

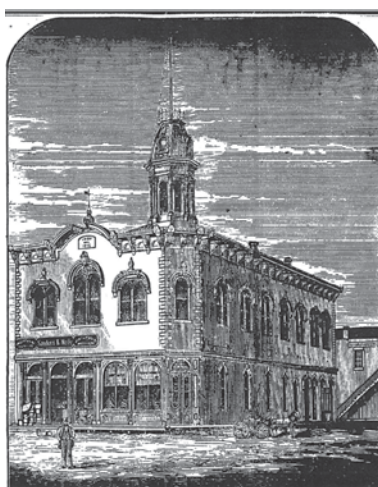
## Of Banks and Odd Fellows: Reno's Oldest Commercial Building

by Debbie Hinman

**Editor's Note:** *Deciding what the oldest commercial building in Reno is can be a problem. Yes, the original courthouse was built in 1873, but it was covered up by Frederic DeLongchamps' 1909 façade, followed by additions on the sides and back of the building in 1946, 1949, and 1963. The 1873 building is still inside, but it is not visible on the exterior. We feature 195 N. Virginia, a property whose original architecture is visible.*

It has been a sad few months for local history as our oldest commercial building, the 1872 Masonic/Mercantile building on the corner of Commercial Row and N. Sierra Street, has slowly been dismantled, vestiges of its brick exterior crumbling to dust. With the loss of 147 years of history comes the question: what structure now holds the title of "Oldest Commercial Building?"

Many might guess it to be the 1915 bank building incorporated into Harrah's, housing Ichiban Steakhouse, but there is an older structure diagonally across from that one, on the southwest corner of Virginia and Second Streets. This current "oldest commercial building," nearly obscured by marquees proclaiming "T-SHIRTS T-SHIRTS T-SHIRTS" and a large, glitzy sign bearing the word "LOANS" was constructed in 1876, opening for business January 1877. Its original lovely red brick has been buried under coats of peeling yellowish paint and an odd boxy clock was affixed to the top of the building during a 1980s remodel, in a misguided attempt to reclaim its historic appearance. Only the lovely double-arched windows on the second story remain as vestiges of its original beauty.



A zincograph (top) of the original I.O.O.F./Washoe County Bank property built in 1876; an early postcard (bottom) of the same building. Note the tower has been removed. The zincograph is from the *Weekly Nevada State Journal*, April 28, 1877. Postcard courtesy UNR Special Collections.

This was originally the I.O.O.F./Reno Savings Bank building. Not only is the building similar in age to the Masonic/Mercantile, it too was commissioned by a fraternal organization, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Like the Masonic building, the second floor was used for I.O.O.F. activities and the first floor rented to various other tenants; for nearly 60 years, a series of banks claimed the first floor corner space.

The Odd Fellows had been a presence in Reno since the formation of the town. Theirs is a service organization, created to elevate members to a higher, nobler plane and to extend sympathy and aid to those in need. Their first hall was located on the east side of Virginia Street and their chapter was known as the Truckee Lodge, No. 14. The moving spirit behind the Reno organization was none other than city founder, Myron C. Lake. The Lodge purchased a large lot on Virginia and

Second from Lake for \$3,000 in March of 1876. The Italianate-style building was designed by local architect John Sturgeon (the following year he would design a home for Washington J. Marsh, today Reno's Lake Mansion). The local firm of O'Hara & Ferguson were contracted to do the stone and brickwork of the 44x100-foot building; construction costs were estimated at \$20,000 but overran by almost double.

The upstairs quarters would be the Odd Fellows lodge quarters with ante rooms and a 23x40-foot library. The pièce de résistance, however,

was the lodge hall. It was an impressive room, 50x34-foot horizontally and 20-feet high, with a heavy cornice 14 feet from the floor. From this point, the ceiling rose in the form of

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an elliptical arch. The hall was a popular venue for local events as well as Odd Fellows activities. A grand celebration and dedication of the Hall took place on April 26, 1877, "paying tribute to the enterprising spirit which has erected another monument to man's benevolence..." (*Reno Evening Gazette*, 4/24/1877)

The downstairs corner would be occupied by the Reno Savings Bank; the room adjoining the bank to the south was rented to Sanders & Co., later Sanders & Neale's. Just two years previously, Sanders had purchased a 40-acre tract of land on a rise north of town, overlooking the budding city. He sold parcels of the land, but kept a small tract which became Hillside Cemetery. Sanders' business in the I.O.O.F. building was an odd sort of furniture store; in addition to the usual chairs and beds, advertised were "coffins, caskets and undertaker's goods," quite enterprising on Sanders' part. The second story facing Second Street accommodated some of the city's leading attorneys and medical practitioners.

The Reno Savings Bank was a boon to the fledgling town. Its list of trustees read like a page from Who's Who of Nevada with Myron Lake, city founding father; Granville Huffaker, wealthy rancher; J. E. Jones, formerly Washoe County Sheriff; L. L. Crockett, State Treasurer; and J. H. Kinkead, former Washoe Deputy Sheriff. Upon its



Directors and employees of Washoe County Bank, Reno in 1921. Note the unique coffered ceiling.  
Courtesy UNR Special Collections.

opening in January 1877, the *Reno Evening Gazette* proclaimed: "A large Savings Bank is what Reno has needed for some time. We now have a good one, one which is a credit and ornament to the town. The men under whose control it is are honorable business gentlemen. Patrons of the Bank are perfectly secure in entrusting their banking business to the hands of the officers of the Reno Savings Bank."

In 1879, with the Odd Fellows unable to meet their debts, the Savings Bank purchased the building from the Lodge. Only a year later, the confidence earlier expressed in the bank leaders was badly shaken, as townspeople visited the bank to find the doors locked and a card bearing the word "suspended" pasted to the inside of the glass door. The bank had overextended itself and closed for good. Reform Club speaker H. H. Beck

declared the collapse of the bank was a "local calamity second only to the great fire (a reference to the Great Fire of March 2, 1879, which this building miraculously survived)." The Odd Fellows re-purchased their building at a Sheriff's Sale.

The Odd Fellows continued to rent out their Hall and at some point it became known as "Arcadome Hall," with the building often referred to as the Arcadome Building. There was a quite famous Arcadome Hall in Wooster, Ohio at the same time period as the I.O.O.F. Building; perhaps our Arcadome was named for it. Today the word is in current usage to describe inflatable arches for outdoor events.

