

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Nevada	
COUNTY: Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME** FEB 1 1972

COMMON:  
Las Vegas Mormon Fort  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Allegedly known during the Civil War by the U.S.  
Army as Fort Baker

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
900 Las Vegas Blvd. North  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Las Vegas  
STATE: Nevada CODE: 32 COUNTY: Clark CODE: 003

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Las Vegas, Nevada  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
821 Las Vegas Blvd. North  
CITY OR TOWN: Las Vegas STATE: Nevada CODE: 32

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Clark County Courthouse  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
200 East Carson  
CITY OR TOWN: Las Vegas STATE: Nevada CODE: 32

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Nevada Historical Sites  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1968  Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: University of Nevada, Desert Research Institute, Center for Western Studies  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Stead Facility  
CITY OR TOWN: Reno STATE: Nevada CODE: 32

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 1 1972

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It appears there exists conflicting opinions and writings as to the physical size and description of this adobe fort. Church records indicate the fort was 150' square while Colonel George Ruhlen's Authoritative Early Nevada Forts states it was 190' square. The walls were 14 feet high, built on a foundation stone 2' thick at the bottom and tapered to 1 foot in thickness at the top. A description of the interior and exterior as it exists today and written by Mrs. Janet Myers who resides in the structure and acts as caretaker/guide of the premises is as follows:

"Only seventy-five feet of the original structure remains. It is about two feet thick at the base. The building has been used for many different purposes over the years. When Hoover Dam was built, some experimenting with cement was taking place and a floor was poured throughout the building. Otherwise, there had only been a dirt one.

In the south part a fireplace which had been constructed had been plastered over. The fireplace had evidently been used by the original builders. It was reopened in 1956 but smoked so badly on windy days, it was again closed. The building now has ten windows but these have been added for the convenience of the occupants. It also has three doors; however, one is no longer used as such.

About thirty-five feet of the building is used as a museum and displays quite a number of artifacts of early history of Nevada. Among the most interesting are: an organ built in Paris in 1850, a complete spinning wheel, four chairs which are hand made, two with rawhide constructed seats, a wooden churn, two trunks, a very large chest of drawers, a sewing machine, one of the earliest models as it has no drawers, a day bed, a secretary or desk all handmade and without finish other than the original wood, a model displays a maternity dress said to be over one hundred years and still in good condition, another form displays a taffeta, handmade jacket over a corslette, another model represents a gold miner panning gold with an authentic pan, a buck saw, an old wooden bed which crossed the plains in a covered wagon and is crudely unfinished, the floor of the museum is covered with hand loomed rag carpet of the type used at that period but which was made by the Blind Center. There are what is known as a what-not, wooden shelves which display handmade rag dolls, a complete young child's wardrobe mostly of linen material and other memorabilia including a gun collection. The ceiling and one wall has been redone in knotty pine as the previously constructed ceiling and deteriorated, the entire structure is protected by a canopy."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) June 14, 1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Church of the Latter Day Saints was instrumental in the early settlement and development of southern Nevada with the establishment of Mormon colonies. The Las Vegas Mission was the first of these settlements to be established, and was selected by the church to: (1) Raise crops which could not be raised in the colder northern Utah climate; (2) Find new homes for the numerous Mormons coming to Salt Lake Valley area; and (3) To establish a halfway station on the Mormon trail between San Bernardino and Salt Lake. A thirty man mission group left Salt Lake City on May 10, 1855, and arrived in Las Vegas on June 14, 1855. After touring the Las Vegas Valley on horseback, the decision was made to establish the permanent location on the site of the original stopping place, and work was commenced immediately on the Las Vegas Mormon Fort. The fort was located adjacent to one of the two clear streams of water flowing from the nearby Las Vegas springs which nurtured native grasses, and created lush meadows in the valley near the Sunrise Mountain.

The natural oasis of meadow and mesquite forest was the winter homeland of the Paiute Indians, who spent their summers in the Charleston Mountains. The valley and the meadows were first known to the Spanish, who named Las Vegas "The Meadows" and marked it as such on maps of the southwestern desert.

