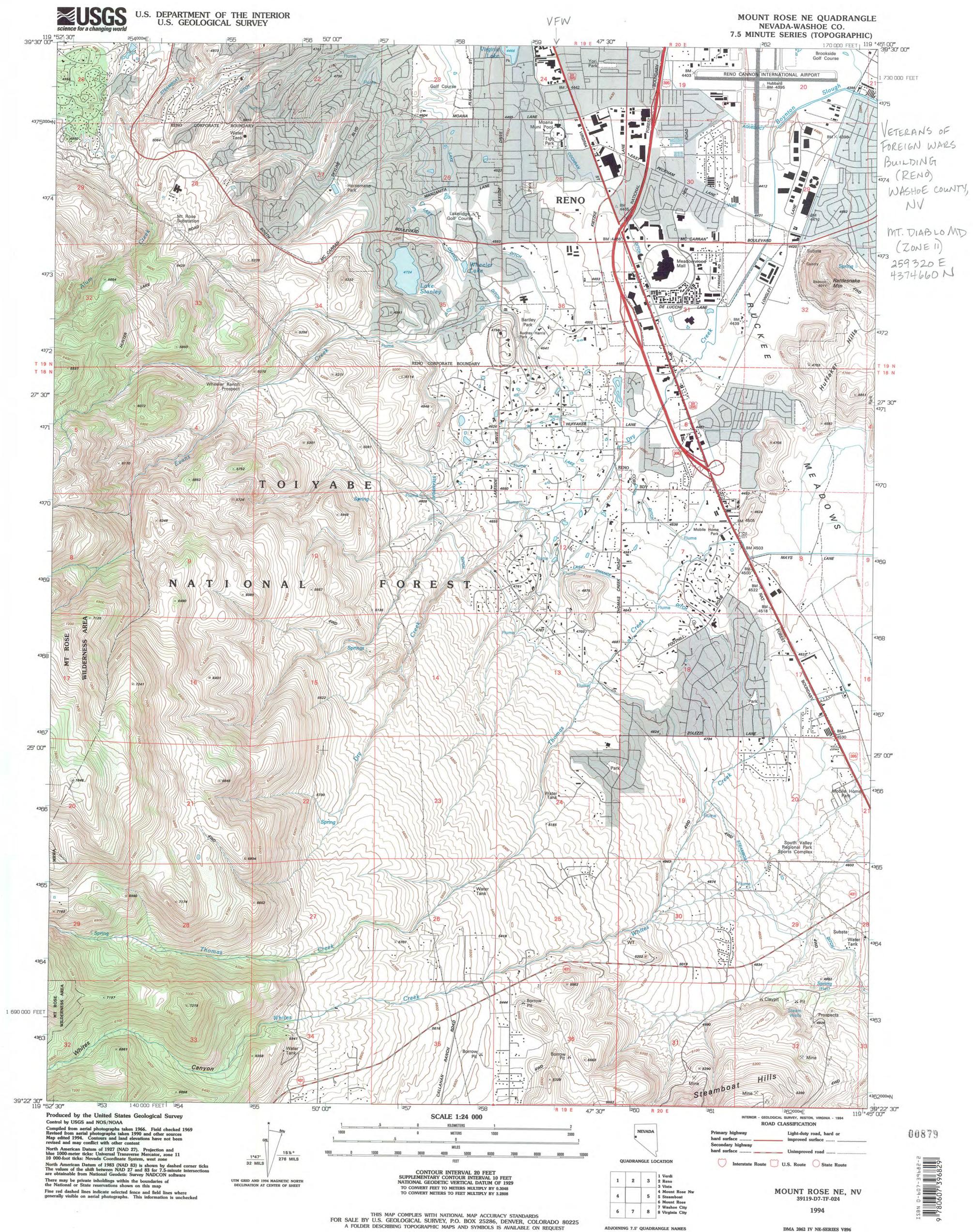
Veterans of Foreign Wars Building Washoe County, NV Photo #4



Veterans of Foreign Wars Building Washoe County, NV Photo#5



Veterans of Foreign Wars Building Washbe County, NV Photo #6



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