By 1887 however, the Odd Fellows, still struggling to satisfy lienholders, sold the building to the First National Bank of Reno (FNBR) and relocated to Sierra Street. The bank quickly obliterated the word "Arcadome" from the building and painted the words "First National Bank" on the Second Street side. The bank would occupy the ground floor corner and the Post Office would rent the space next door.

The FNBR, originally established as the Washoe County Bank in 1871, re-organized in May of 1880 as FNBR at the office of D. A. Bender & Co.; the "Co." included George Mapes and Charles Bender, D.A.'s brother.



Panoramic postcard of 2nd and Virginia with I.O.O.F./Washoe County Bank in center, 1906 A. Cummings.  
Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.



The Benders were not new to banking, D.A. having established a local bank in 1871.

In 1889, the First National Bank of Reno hired local architect George Holesworth to build an annex directly behind the bank building, in the space between it and the *Nevada State Journal* office. Today one can observe the difference between the original building and the annex; the upper-story windows have a similar shape and style but are less ornate. The annex was immediately popular, with the following descriptive phrases from local newspapers: “new and handsome corner apartments...the finest offices in town” and a dentist with “elegant parlors in the First National Bank annex which are crowded all of the time.”

In 1896, the Washoe County Bank became successor to the First National Bank of Reno, under management of the same Board of Directors, including Mapes and Charles Bender, but with W.O.H. Martin at the helm. Martin had come to Reno in 1883 and was soon a well-known and respected businessman, serving two terms in the State Senate



About 1890, on the left, the U.S. Post Office and on the right, on the corner of N. Virginia and Second Street, the Washoe County Bank on the first floor.  
Courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

and building a large, much-admired home on Mill Street. Martin passed away in 1901 and George Mapes assumed the bank presidency.

Shortly thereafter, the bank underwent remodeling “to better meet the requirements.” Its Italianate architecture gave way to a Renaissance Revival appearance. The lovely arched windows on the ground floor were replaced by large rectangular ones on the Second Street side. The post office (formerly Sanders’ Furniture/Undertaking) was also painted and remodeled. In 1909, a fine new brick federal building was

erected on a site just north of the river on Virginia Street, and First Street. The post office and some government workers who occupied the second floor of the bank building relocated there.

On June 28, 1915, Charles Theodore Bender lapsed into a diabetic coma in his chair at the bank. His sons carried him to his family home on Ralston Street (demolished in 2018) where he died at age 65. Bender had come to Reno in 1868 and joined his brother D. A., who had founded D. A. Bender & Company. He had been cashier and a member of the Board of Trustees ever since that time.

In July of 1929, the Washoe County Bank, no longer able to operate, merged with the Scheeline Banking & Trust Co. The takeover was engineered by George Wingfield, who was also President of the Riverside Bank. His deal stipulated that depositors of the Washoe County Bank would be credited with 75% of their deposits. The new bank would be known as the United Nevada Bank. Some local businesses took out large newspaper ads expressing confidence in Reno and the new United Nevada Bank. A little over three months later, the entire nation’s confidence in banks would be shaken to the core.

Fortunately, the Depression did not hit Nevada as hard as other states. The banks staggered on and remained open until December of 1932 when the Nevada Lt. Governor Morley Griswold ordered Wingfield’s Reno banks, the Reno National Bank, the Riverside Bank, and the United Nevada Bank to close their doors for a 12-day “holiday.” Since the stock market crash, Wingfield had over-extended his banking chain, in an effort to support and bolster cattle ranchers throughout Nevada. He did not have the resources to re-open his banks

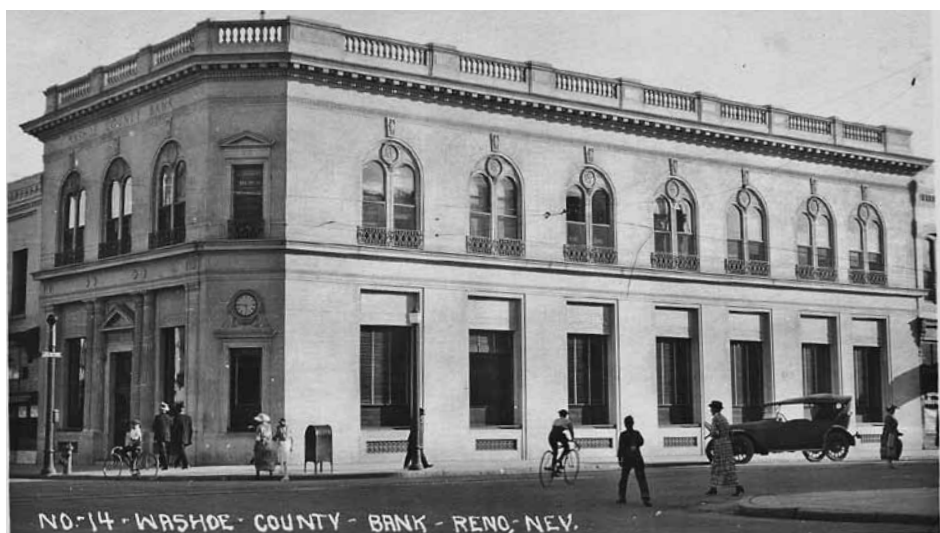


Photo of Washoe County Bank Building. Courtesy Dick Dreiling.

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# Reno's Oldest Commercial Building

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and the historic building, now known as United Nevada Bank, that had been home to banking since 1877, lost that designation and went into receivership.

The building sold in 1935 to the Stack Estate, owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Stack. The Estate owned several buildings and other property in the Reno and Lake Tahoe area. Mrs. Stack was the mother of actor Robert Stack, of "The Untouchables" fame.

As often happens, old buildings find a new life and the staid offices on the entire first floor of the building were completely remodeled in December 1935 to accommodate a very different kind of business—a drug store! Longtime local druggist William Ramos leased the building and would run it in conjunction with the Riverside pharmacy, which he had conducted for several years. This new location featured a separate room on the mezzanine floor devoted to emergency necessities from hypodermic needles to oxygen tanks. At the end of 1951, Ramos closed the store at this location and opened at 247 California Avenue, today the site of The Cheese Board.

From a series of banks, to a drugstore, in 1952 the old building gained a new identity as a jewelry store. It was first L.



195 N. Virginia Street on the quiet morning of March 28, 2019. Photo by David Lowndes.



Courtesy Reno Historical.