Antonio Armijo stopped at the springs in 1829-30, traveling the route which became known as the Old Spanish Trail. After 1830 the route was traveled by Spanish traders, emigrants and frontiersmen who rested beside the springs. On one of his western exploration trips, John C. Fremont camped here on May 3, 1844.

On about August 3, 1855 the missionaries started to build the walls 14 feet high, two feet thick at the bottom, and one foot at the top. The adobe fort enclosed eight two-story houses. Outside the fort the missionaries cultivated small gardens and fields, two and one half acres being assigned to each of the party; they planted fruit and shade trees, and established friendly relations with the Paiutes. Near the fort was also built the first smelter west of the Missouri River. This was

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

History - Lower Colorado Region, Nevada, October 1970, Victor Goodwin, Forester, River Basin Planning Staff, United States Department of Agriculture.

Authoritative Early Nevada Forts, Colonel George Ruhlen

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	10'	49" N 115° 7' 57" W
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.2741 Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Gene Amberg, Supervisor of Federal Aid Programs, Planning Dept.

ORGANIZATION: City of Las Vegas DATE: Nov. 8, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 821 Las Vegas Boulevard North

CITY OR TOWN: Las Vegas STATE: Nevada CODE: 32

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Eric Conklate</u></p> <p>Title <u>ADMINISTRATOR</u></p> <p>Date <u>11-17-71</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Conrally</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p><del>JAN 26 1972</del> FEB 1 1972</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William Mountjoy</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>FEB 1 1972</u> <u>JAN 26 1972</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Nevada	
COUNTY	
Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 1 1972

8.

(Number all entries)

used by the Mormons in their Potosi lead-silver mine venture.

After the mormons departed in 1858, called back to Utah by their leader Brigham Young, Octavius Decatur Gass established the Las Vegas Rancho, using the adobe structures as headquarters. He farmed 800 acres in field crops, orchards, and grazed many cattle, supplying produce to miners and travelers.

In 1882 the Archibald Stewart family bought the ranch. Soon thereafter Mr. Stewart was killed in a feud with one of his neighbors. Mrs. Stewart, with children, continued to operate the ranch as an oasis in the desert, expanding it from 800 acres to 1,800 acres. For 20 years Helen J. Stewart was known as a gracious, intelligent hostess to those who traveled the southwest. She exemplified the best of pioneer characteristics Initiative, determination, steadfastness, plus compassion for those less fortunate. Her story ranks equally well with that of the earlier Mormon missionaries.

Mrs. Stewart sold her ranch in 1903 to the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Company for the Las Vegas townsite, which was auctioned in lots to buyers on May 18, 1905, starting contemporary Las Vegas.

A further note of interest, on January 10, 1856, the Las Vegas Mission was notified by the U.S. Post Office Department that the town would henceforth be known as Bringham, New Mexico Territory, and thus the Las Vegas Mormon Fort became the first Las Vegas post office building. Las Vegas became a portion of the territory of Arizona, and finally became a part of Nevada on January 18, 1867, the state then firming up what are today's boundaries of Nevada.

A note about Fort Baker. Fort Baker was apparently a fort in name only. It was a name assigned to the Las Vegas area, as a diversionary tactic during the Civil War in an effort to divert the attention of Confederate spies and sympathizers in California from the real objectives of getting Col. James H. Charleston's command of the 1st California Volunteers across Arizona to New Mexico (Los Pinos). Information was released to the effect that a portion of the command would be assigned to Fort Yuma, Arizona. Three companies of infantry would go to Fort Mojave, Arizona, and one company of infantry and three of cavalry would go to Fort Baker at Las Vegas, at that time also in Arizona Territory. In reality, none of Carleton's command ever reached, or served at Mojave or Baker nor was it designed that they should.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Nevada	
COUNTY	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 1 1972

(Number all entries)

