

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 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 Overton Gyrnaisum other names/site number

2. Location

street & number N. West Thomas Avenue off S. Anderson Street not for publication city, town Overton vicinity state Nevada code NV county Clark code 003 zip code 89040

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/district/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic School Buildings in the Evolution of the Fifth Supervision School District, Nevada Multiple Property Listing

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. Signature of certifying official: Ronald A. [unclear] Date: 1/31/92

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: [unclear] Date: [unclear]

5. 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: [unclear] Date of Action: 3/10/92

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE, SPORTS FACILITYEducation/School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE, SPORTS FACILITY

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALItalian Renaissance Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Concrete

roof Asphaltother Terra Cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Please see continuation sheet.

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
1938-1942

Significant Dates
1938

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Miller, Miles

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

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	1
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7	2	8	5	3	0
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4	0	4	6	9	0	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

The boundary of the nominated property is as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of Thomas and Anderson Streets proceed 196 feet south and then proceed 8.25 feet west and then proceed 165.87 feet south. Then proceed 536.25 feet west and then proceed 361.87 feet north and then proceed 544.5 feet east 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 Wood ward 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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OVERTON GYMNASIUM

7. Description:

The Overton Gymnasium was built in 1938 and represents the Italian Renaissance Revival architectural style. Designed by Salt Lake City architect Miles M. Miller, the gymnasium was funded by the federal PWA program. The building retains a high degree of the important aspects of its integrity, especially in design, materials, and workmanship. The historic school associated with the Overton Gymnasium is no longer standing, and the non-historic Moapa Valley High School complex is located adjacent to the gym. The building is currently utilized as a component of the school.

The gymnasium building is located in the SW 1/4 of Section 13 in T16S, R67E in Overton, Nevada. The original school site is rectangular and is bounded on the north by N. West Thomas Street and on the east by South Anderson Avenue. The site measures 544 feet wide by 260 feet deep. The main facade is oriented north onto Thomas Street, with the building located about 200 feet to the west of South Anderson Avenue.

Overton Gymnasium is a symmetrical, one and two story building constructed of cast-in-place concrete and tinted brick-sized concrete block. The building measures 60 x 130 feet and is covered by low pitched hip roofs with asphalt shingles. The primary facade features a central entry frontispiece and inset walls at each end creating a symmetrical, three part facade. Sidewall pilasters divide the building into five bays with each pilaster supporting original roof trusses.

The original steel frame windows at the side bays are round arched, but have been covered. A grouping of three steel sash windows at the central bay above the entry are separated by pairs of columns. Exterior features include the frontispiece detailed with four terra cotta fluted Tuscan Order columns, a round arch door surround with fanlight and keystone, porthole windows, and tablets. Additionally, there is a deep cornice and entablature at the second floor line, also constructed of terra cotta.

The site contains one large post-historic building; the Moapa Valley High School. It is a sprawling, single story building constructed of brick and concrete.