C. Griffin's which merged with Edises Jewelers. Edises began as Edises & Wolf Jewelers in 1920 on N. Virginia, then moved to the Arcade building on Virginia in 1929, just a stone's throw from its new location. The new quarters at this historic site were attractive and the Edises name brought with it many loyal clients. A New York firm by the name of Lane purchased the building from Elizabeth Stack.

With the departure of Edises in 1982, the building fell into a steep decline. It was briefly occupied by Family Savings, then a liquor store and a topless bar. Things momentarily looked hopeful in 1983 when local attorney Nada Novakovich took a 20-year lease on the building, stating "Naturally, I plan to capitalize on

the historic value of the building," claiming she was financing a \$4.5 million "facelift." Her grand plan was to create a shop emporium called Big Luke's as a monument to her husband, Luke Aluevich, who was killed in a car accident in 1971. But her plan took a nose dive. Big Luke's was

in business for three years, not turning a single monthly profit.

Novakovich never followed through on her plan to place the property on the National Register of Historic Places though she claimed the building had received preliminary approval. However, her investment did fund one very important project: she hired Paul Ferrari, structural engineer, to do a complete retrofit of the building. In spite of her efforts to upgrade the building and ensure its safety, no one stepped forward with a vision for its future use.

Following the failure of Big Luke's, the property became a pawn shop and souvenir store, selling T-SHIRTS T-SHIRTS.

Today the building sits empty, festooned with signs, marquees and bright bulbs, like an elderly woman wearing too much rouge and a moth-eaten feather boa. There is a beautiful, historic building beneath its tacky trappings, but unless one has seen the earlier photos, it's hard to imagine. With some careful restoration, this important vestige of history could once again be a structure to be proud of. We can only hope that someone will rescue it so we won't soon be faced with another loss of Reno's dwindling history and one more empty lot.

Information for this article came from Mella Harmon's entry in Reno Historical; various newspaper articles from 1876 through the 1980s; and *Tough Little Town on the Truckee* by John M. Townley. Photos and postcards courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society.

Debbie Hinman is on the City of Reno's Historical Resources Commission, is a HRPS Tour Guide, and Managing Editor of *FootPrints*.



# Introducing



by Sharon Honig-Bear

**H**RPS is excited to join a community-wide coalition to present RenoMoMo (Reno Modern Movement)! This is a new initiative to draw attention to an overlooked aspect of the built environment: midcentury architecture and the recent past.

The project started with informal talks between a few local historians and architects and then took flight. The City of Reno is acting as convener for a broad group of interested organizations, with HRPS stepping forward as the lead for the coalition. Participating organizations include the Northern Nevada Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, City of Reno Arts and Culture, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada Historical Society, City of Sparks, Nevada Museum of Art, Washoe County Library System, Nevada Humanities and others.

The project has many activities planned for this year, including an October 10 presentation by Alan Hess, noted architect, author and advocate for 20th century architectural preservation. Please do save the date. Details will follow in future issues of *FootPrints*.

RenoMoMo ties Northern Nevada to a national trend to recognize modern architecture, landscape and design. The Reno area is rapidly losing its historic buildings and context; this project is intended to raise community awareness of the recent past.

What kind of outcomes are expected? They include:

- Engaging the community to identify architectural examples in Reno-Sparks.
- Celebrating and discussing these examples through public events and social media.

- Creating a community-wide survey of modern architecture to influence future development.
- Using collected data for submissions to National, State and City historic registers.
- Using survey results for placement of historic markers in the community.

## Uncommon Modern Reno

Want to get involved? Join us for Uncommon Modern Reno, a crowd-sourced photography project that launches in July! Pick up your camera or smart phone and help us capture the variety and richness of modern and post-modern architecture in Reno.

Uncommon Modern Reno is a multi-phase project that focuses on documenting and analyzing modern and post-modern buildings throughout the Truckee Meadows. That means Reno, Sparks, Verdi, and the North and South Valleys. The goal is to locate and

identify a large number of these types of buildings, which are often hiding in plain sight.

Phase I of this exciting project is all about urban exploration and photo documentation. We're asking YOU to go out into the city and photograph the modern and post-modern buildings that catch your eye. Beginning in July and running through September, we'll be collecting photos, addresses, and short descriptions for the various buildings that you identify via Instagram, Facebook and email. Stay tuned for details on an upcoming informational meeting on how to identify modern resources and where to focus your efforts.

We'll be running an Instagram contest using the hashtag #UncommonReno during a five-month period between July and September. In October, we will host a reception to showcase the entries along with an awards ceremony for the most notable submissions. We will be accepting photo contributions via Facebook and email as well.

## Looking for Volunteers

The Reno MOMO project will be looking for volunteers to do data entry and checking on county assessor's records for entries to the social media campaign. If you are interested in this or other property research, please leave your name and contact information at 775-747-4478 or email [Board@historicro.org](mailto:Board@historicro.org).



Fleischmann Planetarium, built in 1963 on the University of Nevada, campus, Architect Raymond Hellman designed the Modern Movement building.  
2007 photo courtesy of [www.nevadamax.com](http://www.nevadamax.com).

Sharon Honig-Bear is a tour leader with Historic Reno Preservation Society, a Past-President of HRPS, founder of the annual Reno Harvest of Homes Tour and Chair of the City of Reno's Arts and Culture Commission.





# MAPMAKER OF RENO

by Anthony Shafton

Livingstone's Cowshed, dubbed "the Cowshed" or "Belle's Barn," opened on the outskirts of town at 2295 S. Virginia. It didn't work out. Shortly the self-promoting entrepreneur opened a well lubricated luncheon club for renovators, with a pedagogical theme: Belle's Alimony School, in the new Comstock Club on North Center Street (now the site of Harrah's) offered town gossip on a school blackboard, and such classes as "alimony arithmetic." Bob Caples, the *Nevada State Journal* reported, had created "a huge map of Reno to adorn the school room wall ... showing Reno's most famous places and people." In just one week her Alimony School closed and before long Belle was off again to try her luck in other parts. No physical trace of the Caples wall map of Reno survives.