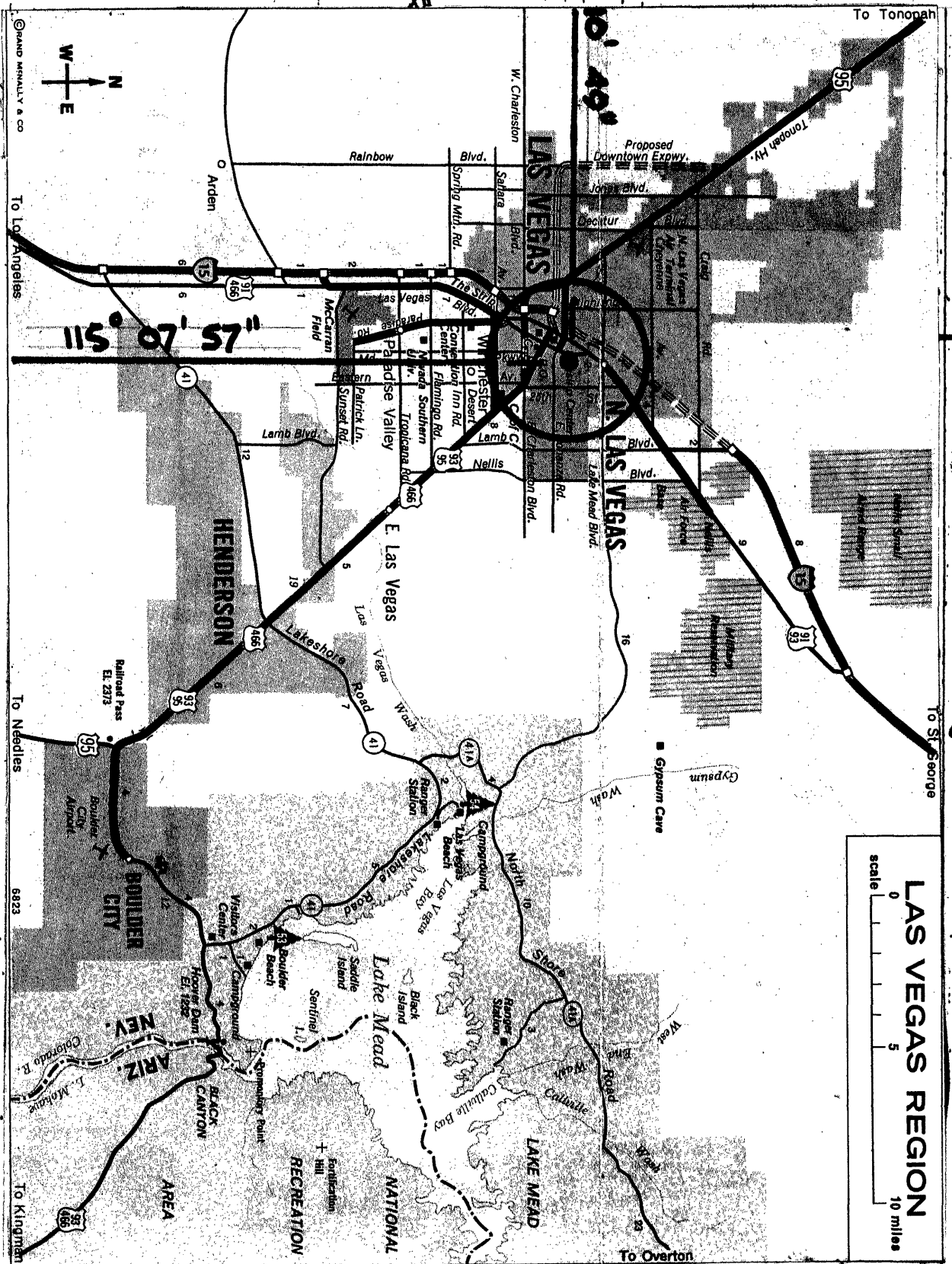
8.

The fort as Las Vegas retains the name "Mormon Fort" as it was built by the Mormons assigned to the Las Vegas Mission, and was used by them as a fort during their sojourn at Las Vegas, 1855-1858.

Another note of significance, Las Vegas Mormon Fort is the oldest inhabited building in Nevada today.

