

Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

FootPrints

Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting Historic Resources in the Truckee Meadows through Education, Advocacy, and Leadership.

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Early Reno's Religious Structures

Editor's Note: FootPrints will focus several issues on the remarkable houses of worship built between 1870 and 1950 in Reno. We are fortunate to have wonderful resources available to help our contributors paint a broad picture of religious connections and influences. As always, we encourage our members to respond to these articles and share their own observations.

The people who migrated to the Far West came in search of opportunities. Since many were poor, the hope of owning land and accruing wealth was a mighty incentive. Still others were propelled across high mountains and vast deserts looking for religious freedom or just a place to start over.

As communities were settled, new friends were made and common interests shared. Tiny congregations were formed, church-building funds established and a community was born. Reno was no different from other new western communities in its desire to worship. History shows residents built and re-built religious structures to this end.

As usual, there were some unimpressed with the state of Nevada's religious efforts:

"Is there a State in our whole Union where there is so little religious restraint, such ignorance of the Bible, such flaunting at its teachings, such Sabbath-breaking, such heaven-daring profanity, such common drunkenness, such unblushing licentiousness, and such glorying in shame – in short, is there another State where people so generally feel as though they were almost or quite out of God's moral jurisdiction?" – By The Rev. H. Richardson, agent of the California Bible Society, 1874.

Reverend Richardson, it would seem, had issues with Nevada's lifestyle in the 1870s. A Thompson & West writer speculates Richardson "may have put too many Rembrandt touches on this picture of utter depravity in his desire to serve his [Bible selling] society and ...further stimulate its zeal in... providing reckless unrevised Scriptures."

On the contrary, written histories about Reno show no shortage of religious organizations. Active Baptist, Catholic,

Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Hebrew, Methodist and Chinese groups had formed in town by the late 1870s. The first to actually erect a building were the Methodists, who dedicated their First and West church on Christmas Eve 1870 with members of all faiths celebrating. The Catholics also started building on Lake Street between Plaza and Fourth that year. Those denominations without their own houses of worship often met at the Riverside Schoolhouse on First

and Sierra, the Court House or the Reno Opera House.

By 1879, five churches were clustered in and around the downtown area. The Baptists built a church with choir loft on Second between Virginia and Sierra. A 60-foot bell tower called the Episcopalians to services at their church on Second and Sierra. Members of the Jewish Chebra B'rith Shalom Society met regularly in the Odd Fellows Hall/Congregational Church, a



1868, looking north across Lake's Crossing to Commercial Row. Note the wood buildings, the dirt street, the horse-drawn carriages.

Courtesy of Jerry Fenwick.

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Early Reno's Religious Structures (continued)

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two-story structure built by those two groups. Unfortunately, the great fire in 1879 took down the original Catholic and Baptist churches.

Consistently, historians note that charter Protestant church memberships were small, from half a dozen to 15 individuals forming the core of these groups. Census figures tell us the town's population in 1870 was only 1,035 people.

According to Thompson & West, "A feeling of mutual respect has always prevailed among the ministers of the various denominations. It is a common practice for the Protestant pastors to exchange pulpits, and whenever one church is destroyed by fire the others were invariably placed at the disposal of the burnt-out congregation."

There is little doubt church membership offered acceptable social opportunities for women and young people according to John M. Townley in "Tough Little Town on the Truckee." Events staged by church auxiliaries included the Shamrock Social on St. Patrick's Day (St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic), The Strawberry Festival (Trinity Episcopal), The Feast of Queen Esther (Reno Hebrew Society) and the Corn Social (First Methodist), where all edibles took a form of the Golden Ear.

Local Catholic parishioners fared best financially, particularly with the help of extended church institutions. By 1877, a school was started with a permanent structure erected at Fourth and Lake. Named Mount Saint Mary's, it accepted both day and boarding students until it closed in 1893 when a depressed local economy hurt enrollment.

Reno's protestant churches, however, consistently struggled financially. Townley describes them as perennially near bankruptcy.

In 1920, Reno's population stood at barely over 12,000. At that time, it was estimated half the populace pledged to the Catholic faith. Around 1,000 resi-

phone at all times and making himself available 24 hours a day. It was said he made twice as much from wedding fees as he did from his salary.

Most second-generation churches no longer stand in Reno. The Federated Church was torn down in the late 1950s to make way for a store. Saint Luke's Lutheran, a

DeLongchamps building, was bulldozed and a funeral home built on the site in the mid-1970s. The abandoned Bethel A.M.E. Church, Reno's first African-American church, has escaped the wrecking ball but was recently damaged by fire.

Today, four fine 20th Century examples still stand tall in the downtown area. St. Thomas Aquinas (1908), First United Methodist (1925), Trinity Episcopal (1929) and First Church of Christ, Scientist (now Lear Theater) (1938) add their distinct architectural styles to our diverse skyline. They are also testimony to the

perseverance of Reno's church-going patrons, through fire and flood, defying desperate economic uncertainties.