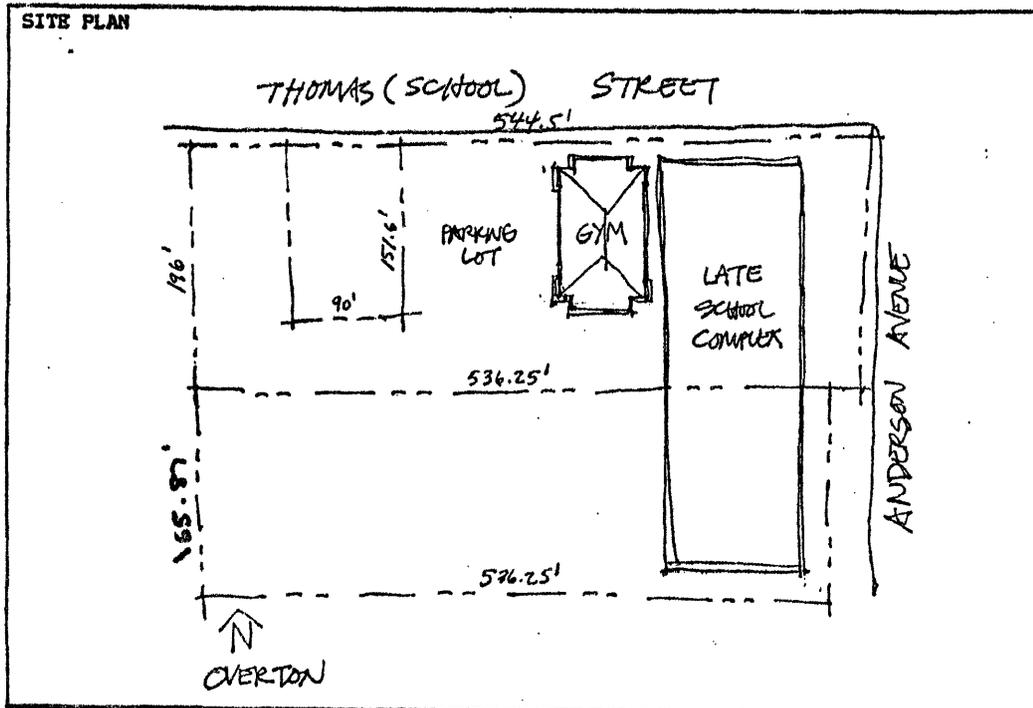
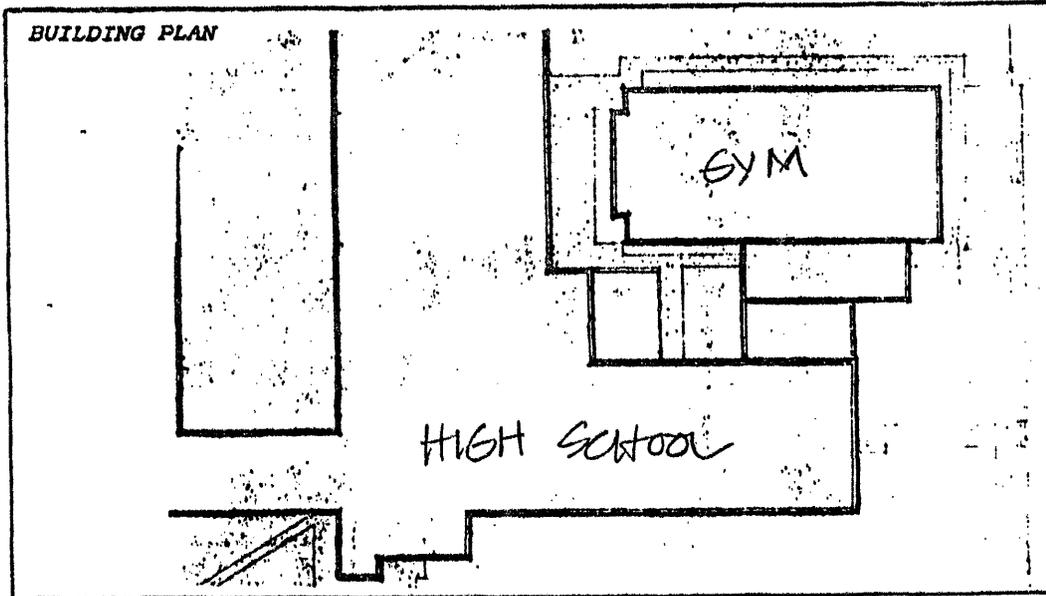
Aside from the infilled arched window openings at the facade, the Overton Gymnasium has had no substantial alterations.

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OVERTON GYMNASIUM



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PHOTOGRAPH DESCRIPTIONS-OVERTON GYMNASIUM

- Photo 1- Overton Gymnasium
Overton, Nevada
Jim Garrison
June 1990
Nevada SHPO
Looking South, Front Entrance Detail
- Photo 2- Overton Gymnasium
Overton, Nevada
Jim Garrison
June 1990
Nevada SHPO
Looking East, Side Elevation Detail
- Photo 3- Overton Gymnasium
Overton, Nevada
Jim Garrison
June 1990
Nevada SHPO
Looking Southeast, Front and Side Elevations