# LAS VEGAS MODERN FORT

## AREA LOCATION MAP



36° 10' 49"

115° 07' 57"

Las Vegas Region  
Scale: 0, 5, 10 miles

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

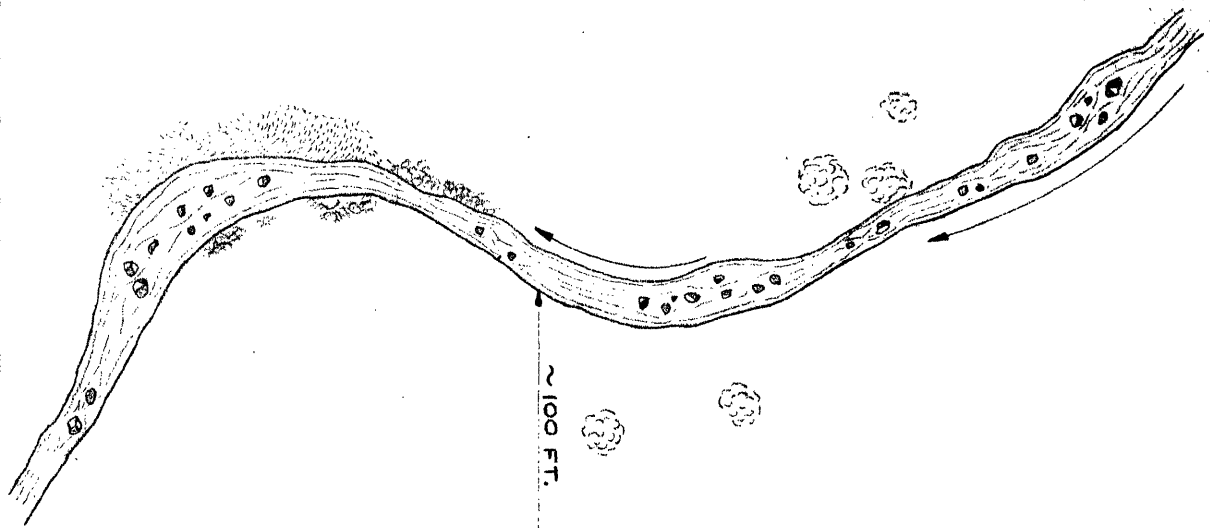
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