The map idea, however, caught the attention of the printing and office supply firm A. Carlisle & Co., then at 131 N. Virginia. Carlisle commissioned young Caples, a Reno celebrity himself, to devise a version for them to publish—Caples' second map of Reno. Advertised in June 1932 as "All Ready to Mail," Caples' Carlisle map, like his charcoal portraits of divorcees, circulated back East thanks to the divorce traffic, earning Caples in his early twenties the kind of national reputation that he did not achieve with his Indian portraits, nor later with his mountain landscapes.

The success of the Carlisle map must have prompted the Town House to have their man Caples of "The Riding Lesson"

produce a different map of Reno that would outdo the other.

The Carlisle map is simply a line drawing, an aerial view looking east with some exaggeration of the earth's curvature for visual interest, and populated by little cartoon figures, like the dude saying "I knew it was a horse." Numerous Reno landmarks, as well as all the major clubs and bars, are in correct relation to each other—including the "Dude Ranch Town House," its original name. Hence the Carlisle map actually functions as a street map and city guide, whereas the colorized Town House map is a conceptual image of Reno, a world in itself, a globe but with its own laws of perspective, with New York at one pole, San Francisco at the other, and the Town House its central feature. The name Town House occurs in six places, while all but a few competitors are ignored, as are many landmarks. Its cartoons highlight gambling, booze and sex, several being variations on the riding lesson theme, such as the grinning cowboy hazing three hapless cuties in Eastern riding habits toward the Town House to the tune of "Git along little dogies." By contrast, the Carlisle map's cartoons, while not excluding those themes, good-naturedly embrace the whole human comedy, from ambulance chasers to fortune tellers to poetic lovers to feisty dogs.


On neither map do we find the Belle map's local celebrities, except for one: on each map, Caples gave himself a wry plug. On the Town House map,

From Caples' Town House map, the cartoons "Git along little Dogies" (left) and "The Riding Lesson" (below) are indicative of Caples' humor and cartoon skill. On the right, the cartoon announces the popular Carlisle map, for which, unfortunately, we haven't obtained a printable image.

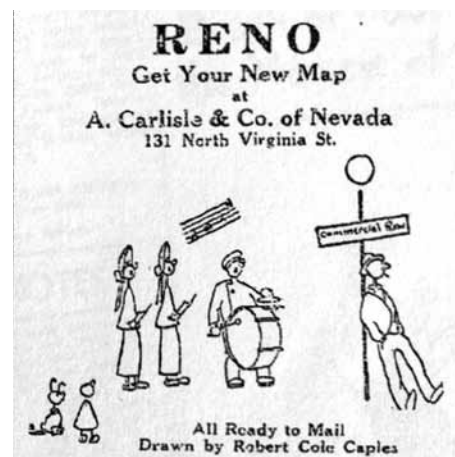


these words issue from the north-facing window of his Clay Peters Building portrait studio: "Draw One!" On the Carlisle map it's the voice of an unseen portrait subject: "Do I Look Like That?"

A fourth cartoon map of Reno, possibly by Caples deserves mention, this one drawn in the guest book of Brownie Jackson, mother of Nick Jackson who owned Newman Silver Shop where Caples exhibited. Its inheritor Craig Jackson says the Jacksons have always attributed the map, signed "by Peck," to family friend Caples. For a number of reasons, it's more likely the artist is really Edward Peck, an illustrator for *Nevada Desert Wolf* at the same time as Caples.

If Caples drew no further maps of Reno, he did go on making playful maps, although now deeply serious. Beginning in 1934, with "Manta the Earthmaker," Caples wrote four iterations of a creation legend, accessible to children while adult in import, and each plotted around a map of the world. The final version, Caples' self-published book *The Potter and His Children*, 1971, synthesizes a lifetime of wisdom about the spiritual meaning of the physical world. 

Images courtesy UNR Special Collections. Anthony Shafton is the author *The Nevada They Knew: Robert Caples and Walter Van Tilburg Clark*, as well as four other books.





# Historic Preservation Month May 2019 HRPS Historic Walking Tours

Bill Kolton & John Farrow, Walking Tour Chairs

Tour cost is \$10 per person, free to HRPS members. Walks generally last from 1 ½ to 2 hours.

**No dogs please. Reservations required and space is limited.**

Please go to [www.historicreno.org](http://www.historicreno.org) or call 775-747-4478 for reservations and information.

Access to HRPS Walking Tours varies according to venue. Certain areas may not be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities due to architectural barriers inherent in the historic construction of the structures or uneven walking surfaces.

Saturday,  
May 4  
10:00 a.m.

UPPER RALSTON/NORTHERN LITTLE ITALY — Enjoy a walk in a residential neighborhood with a mix of architectural styles. Proximity to the University has traditionally determined the mix of residents, professors and students alike. Meet at the intersection of Washington Street, The Strand and College Avenue. **Tour guides: Jim and Sue Smith.**

Tuesday  
May 7  
6:00 p.m.

MONROE STREET — Stroll along Monroe and Joaquin Miller Streets, savoring the history and architecture of this lovely residential area south of the Newlands Neighborhood. You will see the Hart House, the Patrick Ranch House, Greystone Castle, and other homes. Meet at the corner of Monroe and Manor Drives. **Tour guides: Shirie Wallace and Charlotte Voitoff.**

Saturday  
May 11  
10:00 a.m.

DOWNTOWN SPARKS — Learn about the history of the rail city with a guided walking tour of Victorian Square and Downtown Sparks. This interactive tour is designed to show how this area has transformed itself from a railroad hub, to a vibrant commercial district, to a rundown urban area and finally to a successful redevelopment area that has changed the image and future of the city. The tour includes 17 buildings and sites that have played an important role in the history and development of Sparks and Nevada. Tour begins and ends at the Sparks Heritage Museum located at 814 Victorian Avenue, Sparks. **Tour guide: Scott Carey.** *This tour is in collaboration with the Museum ([www.sparksmuseum.org](http://www.sparksmuseum.org)) but reservations need to be made through HRPS.*

Tuesday  
May 14  
6:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD — A walk through a formerly historic, soon-to-be decimated neighborhood at the foot of the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Hear about the neighborhood, its inhabitants, and the homes before they are gone. This is the final time this walk will be given. Meet at the base of the 9th Street University steps. **Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.**

Saturday  
May 18  
10:00 a.m.

NEWLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD — Enjoy an architectural walk through one of Reno's oldest and most prestigious neighborhoods. Newlands Heights Historic District was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017. Meet at the Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. **Tour guide: Scott Gibson.**

Tuesday  
May 21  
6:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CROSSROADS, EAST SIDE — Some call Lake Street "Paradise Lost" but we will recreate the vibrant neighborhoods of Chinatown, Little Italy and Basque life. Meet at the National Automobile Museum parking lot area, 10 Lake Street. **Tour guide: Sharon Honig-Bear.**

Saturday  
May 25  
10:00 a.m.

WEST OF WELLS — Discover an often overlooked treasure trove of fascinating Reno history. Join us as we walk the neighborhood West of Wells Avenue, along the former path of the V&T railroad. Experience unusual architecture unique to this neighborhood and learn the history of the colorful characters who gave birth to Reno's neighborhood on the other side of the tracks. Meet outside Silver Peak at 140 Wonder Street. **Tour guide: Barrie Lynn.**

Tuesday  
May 28  
6:00 p.m.

TRUCKEE RIVER WALK — A relaxing stroll along the Truckee River from the McKinley Arts and Cultural Center to the Lear Theater reveals eclectic architecture grounded by rich political histories and spiced with colorful anecdotes. Meet in front at the McKinley Arts and Cultural Center, 925 Riverside Drive. **Tour guide: Joan Collins.**

Saturday  
June 1  
9:00 a.m.

PARSONS/MILLS ARCHITECTURE — Stroll one of Reno's most unique neighborhoods to view some designs of Reno architects Edward Parsons and Russell Mills, who sometimes collaborated on designs. Hear about the families who first lived in these homes. Meet at the corner of Marsh Avenue and LaRue. **Tour guides: ZoAnn Campana and Teri Bartl.**





# June 2019 HRPS Historic Walking Tours

Bill Kolton & John Farrow, Walking Tour Chairs

Tour cost is \$10 per person, free to HRPS members. Walks generally last from 1 ½ to 2 hours.

**No dogs please. Reservations required and space is limited.**

Please go to [www.historicreno.org](http://www.historicreno.org) or call 775-747-4478 for reservations and information.

Tuesday  
June 4  
6:00 p.m.

**BEYOND THE ARCHES** — Witness downtown Reno as it has reinvented itself for 150 years. This tour links the downtown Reno arches with stories of the forces that shaped the town: railroad and mining, immigrants, the notorious divorce and gambling mecca — and now as a livable cultural hub. Walk in the footsteps of Bill Harrah, Myron Lake, Baby Face Nelson, Frederic DeLongchamps and others. Meet at the National Automobile Museum parking lot area, 10 S. Lake Street. **Tour guides: Jim and Sue Smith.**

Saturday  
June 8  
9:00 a.m.

**PROHIBITION IN RENO** — We have turned back the clocks to the 1920s and 1930s. We will walk streets and alleys and visit significant buildings, recalling Reno's saloons and reformers (the WCTU and Anti-Saloon League). You might even get to see a dignitary from Reno's past. Tour starts at Amtrak's Reno Station, 135 East Commercial Row. Sign-in is across the street from the historic section of the train station on Commercial Row. **Tour guides: Debbie Hinman and Sharon Honig-Bear.**

Sunday  
June 9  
9:00 a.m.

**BIKE TOUR THROUGH OLD RENO** — A leisurely ride through the most historic parts of Reno. Meet at the Lander Street side of My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. **Tour guide: Brandi Quaglieri. HELMETS REQUIRED, NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Tuesday  
June 11  
6:00 p.m.

**EL RENO APARTMENT HOMES** — Visit the original site of these charming and unique homes and view seven of them at their new locations. Other examples of the Sierra Vista Addition architecture will be seen. See the Redfield home and hear about its eccentric, wealthy namesake: LaVerne Redfield. Meet at the northwest corner of the Statewide Lighting parking lot, 1311 S. Virginia. **Tour guide: Debbie Hinman.**

Saturday  
June 15  
10:00 a.m.

**MOVIE FOOTPRINTS IN RENO** — **PLEASE NOTE: THIS WALK WILL START AT 10:00 AM.** Walk in the footsteps of Marilyn Monroe, Kirk Douglas, Kevin Costner, Clint Eastwood, Maggie Smith, Helen Mirren and more. The tour covers downtown Reno's rich film history inspired by divorce, gambling and the city's distinct look in such movies as "The Misfits," "Cobb," "Sister Act," and "Love Ranch." Meet by the northeast entrance to the lobby of the National Automobile Museum, 10 South Lake Street. **Tour guide: Robin Holabird.**

Tuesday  
June 18  
6:00 p.m.

**CEMETERY TOUR** — Join HRPS for an early evening visit to four of Reno's most historic cemeteries: Pythians, Hillside, The Grand Army of the Republic and the Hebrew Cemetery and "become acquainted" with some of their most notable residents. Meet at the Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada Street. Please wear closed shoes suitable for rocky and uneven ground. **Tour guides: Debbie Hinman, Mac Wieland, Sharon Honig-Bear and Bill Mardon.**

Saturday  
June 22  
9:00 a.m.

**LITERARY RENO** — Take a Tour of Writing from the "Underbelly." There's more to Reno's literary history than "City of Trembling Leaves!" Reno continues to be a mythical magnet for 'outsider' writers and characters. The misfits, outcasts and seekers. Let your imagination roam as we travel downtown streets encountered by traditional writers like Will James, Robert Laxalt and Joanne de Longchamps, then walk the haunts of contemporary writers such as Bernie Schopen, Willy Vlautin and Susan Palwick. Meet near the Riverside Artist Lofts, 17 S. Virginia Street. **Tour guides: Charlotte Voitoff and Nancy Manfredi.**

Tuesday  
June 25,  
6:00 p.m.

**COUNTRY CLUB ACRES** — Take a stroll through an area of southwest Reno steeped in history from the 1920s and 30s. Hear about the original Reno Golf Club, Reno's first airfield and the luxurious, ill-fated Country Club. With the growing popularity of the Washoe Golf Course and the newly-created Virginia Lake, the early 1940s saw the rise of a new neighborhood created for suburban living. The sale of lots rather than homes ensured an eclectic mix of architectural styles and homes of all sizes. Meet at the corner of Bonnie Briar and Lakeside. **Tour Guide: Debbie Hinman.**

Saturday  
June 29  
8:00 a.m.

**MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF** — Walk past historic Reno homes located on Court, Ridge and upper California streets. Learn about the senators and merchants who made early Reno The Biggest Little City in the World. Be sure to bring water and wear comfortable shoes for this uphill tour which begins at the McCarran House, 401 Court Street. Look nearby for mandatory sign-in/registration on Court Street. **Tour guides: Donna and Paul Erickson, ZoAnn Campana, and Joan Collins.**

# HRPS 2019

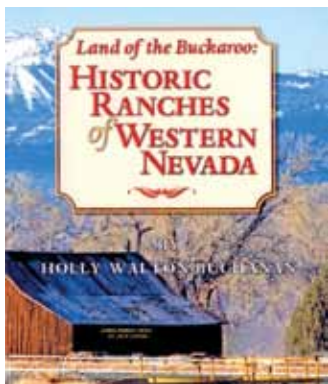
## May Education Programs & HRPS' Annual Meeting

Historic Reno Preservation Society's free programs offer an assortment of Reno historic topics.  
More HRPS information is at [historicro.org](http://historicro.org) or on Facebook.

HRPS: Wednesday, May 15, 5:30 pm - Northwest Library, 2325 Robb Dr., Reno: **Debbie Hinman presents "Harvest of Homes Tour Retrospective"**: The year 2019 marks HRPS' 10th year of our annual Harvest of Homes Tour. This talk will be a retrospective of some of our featured homes, along with photos and histories of the properties and their owners through the years. Our tour has highlighted homes from the 1870s through the 1970s, simple to elaborate, cottages to mansions. All of these homes were significant in their own way, whether it be their architecture, neighborhood, decor or inhabitants. For those who have not attended the Tour, here is your chance to hear their wonderful stories and "meet" some of the early residents of Reno. Debbie Hinman has been the researcher and writer for the Home Tour Program since its inception; she is also a HRPS tour guide and managing editor of *FootPrints*, HRPS' quarterly publication. She serves on the City of Reno Historical Resources Commission.



HRPS Annual Meeting - Sunday, May 19, 12:00 pm (third Sunday since the fourth Sunday is on Memorial Day weekend) - Downtown Library, 301 S. Center St., Reno: Join us prior to the Education Program for an update on the State of HRPS, to meet and vote on new HRPS Board members, to learn who will receive the Pat Klos Volunteer Award and other surprises. It's also your opportunity to ask questions and make your voice heard on issues.



HRPS: Sunday May 19, 12:30 pm (third Sunday) - Downtown Library, 301 S. Center St., Reno **Dr. Holly Walton-Buchanan presents "Historic Ranches of Western Nevada"**: How much do you really know about the first settlements in the Truckee Meadows and the Carson Valley? Have you heard about the mysterious cache of letters - written by early Reno pioneers in the 1860s to relatives in Rhode Island - found hidden behind a wall in Cleveland, Ohio, in the 1980s? Do you know why ranches were so important during the Comstock mining boom, and how they managed to survive after the mines closed down? Do you know what the prehistoric ancestor of our modern cattle was called, and where it lived? Finally, how did all those Spanish cows and horses get across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World? If you can't answer any of these questions, you need to come to Holly's presentation and learn about the ranching history of the Carson Valley and the Truckee Meadows. Holly Walton-Buchanan's family has been involved in ranching for over 100 years. She was an educator in the Washoe County School District and the Nevada Department of Education, is a long-time historic preservationist, and the author of four books about Reno's history.

## HRPS Endangered Property Watch List

### ENDANGERED PROPERTIES

(Listed Alphabetically)

- Buildings in the University Neighborhood
- Caughlin Ranch House
- Center Street Homes (Gateway)
- Freight House on Evans St.
- Hillside Cemetery
- Lear Theater
- Mid-century Motels
- Nevada Brewing Works on 4<sup>th</sup> St.
- Sinai Building/Howell House
- Sundance Books/Levy House
- Two El Reno Apartments at 1461 Lander St.

### LOST PROPERTIES

(Listed by Date of Demolition)

- Mapes Hotel (1947-2000)
- Virginia Street Bridge (1905-2015)
- Downtown Motels Block (c. 1875-2018)
- Ralston Avenue 300-block homes (c. 1875-2018)
- Masonic Mercantile Building at Sierra and Commercial (1872-2019)
- Flick Ranch House (1942-2019)



# HRPS Asking for Research Help

**W**e are looking for researchers! HRPS is dedicated to preserving and promoting historic resources in our area. At the root of this mission is information about these resources: Who designed or built a structure? Is there any architectural significance about that structure? Who were the structure's inhabitants? Were there any historical events that took place in a particular location?

Volunteer researchers can find information that will help us understand our community's heritage. This research will help HRPS develop more walking tours and educational events, in addition to nominating more properties to the City, State, and national registers of historic places. The City Register is the only regulatory method to ensure structures are preserved to a clear set of standards. Despite the vast number of structures around town that convey the City's heritage, the City of Reno only has 15 structures listed on the City's Register and this number may soon drop to 13. Researchers can help HRPS find the information necessary to work with property owners and increase the number of properties that are protected.

If you are fascinated with the stories behind our Community's history, we ask for your help as a researcher. HRPS will have an information session on how to do research on a property and how to complete the city register nomination. If you are interested in helping do research, leave a message on the HRPS

phone 775-747-4478 or email [Board@historicroeno.org](mailto:Board@historicroeno.org).

The properties currently on the City of Reno Register of Historic Places are:

Giraud/Hardy House.....	442 Flint Street
Phillips Stone House.....	1907 So. Arlington Ave.
Southside School Annex .....	190 Liberty
California Building .....	1000 Whitmore Lane
Mary Sherman House (*) .....	847 N. Center Street
Lear Theater .....	501 Riverside
Washoe County Courthouse .....	75 Court Street
McKinley Park School .....	925 Riverside
El Cortez .....	239 West Second Street
Nystrom House (#).....	333 Ralston Street
Pearl Upson House .....	937 Jones Street
Patrick Ranch House.....	1225 Gordon Avenue
Crissie Caughlin Ranch.....	636 Mayberry Drive
Christensen Residence (+).....	707 / 711 Mt. Rose Street
Essex House .....	440 Ridge Street

(\*) *to be moved or demolished by December 2019*

(#) *up on blocks to be moved, will be removed from Register*

(+) *an El Reno home*

## What We Know about the Center Street Homes

**F**irst, we know the wonderful late 19th Century homes on Center Street between 8th and 9th Streets are not going to remain in place. The University will demolish them if they are not moved elsewhere.