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8. Significance

The Overton Gymnasium is significant under Criteria C in the area of significance of Architecture. Built with Italian Renaissance Revival Style influences in a minimalist design format, it is representative of the historic context "Schoolhouse Architecture in Southern Nevada's Fifth Supervision District, 1870 to 1942." It is significant as well for its rare use of terra cotta and tinted concrete brick. The Overton Gymnasium is illustrative of the School Support Building property type, and possesses the characteristics of that type in terms of its specialized use, which reflected the expanding educational curriculums of the 1930s, and its functional design, which necessitated a large physical structure with a large interior volume. The building is representative of the Custom Architecturally Designed Schoolhouse property type as well. It embodies the characteristics of that type in terms of the formality of its style, and the special attention paid to the spatial organization of the building's use.

School support buildings were important components of the expanding role of education that occurred beginning in the early 20th Century. Their function and necessary large size, often required designs and methods of construction quite different from traditional school buildings. Almost always designed by architects, and usually in the formal styles, the school support building became symbolic, not only of education reform, but also of community stature.

Funded by the federal Public Works Administration (PWA), the Overton Gymnasium was designed by Salt Lake City architect Miles E. Miller. In addition to the Overton Gymnasium, Miller also designed gymnasiums in the nearby towns of Bunkerville (1939) and Mesquite (1939) under the PWA program. While the Mesquite and Bunkerville gymnasiums share a combined gymnasium/classroom form and identical design featuring Italian Renaissance Revival influences, the Overton Gymnasium is built within a more reserved Italian Renaissance Revival format, and includes no classrooms.

The Overton Gymnasium exemplifies the public architecture sponsored by the federal relief programs of the Depression era. The federal government promoted subdued or minimal versions of the traditional styles associated with public buildings. Those styles were mostly drawn from Italian Renaissance or classical examples. They also promoted the use of modern, fireproof materials, particularly concrete and steel.

The design of the Overton Gymnasium illustrates that preference through its incorporation of elements of the Italian Renaissance Revival Style in a simple, efficient form. Stylistic features of the Overton Gymnasium that typify the Italian Renaissance Revival tradition are strict attention to symmetry at the principal facade, a division of the facade into three primary bays, and classical detailing of the entry, pilasters and cornice. Other stylistic elements include low profile elevations and roof forms, and a sense of horizontality achieved through eave details and the first story cornice.

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The gymnasium entrance provides a stylistic focus for the facade and includes extensive use of terra cotta. The wall veneer is terra cotta, as are the pairs of fluted classical columns that flank each side of the round arch doorway. The door surround is terra cotta molding, with a characteristic keystone and fan lite. Details also include porthole windows and tablets. The columns terminate at an ornate entablature and cornice, also of terra cotta, which extends the length of the facade. Although a common architectural product, the application of terra cotta on Southern Nevada school buildings is rare.

A deep cornice and entablature at the second floor line provides for the division of stories typical of Renaissance Revival architecture, and the grouping of windows, separated by pairs of columns above the entrance gives the illusion of the style's trademark balcony. Windows along the sidewalls are tall and round arched, and have cast stone keystones with a small medallion inset in the wall above.

In addition to the application of stylistic ornamentation at the facade, and the symmetry of the building, the gymnasium's design is also in keeping with the concepts of minimalism, simplicity, and use of modern materials, as promoted by the federal government. Windows are all steel sash, multiple lite awning, or casements. The use of brick-size, red-tinted concrete masonry units is regionally rare, but reflects the desire to use modern fireproof materials that simulated traditional clay brick. Although briefly popular during the 1920s and 1930s, the use of concrete brick was not economical and was soon replaced with larger concrete block, which required less material to manufacture and less labor to erect. The masonry work at the gymnasium is well detailed, with stepped back reveals at corners, and soldier courses at window lintels and arches. The second story colonnade is also constructed of concrete brick.

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9. Major Bibliographical References:

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

Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. (Washington D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1981).

Public Buildings: Architecture Under the Public Works Administration, 1933-39, Vol. 1. (New York: De Capo Press, 1986).

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: 92000118 Date Listed: 3/10/92

Overton Gymnasium
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.

Michelle McFadden

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 1938.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

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