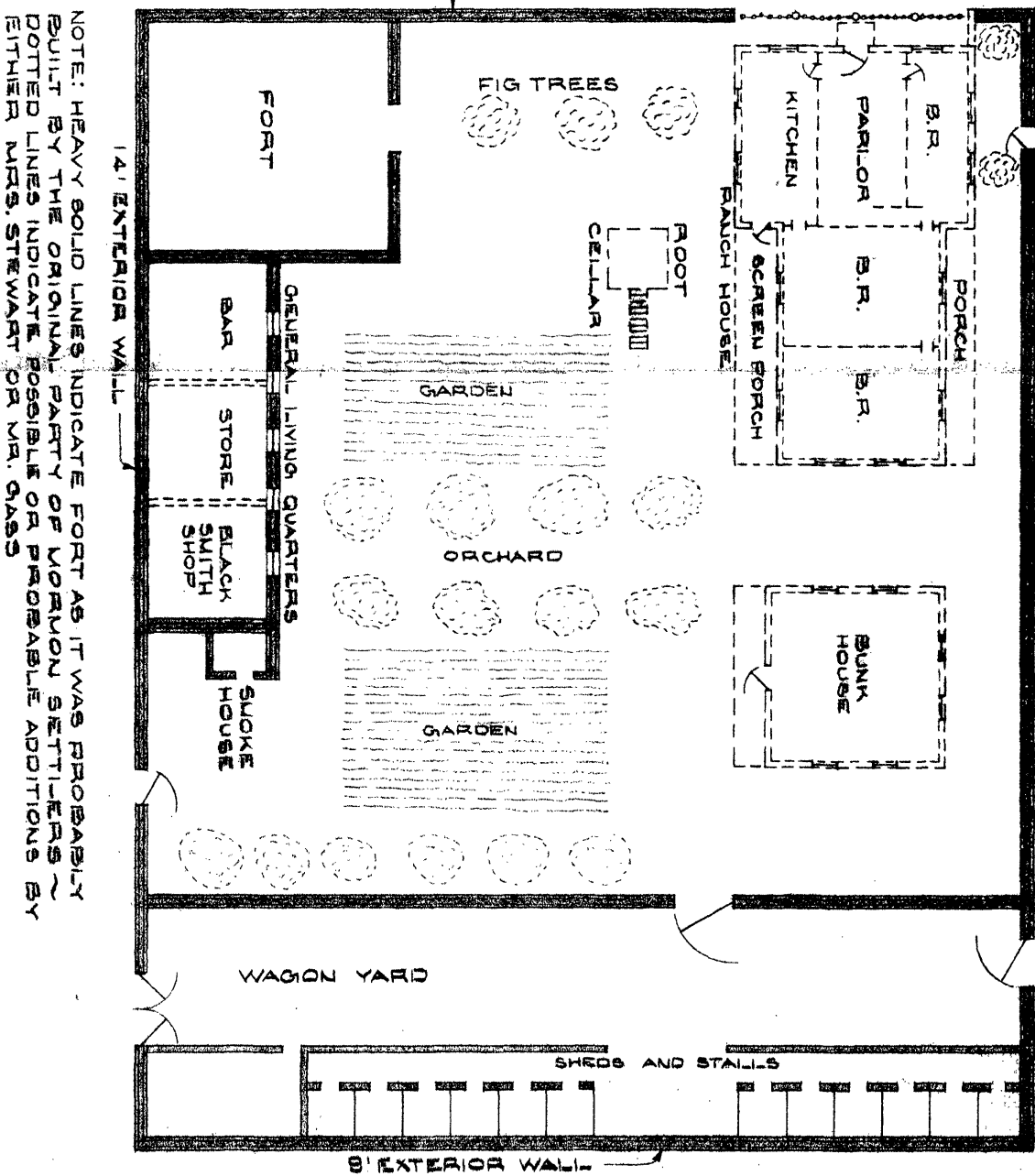
NAME		STATE	Nevada	
COMMON:		COUNTY	Clark	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		CLARK FOR NPS USE ONLY		
2. LOCATION		ENTRY NUMBER	FEB 1 1972	
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		900 Las Vegas Boulevard North		
STATE:		Las Vegas		
3. MAP REFERENCE		CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
SOURCE:		32	Clark	003
SCALE:		State Highway Department		
DATE:		1" = 5 miles		
4. REQUIREMENTS		1970		
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS				
1. Property boundaries where required.				
2. North arrow.				
3. Latitude and longitude reference.				



TO LAS VEGAS  
ARTESIAN SPRINGS



~ 100 FT.



1/4" EXTERIOR WALL

8" EXTERIOR WALL

NOTE: HEAVY SOLID LINES INDICATE FORT AS IT WAS PROBABLY BUILT BY THE ORIGINAL PARTY OF MORMON SETTLERS ~ DOTTED LINES INDICATE POSSIBLE OR PROBABLE ADDITIONS BY EITHER MRS. STEWART OR MR. GASS

REVISION	REVIEW	DATE	BY
	E. BOQUETTE	12/15	DRG. MANAGER - TECHNICIAN
	STEWART	4/71	DRG. MANAGER

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES  
**NEVADA STATE PARK SYSTEM**



SCALE 1" = 20'-0"  
LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT  
LATITUDE: 36° 10' 49" N  
LONGITUDE: 115° 07' 57" W

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Nevada	
COUNTY	
Clark	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 1 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Las Vegas Mormon Fort			
AND/OR HISTORIC: "Fort Baker"			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
900 Las Vegas Blvd. North			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Las Vegas			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Nevada	32	Clark	003
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
Sketch drawing made by Ferris Doolittle about 1912			
SCALE: No			
DATE: 1912			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
X 1. Property boundaries where required.		This is the best available data we have of the ultimate development of "The Fort."	
2. North arrow.			
X 3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