Second, there is interest in nine of the twelve homes:

- 127 E. 8th Street is moving to the NW corner of S. Arlington and St. Lawrence. Its weight caused a change of plans to use the new (and stronger) Virginia Street Bridge instead of the Arlington Bridge. Others moving homes will now have to be aware of this weight limit.
- 829 Lake Street is moving to Lander Street between Reno and St. Lawrence Streets.
- 820 N. Center, the Joanne

deLongchamps home, is likely moving to Taylor Street

- 821 N. Center Street, the Riehl house, is under contract.
- 829, 895, and 847 N. Center Street as well as 825 and 801 Lake have a "Pending letter of intent" — we understand these homes might be destined to rest behind the Chism House, now The Elm Estate at 1401 W. Second St.
- 839 and 815 N. Center and 843 Lake Streets are "on track for tear down" as of the RGJ's article of March 2, 2019.

The process of moving even one of these homes is a challenge and can be very expensive. Working with utility companies to move a home under utility lines, past corners and stop lights, along tree-lined streets is complex.



821 N. Center Street, the Joanne deLongchamps home, donated to UNR to be the International House.

We offer our thanks and gratitude to the people who are undertaking this arduous task of saving Reno's heritage by relocating these lovely, historic homes in hopes that they will be preserved and cared for. 🏡



# First Gateway House Moves

by Debbie Hinman

Miss Frances Humphrey, long-time Reno High teacher and counselor, would be proud. The home she lived in from 1917 until her passing in 2001 at the age of 97, today evaded demolition as it was relocated from its university neighborhood to the Old Southwest.

The move of 127 E. 8th Street was scheduled to occur on March 28, but after weighing the structure, it was found to be about 3,000 pounds too heavy to be transported across the Arlington bridge. A new route had to be mapped out; a fairly circuitous one, at that (see map). The new Virginia Street Bridge presented no issue at all—the slowdowns occurred with street signs that needed to be lifted

to clear the roof. By late afternoon, the Humphrey House arrived at its new site at Arlington and St. Lawrence. It sits adjacent to its new foundation as of this writing. Owners Tim and Nancy Gilbert not only saved an historic home, they saved an important piece of their family history — Frances and Tim were cousins and Tim spent time in the house as a child. And the uniquely-styled bungalow will fit right in with the older eclectic homes of its new neighborhood.





# Nevada Historical Society Move Status

by Carol Coleman



The NHS was created in 1904. From 1913 to 1927, it occupied this building on University Avenue, now N. Center Street.

**Editor's Note:** Have you tried to find parking at the Nevada Historical Society (NHS) on a weekday while UNR is in session? Have you tried to do research on the day of a football game only to find that NHS is closed? Have you planned to attend a lecture at NHS and found that limited seating means you can't attend? Or learned that the curator you hoped to meet is at one of four offsite storage spaces that house the NHS collections? The historical society has outgrown its current facility and UNR's expansion often usurps its parking.

A land swap that would put the Nevada Historical Society (NHS) museum and research library in a bigger location in downtown Reno is one step away from happening. The historical society is looking to acquire the Nelson building, the former Reno Gazette-Journal Building at 401 W. Second Street, in downtown Reno. The 60,000 square-foot facility would triple the size of the current NHS building and provide over 60 parking spaces, thereby augmenting public access. It would allow NHS to expand its educational programs and exhibit more of their growing collections. The Nelson building also includes the 200-seat Laxalt Auditorium which would offer program and presentation space.

The Nevada Historical Society has been located on the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) since 1968 in a 100-year

lease arrangement. In 1968, parking was never a problem. The NHS 22,860 square-foot building plus off-site storage was adequate. However, expanding educational programming and growing collections have overgrown the space and the University's expansion has impacted NHS-dedicated parking. The location on UNR's campus limits public access to the wealth of resources the Nevada Historical Society provides.

UNR is interested in the trade to gain more on-campus space for offices—the NHS building remodel could provide approximately 70 workspaces.

The landmark proposal offers the state-owned historical society building on



The NHS occupied the basement of the State Building from 1930 until 1965. The Pioneer now occupies the site.



In 1968, the NHS moved to the Ray Hellman designed building on the UNR campus.




The Warren Nelson building in downtown Reno at 401 W. Second Street.

UNR land, two vacant state-owned parcels of undeveloped land near North McCarran and Evans Avenue, and about \$774,000 in cash in exchange for UNR's Warren Nelson building downtown, valued at \$4.5 million.

On November 30, 2018, the Nevada System of Higher Education Board, the governing body over the state's public colleges, gave permission for UNR to make the trade. On December 4, 2018, the Nevada Board of Examiners, chaired by Governor Brian Sandoval, gave approval to the arrangement. Next is the legislative Interim Finance Committee (IFC). On December 11, 2018 the IFC put the land swap between NHS and UNR on hold, saying the deal should be fully considered during the 2019 legislative session.

Since no bill was prepared in advance for the February 4 opening of the legislature, the proposal comes back to the Interim Finance Committee, which met on April 4, but the item was not on the agenda. The next IFC meeting is June 20.

Check for updates at <http://nvculture.org/historicalsociety/land-swap-unr-nhs/> 

NHS photos from Nevada Historical Society. Nelson photo from RGJ article.



## Message From Your HRPS President

### Carol Coleman

#### Greetings HRPS members and friends,

In 2014, then-HRPS President Byllie Andrews wrote in *FootPrints* about Judith Sharken Simon's book, *The Five Life Stages of a Nonprofit Organization*. Simon described the stages of growth that all non-profits go through as they mature. Using Simon's definitions, Andrews described HRPS as between stage three: "Ground and Grow" and stage four: "Produce and Sustain." HRPS has well-designed programs functioning at a high level— Walking Tours, Education Programs and our Home Tour. HRPS was not in stage four in the marketing, financing and services area according to Andrews. Our least developed category in the Five Life Stages system was and is staffing. We rely 100% on volunteers to carry on HRPS' work.

For many previous HRPS Presidents, Past-President Cindy Ainsworth took on the role of Administrator. She resigned from that position when I became President in June of 2016. Taking on both roles, I can attest to you that the HRPS President's role is almost a full-time job.

Over the last year we have pinched on expenses and offered more fund-raising events such as the Historic Brewery Tour and Old Movie Nights. Our finances are in a position to hire a part-time Executive Director to assist with the tasks of marketing, fund-raising, services and advocacy. It's time after 22 years! And as you may know, one of the tasks of an Executive Director is to offer enough events to pay his or her own salary.