Future issues of FootPrints will have articles on St. Luke's Lutheran Church, St. Thomas Aquinas, Trinity Episcopal, First Methodist, Bethel A.M.E. Church, the Federated (Congregational/Presbyterian) and the Chinese Joss House.

Material for this article came from "Tough Little Town on the Truckee. Reno", John M. Townley (1983), Great Basin Study Center (out of print); "History of Nevada, with Illus. & Bio. Sketches of Its Prominent Men & Pioneers", Thompson & West (1881), Pacific Press, Oakland, CA; "History of Nevada", Russell R. Elliott (1987) and Nevada State Historical Society.

This article was written by Linda Sievers, a retired copy editor who worked 20 years for the Anchorage Daily News.



1887, Virginia Street looking south from Commercial Row to the Virginia Street Bridge. In the distance one can see the Riverside. Courtesy of Jerry Fenwick.

dents were considered transient with no church affiliation. Townley asserts that large numbers of the working-class residents plus plenty of affluent types ignored religion. That left something less than 5,000 possible congregation members, including children, to be divided up between over half a dozen churches.

Starting in the 1930s, solvency came to many churches in the form of increased marriage fees. New state laws in California and Oregon, requiring waiting periods for marriages, brought more couples to Reno to marry. Local pastors like the Reverend Wm. Moll Case of the Federated Church estimated he performed 10,000 marriages during his 18 years in Reno. No doubt its location at Fifth and Virginia Street, a few blocks from the courthouse, helped bring eager couples his way. But Case went even further by hiring a secretary to man the

Frederic DeLongchamps, Architect

For over fifty years Frederic DeLongchamps was Nevada's premier architect. He designed over 500 buildings including many of the state's most significant: Washoe County Courthouse, Reno Main Post Office, Riverside Hotel, buildings at University of Nevada, Reno, and seven other Nevada and eastern California courthouses. He also designed many private homes including the Hardy House in 1914. He had an office in Reno from 1907-1965.

A Reno native, he was born in 1882 and raised in a home on Mill St. in Reno. At the time that his father built the house in 1886, Mill Street was hardly a street but a well-traveled county road that came up from Glendale. Mill Street was so-named after the Riverside Flour Mill located on the road close to the Truckee.

DeLongchamps' father came to Nevada from Montreal, Canada in 1869 and supervised the production of timber and wood for the Comstock Lode. Frederic DeLongchamps was one of five children of Exilda Gibeau and Philease DeLongchamps. As a young man he learned the construction business working with his father. He attended Washoe County Schools and graduated from University of Nevada's Mackey School of Mines in 1904 with a degree in mining engineering. He worked in Inyo County mines in mine construction, but developed a lung problem and his doctor told him to get out of the mines.

DeLongchamps began work as a draftsman in the U.S. Surveyor's Office. He apprenticed with architectural firms in San Francisco following the 1906 earthquake. He returned to Reno in 1907 and opened an architectural firm with Ira Tesch, with whom he had worked at the Surveyor's office. They won commissions for 30 projects in their first two years in business. From 1909 to 1938, DeLongchamps maintained his own firm and became one of Nevada's most prolific architects. In 1939, George L. F. O'Brien joined him as a partner, and Hewitt Wells joined the association in 1962. The firm of DeLongchamps, O'Brien and Wells designed buildings well into the 1960s.

It would be impossible to describe all of the buildings that DeLongchamps



Frederic DeLongchamps
(1882–1969)

Courtesy of UNR Special Collections.


designed in his long and distinguished career, but we selected the following three which have a unique story and are among many on the National Register of Historic Places:

In 1909, at the age of 27, he submitted his design for the new Washoe County Courthouse and won. The original courthouse was constructed in 1873, two years after Reno became the county seat. DeLongchamps' 1911 design incorporated the 1873 brick courthouse into the new addition. In 1946, DeLongchamps and O'Brien designed the north wing addition to the courthouse, and in 1949 they designed the south wing addition. In 1963, more than 50 years after his original work, they designed a three story west annex addition and earthquake retrofit of the 1873 structure.

The Pershing County Courthouse in Lovelock, NV is among the most unique designs DeLongchamps produced in his long career. Pershing County was created in 1919, splitting off from Humboldt County. The county wanted a courthouse that would suit their younger community perceived as progressive and booming. Being a new county they had limited funds, but asked DeLongchamps to provide a unique design. DeLongchamps' imaginative 1920 design, a circle-over-hexagon plan gave Pershing County

the distinctive touch they wanted. The interior includes a central circular courtroom, with a surrounding round hallway. The acoustical design of the courtroom focuses the sound to the jury box in the center. This is a true round building, inside and out. It is the only round courthouse in the United States, and is still in use.

In 1936, DeLongchamps began collaborating with George Whittel, Jr. a wealthy and eccentric philanthropist, on the design of an isolated complex of buildings to be built on the east side of Lake Tahoe. This work was perhaps the most complicated and frustrating of all of DeLongchamps' projects. After more than a year of rejections, Whittel accepted DeLongchamps' plans. Skilled craftsman gave the property a rich synthesis of design, masonry, ironwork and carpentry. This beautiful mansion, known today as Thunderbird Lodge, can be viewed on a docent-led tour.