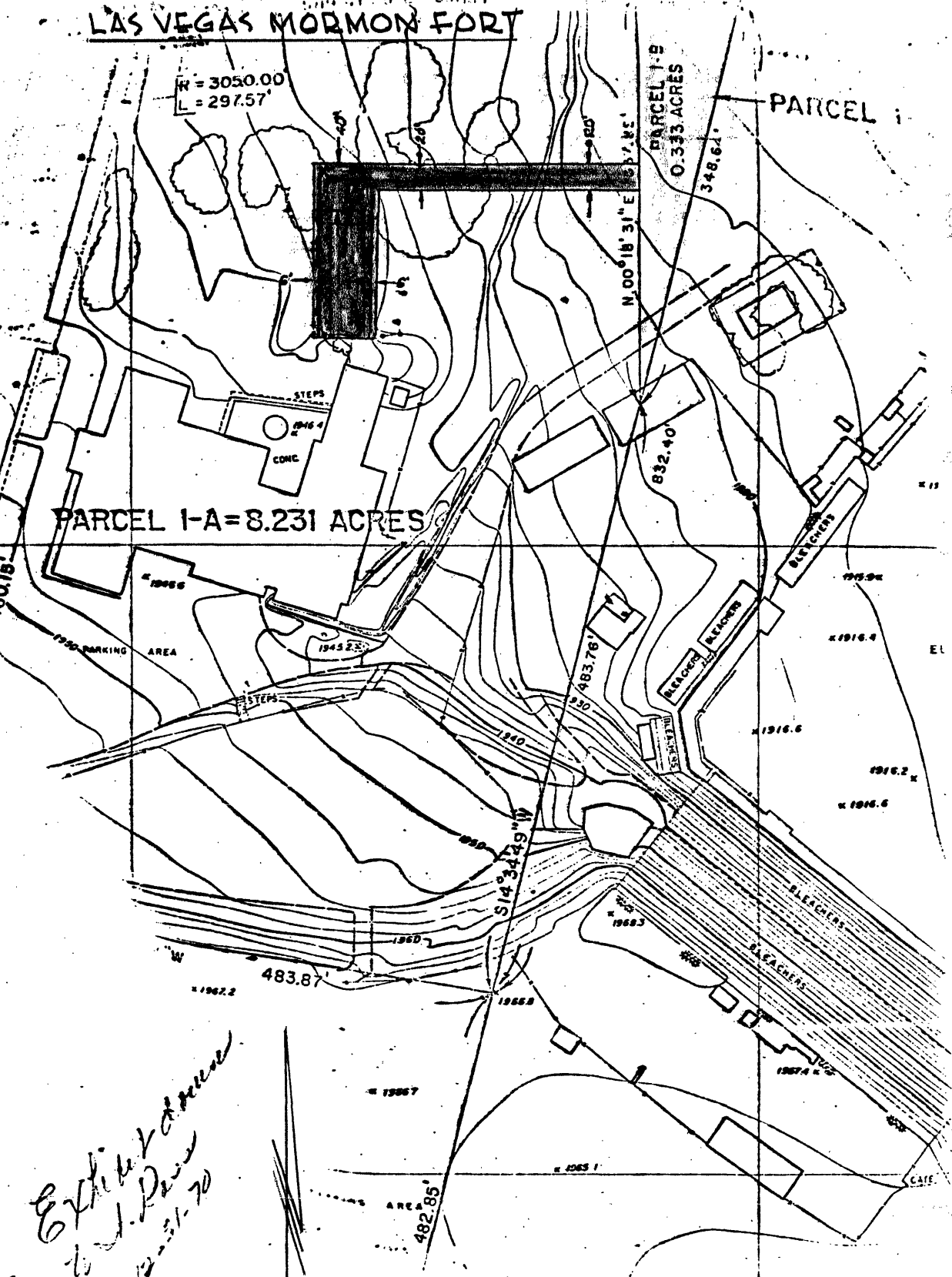
# LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT

R = 3050.00  
L = 297.57'

PARCEL 1-B  
0.333 ACRES

PARCEL 1

PARCEL 1-A = 8.231 ACRES



*Exp. Plan  
to J. P. ...  
12-31-70*



LATITUDE: 36° 10' 49"  
LONGITUDE: 115° 07' 57"

SCALE: 1" = 100'

Las Vegas Mormon Fort

Form 10-301  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE	
Nevada	
COUNTY	
Clark	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 1 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Las Vegas Mormon Fort

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Baker

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

900 Las Vegas Boulevard North

CITY OR TOWN:

Las Vegas

STATE: Nevada

CODE COUNTY: Clark

32 003

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:

County Records

SCALE: Vicinity map

DATE: December 31, 1970

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.