This step brings other questions we have to work on, such as where does the Executive Director work, what equipment and supplies are needed, and how do we find the right person. And many more questions, I'm sure.

#### Endangered Properties List

We are reworking our Endangered Properties list, adding a Lost Properties component to recognize properties we've lost during HRPS' lifetime. We also plan to rethink our Advisory Advocacy Committee and we thank Barrie Lynn, who served as its Chair and put heart and soul into the effort. And many thanks to the AAC for all of their work over the years.

#### Consider Email Delivery of *FootPrints*

We are extremely proud of our quarterly publication, *FootPrints*, and appreciate the great reviews it receives. However, the printing and mailing of *FootPrints* is almost a quarter of our budget — 23%. We understand that you want your own printed copy, but think about receiving it via email. Not only might you save a tree, but you'd cut costs for HRPS.

#### Thank you to New Lifetime Members

What a surprise the mails have brought us during this quarter! First Peter and Renate Neumann became HRPS Lifetime members. Thanks to you both. Then the Pioneer Theater Company asked if a business could become a Lifetime member — well, sure they could. Thanks to Dennyse Sewell, Executive Director of the Pioneer. Then yet another surprise when Karalea Clough joined the Lifetime members — you might remember Karalea as Scherry Harrah during the 2017 Home Tour. HRPS is pleased to now have 50 Lifetime Memberships which include 68 living individuals, one Foundation, one Business and 3 deceased members. Going along with an earlier Board decision, your \$1,000 membership is split

half to the Neighborhood Preservation Fund grants, and half to the operation of HRPS.

#### Thanks Edan Strekal

Have you met Edan Strekal? He was formerly the Chair of the City of Reno's Historical Resources Commission. He was chosen to be one of "20 Under 40" Young Professionals this last year. He selected Historic Reno Preservation Society to receive any benefits should he win. Just recently we received \$115 from Young Professionals Network, courtesy of Edan. Thanks Edan!

#### Congratulations, I Think

HRPS Vice President, ZoAnn Campana has been elected as Chair of the City of Reno's Historical Resources Commission (HRC). In addition to ZoAnn, HRPS is well represented on the HRC: Debbie Hinman is HRPS' liaison to HRC; ZoAnn Campana is the official architectural historian; Brad Carlson is the official architect; HRPS' Communications Chair Emerson Marcus fills the "general" category. In the next issue of *FootPrints* we'll cover the role of the HRC in city government.

#### Nevada's Big Give

It's taken HRPS a while to learn to put our hand out and ask for funds. But if you don't ask, you won't receive. So this year, thanks to HRPS Vice-President ZoAnn Campana and our social media volunteers, we did get our act together during Nevada's Big Give. Many, many thanks to those of you who answered our request to support HRPS during this drive. We've been pleased and humbled by the giving — we received over \$1,000 from some 18 donors. Thank you so much.

Carol Coleman, 775-849-3380  
carolc@galenaforest.net

Save the date for HRPS Harvest of Homes Tour  
Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 10 am to 3 pm



## HRPS Lifetime Members

Darleen R Azizisefat  
Sharon Honig-Bear  
Jacqueline Black (\*)  
Laurie & Greg Boyer  
Lynn Bremer  
Holly Walton-Buchanan  
Florence Ann Burgess  
Tom & Phyllis Cates  
Jan & Phil Chik  
Press & Delores Clewe  
Karalea Clough  
Becky Czarnik  
Joan Dyer  
Betty Easton  
Fran Bryne Fricke  
Marilyn Fuetsch  
Francine & Ted Gray  
Melinda & Dan Gustin  
John & Susan Hancock  
Carol Haydis  
Jacquie Foundation  
Alan Lee & Ivey Johnson  
Pat & Mike Klos  
Laurence & Linda Kutten  
Katherine Latham  
Jan & Jim Loverin  
Jon & Linda Madsen  
Catherine Magee  
Francine Mannix MD  
Charlotte & Dick McConnell  
Wayne & Patty Melton  
Marilyn Melton  
Prudence Gould Muran(\*)  
Peter & Renate Neumann  
Al & Nancy Pagni  
Butch & Susan Peachy  
The Pioneer  
Marshall & Pat Postman  
Jonnie Pullman  
Hannah Satika (\*)  
Michael & Karren Smith  
Robert Stoldal  
Tom & Leanne Stone  
Fran & Terry Terras  
Mike & Karen Traynor  
Charlotte Voitoff  
Sharon Walbridge  
Betty J. Watts  
Kathy Williams  
Reg & Shelley Willison  
(\*) deceased

*Thanks to the following HRPS  
Business Members who are  
supporting the works of HRPS*

Peter Dube Architecture  
Harold & Alice Jacobsen

## HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

By joining **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, you are a member of a community group that celebrates Reno's history by sharing information and advocating for our endangered properties.

In the summer, you may attend as many as 25 different Walking Tours. In winter, twice a month we bring you Educational Programs. You receive our quarterly, *FootPrints*, to keep you informed about HRPS events, articles about endangered properties, people and homes of interest. HRPS' information is on our website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and occasional eblasts.

You may pay by check, cash, credit card or PayPal. To pay by credit card of PayPal, please log on to our website: [www.historicreno.org](http://www.historicreno.org). We use PayPal to process your payment. They will accept your credit card on our behalf; we will send you a confirmation email.

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing

### Membership Levels:

- ☐ \$15.00 Student  
☐ \$25.00 Individual  
☐ \$45.00 Family  
☐ \$100.00 Supporting  
☐ \$200.00 Business  
☐ \$250.00 Preservation Patron  
☐ \$500.00 Benefactor  
☐ \$1,000.00 Lifetime Member

### My Additional Donation:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Pat Klos Annual  
Volunteer Award Fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood Preservation  
Grant Fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Overall Program Support

### HRPS Quarterly *FootPrints* Preference (Please check one):

☐ Hard Copy ☐ Email Only

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

HRPS respects your right to privacy. We will **NOT** share your email address.

### PD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO WORK ON:

- ☐ Home Tours ☐ Walking Tours ☐ Board ☐ Research  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to:

**Historic Reno Preservation Society**  
and send with this form to:

HRPS  
P.O. Box 14003  
Reno, NV 89507

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