In 1978 Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno Library acquired the DeLongchamps Collection. It contains thousands of drawings and is, without question, the most significant collection of historic architectural records in Nevada. The collection receives extensive use from architects, historians, and historic preservationists. It forms the basis of the Nevada Architectural Archives, which contains the drawing of other significant northern Nevada architects as well. 

Material for this article came from University of Nevada, Reno Special Collections, Nevada Historical Society, the Washoe County Courthouse Historical and Preservation Society and from "Temples of Justice", written by Ron James.

Website: www.co.washoe.nv.us/clerks/Historical_Society/courthouse_historical_society

This article was written by Carol Coleman with information provided by Anne Simone. Carol Coleman is the FootPrints Managing Editor. Anne Simone is a HRPS Tour Guide who gives the DeLongchamps Architectural Tour.

Nevada's First Synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, 1921

by John Marschall

*Editor's Note: John Marschall is Professor Emeritus of the Department of History at the University of Nevada, Reno, and a member of the FootPrints editorial board. Professor Marschall is currently preparing a book entitled *Jews of Nevada: 1850–2000*.*

In 1877, Reno's Jewish community purchased cemetery property, which is located now on Angel Street between 10th and 11th Streets. Over the years Reno Jewry was held together by its B'nai B'rith Lodge, which, in 1914, formed Congregation Temple Emanu-El, holding services in local meeting halls. A few merchants donated a 30-by-70-foot lot at 426 West Street for the building of Nevada's first permanent synagogue. State Assemblyman John S. Sinai's father-in-law, George E. Holesworth, provided architectural plans and was general contractor, while funding for the project came from both Jews and gentiles.

Sol Jacobs, hailed as one of Reno's "pioneers," turned the first spade of dirt on May 3, 1921. A corner stone was set two weeks later, and the first services held on High Holy Days in October. Aspiring U.S. Senator, Sam Platt, had handled many of the temple's legal issues, and was called to speak on Yom Kippur. The edifice was completed December 1, at a total cost of \$35,000.

Temple Emanu-El was constructed of tapestry-baked brick and comprised two stories. The main entrance arch included an inscription of the Ten Commandments, above which was a large circular window depicting the star of David. The ground floor was divided into small meeting rooms, a kitchen, and a large space for banquets or Seders. The upstairs portion included a small room for Sabbath School with the remainder wholly dedicated for services, seating 250 worshipers. Until a resident rabbi could be hired, services were conducted

by Hebrew-literate members of the congregation and visiting rabbis.

Hirsh (Harry) Abraham Oppochinsky accepted a call from Temple Emanu-El in 1929 to serve as rabbi for the contracted annual salary of \$1,200. He was born in Poland in 1897, was ordained an Orthodox rabbi in Jerusalem in 1923 and was additionally certified as a sochet (kosher butcher) and a sofer (scribe). Delayed by bureaucratic red tape, Oppochinsky and his wife Pearl finally took up residence in 1932, one block south of the Temple. His pittance of a salary required that he create an additional source of income, and Reno's

return to Orthodoxy, those who sided with the Reform movement, Zionists like Tarlow, and those embracing the new Conservative movement. The strain on Tarlow was obvious to his family, but he did not speak of it to his children. Although Rabbi Tarlow attempted to make adjustments to the varieties of Judaism within his congregation, he failed. It is unlikely that any Orthodox rabbi could have succeeded in keeping this disparate congregation together. The Temple succumbed to its first schism in 1940, when Reform-minded members broke away to form Congregation Beth Or. The group could not sustain itself, however, and returned to Emanu-El.

In 1947 the congregation called Conservative Rabbi Baruch Treiger to lead it. Tarlow was retained as rabbi emeritus with a \$500 annual stipend to perform incidental duties. Under the leadership of Treiger, his wife, Leah, a very active board of directors, and the sisterhood, Temple Emanu-El became a moral force within Reno, sponsoring lectures open to the entire community on topics of broad interest. Over the next six years the united congregation flourished with its religious school headed by Dr. Samuel Blatt, the Sisterhood presided over by Rae Zatoony, and a temple choir led by Madge

Tillim. Presidents of the congregation during these halcyon years included Dr. Sidney Tillim, Superintendent of the State Mental Hospital; attorney (and future judge) Bert Goldwater; Reno optometrist and banker, Dr. Nathan Joseph; George Parker, co-owner of Parker Brothers Western Wear; and Herbert Brown. Other former dissidents like Abe Melner, Mrs. Milton Gumbert, Norm Samuelson, and the Louis Dickens family, were part of this unlikely blend of the Jewish religious spectrum. Peace was short-lived.



Temple Emanu-El, built in 1921 at 426 West Street. It was condemned and torn down in 1970. It is now the site of the Silver Legacy parking garage.

Courtesy of Nevada State Historical Society.

divorce trade provided the opportunity. The Oppochinsky's boarded Jewish divorce seekers and maintained a kosher kitchen, which was open to the public. One observer recalled the well-known Parker brothers stopping by for a one-dollar meal. The Oppochinsky's became naturalized a few years later and changed their name to Tarlow.

Harry Tarlow had difficulty inspiring an observant following. It was a polyglot congregation, loosely bound by a common Jewish heritage. Among its members were those who longed for a

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Nevada's First Synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, 1921, (cont.)

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In 1952, Rabbi Treiger accepted an East Coast appointment, and Emanu-El's board turned to its retired kosher boarding house rabbi, Harry Tarlow, to lead High Holy Day services. Much to his disappointment, the congregation hired Rabbi Meyer Schwartz from 1953 to 1958, and the Tarlows moved to Los Angeles. Dr. Nathan B. Joseph, served as untitled rabbi at the end of Schwartz' tenure.

The congregation called Rabbi Phillip H. Weinberg to serve Temple Emanu-El in 1961. Not everyone was happy with the choice, and when his contract came up for renewal, about thirty members left to form Reform Congregation Temple

Sinai. Weinberg's tenure ended in 1965, and the board enlisted Rabbi Jack Frankel for a three year term. He and his wife charmed the community, but they also left for California in 1969.

Frankel's departure precipitated a decision to replace the synagogue, whose support timbers had rotted away. Many wanted to save the venerable structure for historic and sentimental reasons, but the City of Reno intervened and condemned the building. A local tire dealer purchased the property, which was formally vacated December 31, 1970, and demolished shortly thereafter. On its site is a parking garage for the Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino. The modern Temple Emanu-El was erected on Lakeridge Drive. 


A Note on Sources:

Printed Sources: Phillip I. Earl, "A House to Offer Our Prayers ..., A Brief History of Reno's Jewish Community and the Building of the Temple Emanu El," *Washoe Rambler*, (Fall 1978), 47-55; Julius Stein, "Synagogue Life in Northern Nevada," *Reno: Western Book/Journal Press*, 1996; and "Nevada State Journal" for September 10, 1922, 2:1-2 and September 21, 8:21.

Documents: "Temple Emanu-El ..., W.P.A. report, 1935 in *American Jewish Archives*, Cincinnati; *Correspondence of Mervin Tarlow to the author*, Torrance, California, July 17, 2000 and September 9, 2002.

Interview with Mervin Israel Tarlow, Reno, August 19, 2002.

Calling for Ghost Stories

Walking Tour Guides are working on a "Ghosts of Old Southwest Reno" walking tour for October. If you have experienced or know of hauntings or ghostly appearances in homes or businesses located in the Old Southwest or Newlands area, please call or e-mail the following HRPS Ghost hunters: 

Debbie Hinman, 322-9400, paris652@nvgbell.net
Joan Collins, 329-0394, jcollins@washoe.k12.nv.us
Mark Taxer, 322-2284, mapesape@gbis.com

October 2004 HRPS Walking Tours

*All tours are free to HRPS members and \$5 for non-members.
Call Susie at 787-3170, for information and reservations.*

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| Saturday, October 2 at 10AM | CC POWNING ADDITION, A Walk Through Time. Visit "Little Italy" and surrounding areas. Meet at McKinley Arts and Cultural Center, 925 Riverside Drive. Tour Guide, Felvia Belaustegui. |
| Saturday, October 9 at 10AM | MANSIONS ON THE BLUFF. View high-style architecture in Reno's most significant political neighborhood. Meet at the McCarran House, 401 Court Street. Tour Guide, Tammy Buzick. |
| Saturday, October 16 at 10AM | DELONGCHAMPS ARCHITECTURAL WALK. Stroll along Reno's oldest neighborhoods noting the masterpieces of our famous homegrown architect, Frederic J. DeLongchamps, who designed our Court House, Post Office, the Riverside Artists Lofts, the McCarran House, and other notable homes and buildings. Meet at the Hardy House, 442 Flint Street. Tour Guide, Anne Simone. |
| Saturday, October 23 at 10AM | RIVERSIDE DISTRICT AND LITTLE ITALY. Discover Reno's beginnings with a walk along the Truckee River through "Little Italy" noting historic churches, parks, theaters, hotels, homes, and other fine buildings. Meet at Dreamers Coffee House in the Riverside Artists Lofts, 17 South Virginia Street. Tour Guide, Susie Carter. |
| Saturday, October 30 at 10AM | RENO'S GHOST WALK, A very special tour of haunted old Reno. Meet at Dreamers Coffee House in the Riverside Artists Lofts, 17 South Virginia Street. Tour Guides, Debbie Hinman, Joan Collins, and Mark Taxer. |

Tough Little Church on Second Street

by Debbie Hinman

The more I read and learn about the early days of Reno, the more I am in awe of the fierce determination and perseverance of those who built this "tough little town on the Truckee." You had to be tough to live and flourish here, and none were tougher than the early leaders and congregation of the First Baptist Church of Reno.

In 1875, Reno was a wild and unruly shantytown, many of its occupants no doubt direly in need of salvation. On November 28th of that year, an organizational meeting of the First Baptist Church of Reno was held in the newly constructed Reno Opera House at 209 N. Virginia St. Nine charter members, under the direction of the Reverend C. L. Fisher, missionary for Western Nevada, attended this meeting. The sermon was delivered by Chaplain Bate-man, after which the congregation marched to the banks of the Truckee River for the baptism of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Smith. Church historian Maude Sawin Taylor wrote that they were "the first ever to be immersed in this place."

The Opera House remained the place of worship for the congregation as they set about building their own church.

They purchased a lot for \$200 at 25 W. Second St., opposite the old Journal office, and erected a church at a cost of \$3,236. This church was dedicated on May 7, 1876. The Nevada State Journal had this to say about the new church: "By far the neatest church in town is the Baptist Church, to be dedicated today. The seats are nicely grained and the aisles carpeted, while the pulpit is the essence of neatness. Reverend Fisher deserves more than a passing notice for his work in this matter, step around and see how it looks." Unfortunately this new

building was short-lived. On March 2, 1879 the business district of Reno was beset by a fire that basically destroyed it in its entirety; the First Baptist Church burned to the ground. However, the hardy band of Baptists moved their services to the county courthouse, a new brick building built south of the river on land donated to the city by Myron C. Lake, and made plans to rebuild their church. This church was built on the same lot as the original, at a cost of \$4,800. The first service in the second incarnation of the Baptist church was held on June 13, 1880.



First Baptist Church, 1890-1917, W. Second and Chestnut (later to become Arlington). Courtesy of Nevada State Historical Society.

This second church thrived for nearly a decade. During this time it saw a sizeable increase in its membership, as well as a progression of noteworthy pastors, such as the Reverend Winfield Scott, Reverend E. B. Hatch, Reverend B. F. Rattery and Reverend C. L. Fisher, who was also the church's first pastor but returned for a 3-year engagement nearly 10 years after his first posting. However, on July 6, 1889, the church was again destroyed by a fire that originated two doors east of the church. The early downtown district was highly susceptible to fire, with most

of the buildings being hastily constructed wood frame. By this date a city fire department had been organized, but it was no model of efficiency.

This time, when the church leaders went to rebuild their church, they made the decision to relocate it to an area they considered far enough away so as to be outside the fire limits. Lots south of the river were offered by M. C. Lake, but were refused as the current building trend was north of the river and the church board thought a south side church would be inconvenient. A

prominent local citizen by the name of C. C. Powning sold the church a lot on the corner of W. Second and Chestnut Streets (later to become N. Arlington Ave.) for \$500. This third church was built at a cost of \$5,500 and was dedicated on May 18, 1890, serving the Baptist congregation for 27 years. Presently on that site is the Town House Motel. Directly across the street is St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral, but it would not be established until 1907, so for 17 years, the First Baptist Church ruled that corner of the city.

In November of 1905 a new pastor came to town by the name of A. G. Sawin. Rever-

end Sawin moved to Reno from Washington state with his wife and teen-aged daughter, Maude. Maude completed her education at the University of Nevada, earning both A.B. and M.A. degrees. She married Chester C. Taylor, and became a civic leader as well as longtime historian, driving force, and Director of Christian Education at the First Baptist Church. Reverend Sawin served the church until 1909 but moved to Loyalton following the death of his wife. During his tenure, Reverend Sawin advocated enlarging the current church, as it was no longer

Tough Little Church on Second Street (cont.)

adequate for the size of the growing congregation. His plan was to move the church to the front of the lot, raising it, putting in a basement and adding an apartment in the rear for a parsonage. His recommendation was not acted upon at that time. One of his greatest accomplishments was the organization of the Baptist Church Extension Society, promoting statewide work of the church.

In 1910, Reverend Brewster Adams came to town. Later described by the editor of the Nevada State Journal as a "Christian gentleman, leader in the search for spiritual truth, sympathetic guide and counselor, kindly humorist, homespun philosopher, civic leader, doctor of laws," he was to lead the First Baptist Church for 36 years. He was considered by this editor as well as by influential people throughout Nevada as "the most widely known man of the cloth in the state of Nevada over a period of two decades." In 1911 the church became self supporting and no longer received aid from the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

On March 17, 1917, it was voted to raze the old church and build a new, larger brick one at the same location. While this was in process, services were held in the Twentieth Century Building on W. First and Chestnut Streets. The new church, built at a cost of \$50,000, was dedicated on April 21, 1918. Maude

Sawin Taylor refers to this incarnation as "our beloved Brewster's church."

Brewster Adams' contributions to both the city and the church are too numerous to list. A good number of the local couples who were married in Reno from 1910 to 1959 were married in the Adams' home on Riverside Drive. For years Reverend Adams wrote a column in the Nevada State



First Baptist Church, 1918-1956, built at W. Second and Arlington after the earlier church was razed. Courtesy of Nevada State Historical Society.

Journal called "Values in the Rough," and he instituted a series of lectures on the subject "A Progressive State" on Sunday evening. The first lecture in the series was given by Nevada Governor Tasker L. Oddie, and the last by former President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt. In one of his "Values" columns, Adams tells the story of meeting President Roosevelt in his room at the Riverside Hotel, where Roosevelt was relaxing with his stocking feet up on the coffee table. Adams retired

on September 8, 1946, becoming Pastor Emeritus.

Revered Earl Barnett took over as pastor from Adams, and was succeeded by Reverend Blake L. Franklin in 1953. The growing congregation was once again finding the current church building too cramped for its size and lots were secured on Foster Drive, next to the Y.M.C.A. building. In

January of 1956, decommissioning services were held in the little brick church that had served the church for nearly 40 years. During construction of the new church, the congregation met at the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Monroe St. and Arlington Ave. The cornerstone for the new Foster Drive church was laid on May 11, 1958; much to the delight of all who attended the ceremonies, Reverend Brewster Adams was there to deliver the benediction. His death just 8 months later at the age of 80 was a sad day for the church, and for all of Reno.

On November 19, 1961, the Brewster and Edna Adams Social Hall was dedicated in the new church and remains there today, a remembrance for all who knew the Adamses and for those of us who wish we had.

Debbie Hinman is a Reno native, born at St. Mary's Hospital. She has a bachelor's degree from UNR and is currently Manager of Safety and Emergency Planning at SBC Nevada. She is a member of the Foot-Prints editorial board and a Tour Guide.

Ralston Neighborhood, Please Tell Us

Sunday, Oct. 17, 2:00pm
Free Tour, Under
Construction:

We are looking for information for the proposed "Ralston Neighborhood Walking Tour". We would like people who have

lived in the Ralston neighborhood or who have knowledge of the neighborhood to join us. We will ask the neighbors to join us and tell us their stories. We're after urban legends, interesting anecdotes, reminiscences of who lived

where, what happened there, etc. Participants meet at the north end of Washington Street where it intersects with College Drive and The Strand. We suggest parking along College Drive. Pat Klos, Tour Developer.

A Historic Preservation Success, the Lake Mansion

At dawn on July 11, 2004 the Lake Mansion, built in 1877 and listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, started its safe journey back home to downtown Reno, arriving at 12:20 pm. It was quite an event, taking seven hours with over a thousand people watching the 3.1-mile move.

The mansion passed two casinos, numerous fast-food restaurants, banks, stores, a tattoo parlor, gas stations, a bowling alley, antique malls, used and new car lots, several strip malls and the Nevada Museum of Art until it made it home to surrounding neighboring mansions. Numerous power, telephone and cable lines needed to be raised or lowered, and seven traffic lights were moved while hundreds of people were awe struck as the mansion moved down the main thoroughfare of Reno within inches of buildings, power and telephone poles. Hundreds of people, including several who walked with the mansion the entire route, let out a cheer when the mansion was finally home again.

Due to the size of the new location at Court Street and Flint, the entire area where the mansion will eventually sit was needed to maneuver the truck for the move. Excavation for a basement and the foundation had to wait until the mansion was moved to the southeast portion of the lot. By mid-September the excavation should be completed and the mansion will be rolled forty feet north onto its new foundation.

In 1971, the mansion was moved from downtown to prevent its demolition. The 2004 route took the mansion



The Lake Mansion in the early morning hours of July 11, 2004 as it begins its voyage from the Reno-Sparks Convention Center on its way to its new home. Courtesy of Cindy Ainsworth.



The Lake Mansion up on blocks in its new location at Arlington and Court. This is the Flint street view. Courtesy of Mary Ellen Horan.


by the original site at California and Virginia, now a four-story office building, to its new home four blocks away and one block from the Truckee River. Myron Lake, considered to be the founder of Reno and a wise businessman, made his fortune by building a bridge, Lake's Crossing, across the Truckee River allowing travelers to easily traverse the raging waters, after paying a toll to Mr. Lake.

The Lake Mansion is the home of VSA arts of Nevada, a non-profit

organization dedicated to providing arts opportunities for the general public and specifically for children and adults who are disabled, disadvantaged or underserved by the arts. In 1996, VSA arts moved to the Lake Mansion at the suggestion of Bruce Goff, the great great grandson of Jane Lake and president of Washoe Landmark Preservation, a non-profit who owns the mansion. Since that time, VSA arts of Nevada has raised funds for the renovation and preservation of the house.

In 2001, the Reno-Sparks Convention Center requested that the mansion be moved from their land due to their expansion plans. VSA arts of Nevada raised \$900,000 of the \$1.1 million needed to complete the relocation and opening of the mansion. A daylight basement, the landscaping and the purchase of an elevator to access all three floors are in the plans. \$200,000 is still needed to complete the Lake Mansion project. Donations can be made to VSA arts of Nevada.

The Lake Mansion will be utilized for VSA arts of Nevada offices, exhibits, and programs.

The main floor will be open to the public for tours and the basement area will be used for arts workshops. The City of Reno allocated the land for the Lake Mansion with a \$500 annual lease payment. 

For more information: call 775-826-6100, or www.nv.vsarts.org

This story was provided by Mary Ellen Horan, Executive Director of VSA arts of Nevada.

Welcome New HRPS Board Members

Gordon Foote

Gordon Foote, a fourth generation Nevadan, lived most of his life in Sparks. He and his wife Carolyn, a Reno girl, moved to Reno about 8 years ago. Gordon's father's family lived in Virginia City, Gold Hill and Silver City. His mother's family lived in Pioche, Eureka and Ely.

Gordon graduated from Sparks High School and the University of Nevada with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. While there he was a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

Carolyn Foote's family arrived in Reno in 1869. Her great aunt, Clare Poor Powning, was married to C. C. Powning. Clare's father, James Johnson Poor, purchased a large tract of land west of the present Reno. J. J. Poor farmed the land and was a Justice of the Peace.

Gordon's father founded Harry's Business Machines in Reno in 1928. Gordon became president of the company in 1971 and is now passing the business on to his son, Gary. From typewriters and adding machines to computers, networks and the internet it has been quite a ride.

Gordon served on the Sparks City Council from 1971 to 1974. He was a founder of the Sparks Heritage Museum and recently completed his fifth term as president.

Gordon's hobbies are digital photography, genealogy and historical research.

HRPS is rather new to Gordon, but he hopes to be able to be able to make a contribution to this organization.

Bob Harmon

Bob Harmon is the Public Information Officer for the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs which includes the State Historic Preservation Office, State Division of Museums and History, State Library and Archives and the Nevada Arts Council.

Although he has only lived in Reno about ten years, his Nevada roots trace back well over a century so it was only natural for him to locate here with his wife Barbara when it came time to settle down and raise a family and he is proud of his seven-year-old daughter Annie's native Nevadan status.

Given his current work, it was also natural that he would end up active in HRPS. He has enjoyed HRPS activities for well over a year and now hopes that his professional life and personal interests will fuse to the benefits of HRPS and its mission. Feel free to contact Bob at rgharmon@clan.lib.nv.us.

Linda Sievers

Linda Sievers has lived in Reno for three years having moved here with her husband Wayne from Anchorage, Alaska. She has had family in Nevada since the 1850's including John and Emma Lothrop of Dayton and Roy and Daisy Stoddard of Reno. Her parents attended the University of Nevada in the late 1940's and eventually made their home in Tahoe City. She and Wayne love historic walks and buildings and have toured neighborhoods in Savannah, Charleston, Portland and Monterey. They discovered HRPS while taking an Artown walk and joined last year. She is a retired newspaper copy editor and volunteered to help with FootPrints. Her interests include writing,

photography, gardening and cruising with the Reno Corvette Club. Linda is also a member of the FootPrints editorial board.


Marilyn Turville

Marilyn Turville was born in Reno and lived in the Powning District on Riverside Drive the first two years of her life. Her parents then relocated to the East Bay Area. She returned to Reno with her family of five children in 1973.

Marilyn has lived in Reno for 33 years, and enjoys the slower lifestyle in Reno compared to the Bay Area. "I like having the choice of going to the mountains or to the desert without having to travel for hours to get there."

Marilyn's parents and grandparents came to Reno from Tonopah to establish a better life. "By becoming a member of HRPS I have learned what their lifestyle was like in the 1920s here in Reno. This is what sparked my interest in HRPS."

Marilyn formerly worked in banking (Nevada National Bank, Sierra Bank of NV) and gaming (International Game Technology and part time at Fitzgerald's). Presently she is a property manager for a small corporation and semi-retired.

Marilyn has enjoyed swimming, spending time at Lake Tahoe, skiing and hiking with good friends. She particularly enjoys traveling with local groups and family to different parts of the world (Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Caribbean and Europe). She is a graduate of San Jose State University and holds a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. 

Honest, We *Plan* to Give Credit Where Credit Is Due...

Regarding the El Reno story [FootPrints Vol. 7 #3], we owe an apology and credit to Karl Breckenridge. As the FootPrints editors work on an issue they modify and change articles. We did not realize that the material we were working with was actually taken straight from Karl's columns in the Reno Gazette-Journal. Karl, we apologize and want to credit you for your research and for bringing these delightful El Reno dwellings to light through your column.

FootPrints often makes use of other folk's material, but we try hard to give them credit when we do. Please let us know when we do not give appropriate credit. 

From 2004-2005 President Joan Dyer



Summer in HRPS territory is a short sweet gift; so many things to do with a great selection of activities.

The walking tours presented by our committee headed by Susie Carter offered a diverse selection of neighborhood tours. A great team of guides provided fun and interesting details of all the special sites. Local residents and tourists enjoy learning about the region. Seeing while walking instead of zipping past in a car. Wow, what a concept. This fall we will have a few new walks - stay tuned. Our spring bus tour of the barns in the area was a big hit. We hope to do another, expanding and repeating some locales.

Last year we learned so much about the Powning addition, local ranches and ditches and their impact on development. We will continue to delve into new areas with the fall programs.

Our publication, *A Walk Through Time, The Historic Powning's Addition in Reno, Nevada*, has been well received. Thanks to the hard work of Cindy Ainsworth, Felvia Belaustegui, Patty Cafferata and Mella Harmon, the research and completion of the booklet was done in record time. We truly stepped up to another level of preservation progress.

Now we look forward to a new season, beginning Wednesday, September 22 with informative and entertaining programs. Our social on Wednesday October 27 will have a wonderful theme and an audio/visual look at our history. Once again we will gather at the McKinley Arts and Cultural Center on Riverside Drive.

Join us for a great year. I look forward to working with the Board of Directors as President.

—Joan L. Dyer

HRPS Preservation Award Nomination

One of HRPS goals is to recognize those individuals and organizations in our community committed to preservation. We encourage community residents to join HRPS members in nominating individuals and/or organizations who have contributed, in one or more of the following ways, to preserving Reno's historic context by:

- Restoring and entering into reuse, at least one old building
- Enhancing neighborhood plans, guidelines, and/or zoning to benefit preservation efforts
- Conducting and publishing research, conserving and cataloguing photographs, collecting and archiving oral histories
- Building a new structure in an older neighborhood that works harmoniously within the existing context

To make a nomination:

1. Give the Name of nominee
2. Give the Address or physical description of the property
3. Explain why the HRPS Preservation Award should recognize this nominee
4. Please give us your name, phone number and address.

SEND YOUR NOMINATION TO:


Historic Reno Preservation Society, P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507.

A Nomination Form is available on the HRPS website at <http://historicroeno.org/>.
Selection of recipients shall be made by the HRPS Board of Directors.

Walking Tour Report

Susie Carter, Director of HRPS Walking Tours, reports on a very successful summer of walking tours. HRPS offered 26 tours in May, June and July. These were the walks offered with the number of times offered in parentheses: Art & Culture Corridor (1), Beyond the Arches (1), Bike Tour through Old Reno (2), Bricks & Stones (3), DeLongchamps Architectural Walk (2), Downtown Church Tour (1), El Reno Apartments Walk (1), Historic Truckee River Walk (3), Lake Addition Walk (1), Mansions on the Bluff (2), Newlands Neighborhood (2), Riverside District & Little Italy (2), UNR Historic District (2), Wells Ave Walk (2).

May Walks/Nevada Historic Preservation Week	New Members.....	29
	Total Participants.....	125
	Total Income.....	\$ 598
June Walks	New Members.....	5
	Total Participants.....	83
	Total Income.....	\$ 205
July Walks / Artown	New Members.....	32
	Total Participants.....	418
	Total Income.....	\$ 1300
Total Totals	New Members.....	66
	Participants	546
	Income	\$ 2106

Congratulations to Susie and all the Walking Tour Guides. 

HRPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check your mailing label! Renew your membership and help HRPS preserve historic Reno!

Please make checks payable to **Historic Reno Preservation Society**, and mail along with this application to:
P.O. Box 14003, Reno, NV 89507

- ☐ New Member
☐ Renewing Member

Name(s) _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ Best time to call: _____
Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
Fax _____ E-Mail: _____

Annual membership includes: Footprints (HRPS Newsletter) • Free participation in walking tours

- ☐ Student \$10.00 ☐ Individual \$15.00 ☐ Family (Children 18 yrs and younger) \$20.00
☐ Business Contribution \$50.00 ☐ Supporting \$100.00 ☐ HRPS Angel \$250.00

Additional donation: _____

Thank you for joining HRPS. An organization is only as strong as its members. There are many areas in our organization where your enthusiasm, skills, and dedication will be invaluable to historic Reno and future generations. The goal of the Historic Reno Preservation Society is to preserve the historic resources of our community. What would you like to contribute to HRPS?

**FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY**

PAID: ☐ Check ☐ Cash Amount: _____ Membership # _____ Renewal Date: _____

RV 05.27.04/FO

Bulk Rate Mail

Footprints is now being mailed using a Bulk Rate Mail permit. If your address changes, please contact Ginger Salcedo, P.O. Box 14003, Reno NV 89507, with your address change. Bulk Rate mail is not forwarded.



HRPS wishes to thank Promenade on the River for allowing HRPS to hold its Board Meetings at the Promenade.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Renewals May 16 - August 2, 2004

Cindy & Tom Ainsworth
Alicia Barber
Jan Bishop
Peter & Kathy Breen
Sarah Britt
Trudy & Peter Brussard
Diane & David Buckman
Wanda & