

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Washington School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1901 N. White Street

not for publication

city, town North Las Vegas

vicinity

state Nevada code NV

county Clark

code 003

zip code 89030

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Ronald A. Jones
Signature of certifying official

1/13/1992
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Barbara A. Lee

3/10/92

fa Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION, School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION, School

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

MODERNE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Concrete

roof Asphalt
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Please see continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1932-1942

Significant Dates

1932,

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

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

Please see continuation sheets.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acree of property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	1
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6	6	8	0	2	5
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4	0	0	7	0	4	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southwest corner of Lake Mead Blvd., and White Street, proceed 240 feet west, and then proceed 250 feet south. Then proceed 240 feet east and then proceed 250 feet north to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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

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National Park Service**

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WASHINGTON SCHOOL

7. Description:

The Washington School was built in 1932 and represents the Moderne architectural style. Its architect and builder are unknown. The school retains integrity of its design including stylistic elements, plan configuration and massing. It also retains integrity of construction materials and building details. The Washington School has been in continuous use as a school from the time of its construction until the present day.

The Washington School is located in Las Vegas, Nevada within the SW 1/4 of Section 23, T20S, R61E. The building is situated on the southwest corner of Lake Mead Boulevard and White Street, and faces east toward White Street. The original school site measures 240 feet along Lake Mead Boulevard and 250 feet along White Street. The site is characterized by asphalt and grass surfaces, mature cypress trees at the entrance, and three non-contributing buildings.

The Washington School is a one-story building with a symmetrical, cruciform plan containing two classrooms. The basically rectangular structure measures 25 by 85 feet, with a stepped projecting entry and rear restroom wing forming the cruciform plan. The school is constructed with concrete foundations and concrete block walls which are divided into bays with Moderne style pilasters. A flat roof is located behind the parapet and is covered with asphalt shingles.

An important exterior element that articulates the building's symmetry is the central, paired metal doors within a projecting frontispiece detailed with stepped corner reveals. The original windows are steel frame with eight lite casement, awning, and fixed sash variations. A notable decorative feature of the otherwise undecorated building are the concrete band courses at the cornice and parapets. Original interior elements include two panel wood doors with eight lite transoms, blackboards, and plumbing fixtures.

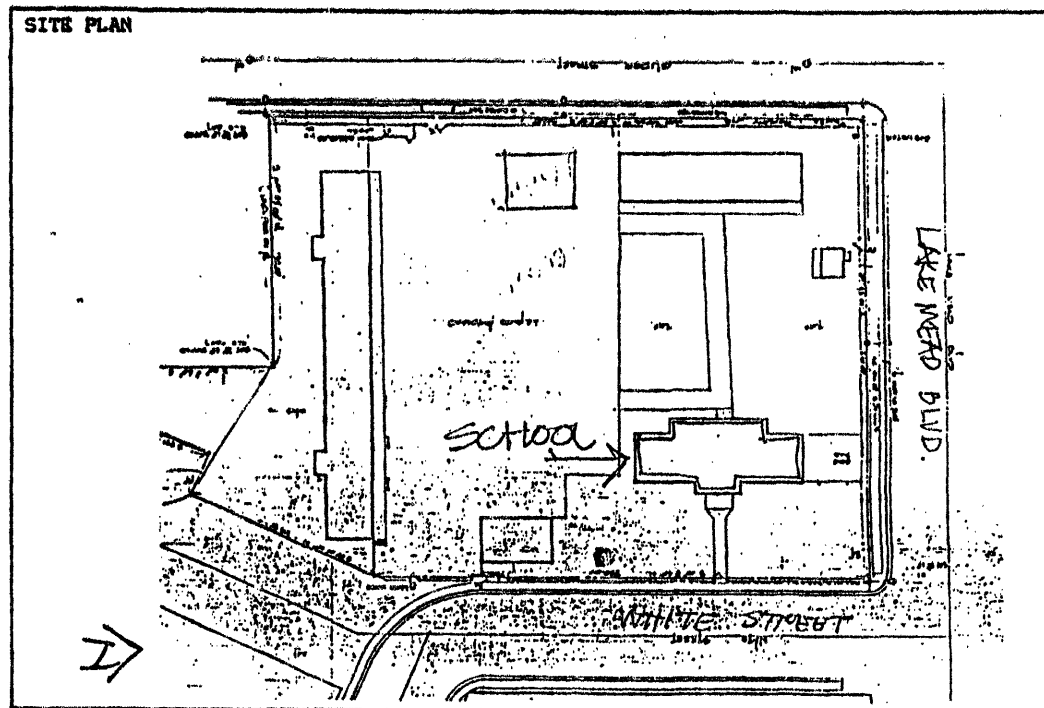
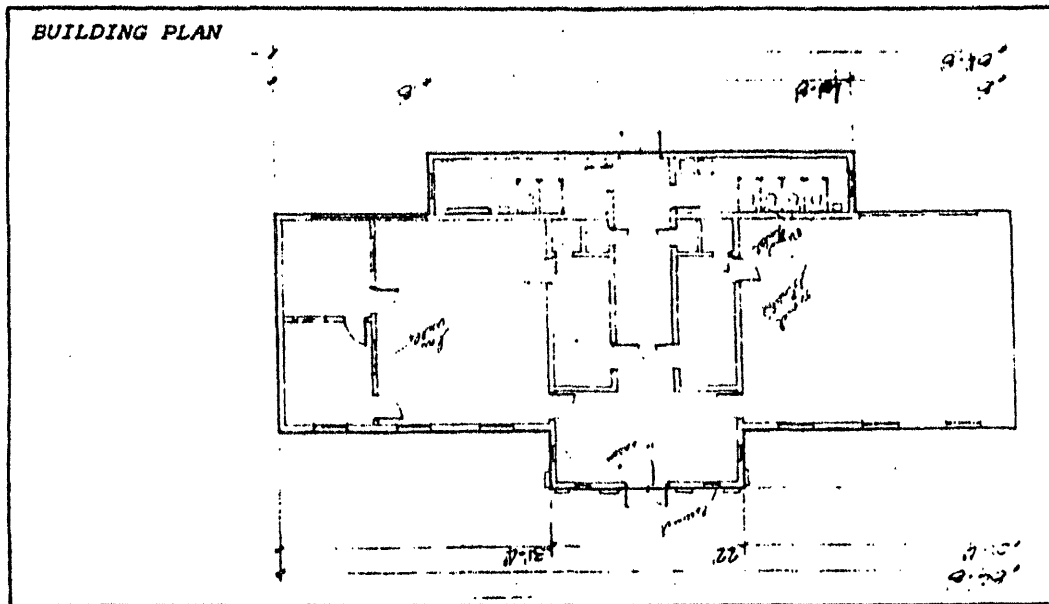
The site contains three additional structures. At the rear of the site, about 100 feet behind Washington School, are a portable classroom building and a wood frame and stuccoed classroom building. The third building is situated about 50 feet to the southeast of the school and is wood frame with a gable roof. Its function is unknown.

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WASHINGTON SCHOOL



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PHOTOGRAPH DESCRIPTIONS-WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Photo 1- Washington School
Las Vegas, Nevada
Jim Garrison
June 1990
Nevada SHPO
Looking Northwest, Front Elevation

Photo 2- Washington School
Las Vegas, Nevada
Jim Garrison
June 1990
Nevada SHPO
Looking Southwest, Front Elevation

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8. Significance

The Washington School is significant under Criteria C in the area of significance of Architecture. It is representative of the historic context "Schoolhouse Architecture in Southern Nevada's Fifth Supervision School District, 1870 to 1942." Built in 1932, the Washington School is a rare regional example of the Moderne Style influence in elementary school design. Only one other school in Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas High School, is designed in the Moderne Style. The building is also significant as an example of the early use of concrete block. The Washington School is a good illustration of the Custom Architecturally Designed Schoolhouse property type, and is one of only twelve such buildings in the Fifth Supervision District. The building possesses the important characteristics of the property type, specifically the combination of standardized functional criteria with a mainstream style to form one unified architectural statement.

The Moderne Style incorporated the concepts of the modern movement into architectural design. Those concepts denounced superfluous ornamentation and the reliance on historical precedent, and emphasized instead structural simplicity and the use of the most up-to-date materials and construction processes, as well as allowing the essential qualities of the building's function to drive the aesthetics of the design.

Elements of that style, illustrated by the Washington School, include the overall simple geometry of the structure, and smooth or undecorated surfaces. Symmetrical arrangement of the principal facade, another characteristic of the style, is also evident in the Washington School design. A projecting central frontispiece divides the facade into three bays. The walls are further articulated by two horizontal cornice bands and a series of pilasters. The pilasters, as well as the building corners, are detailed with stepped back blockwork, a typical technique of the Moderne Style.

The Washington School is also important for its association with the development of Las Vegas, which experienced a population and building boom as the beginning of the 1930s. The boom was brought about by a diversification of the city's economy that greatly changed its pre-1930 status as primarily a railroad town. From 1931 through the end of World War II, three events lead to the creation of many new jobs in Las Vegas. First, Las Vegas was designated as the supply center for the nearby Boulder Dam construction project. Second, gambling was legalized, and third, several wartime industries were located near Las Vegas. The expanding job market resulted in the city's population growing from 5,952 in 1930, to 8,422 in 1940, to 24,625 in 1950. Built in 1932, Washington School reflects the citywide school building expansion program during that year.

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9. Major Bibliographical References:

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

Nash, Gerald. The American West in the Twentieth Century: A Short History of An Urban Oasis. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1977).

Paher, Stanley, W. Las Vegas: As it began--as it grew. (Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1971).

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

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

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000120 Date Listed: 3/10/92

Washington School
Property Name

Clark NV
County State

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

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

for *Antoinette Rose*
Signature of the Keeper

3/10/92
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The period of significance is amended
to read 1932.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)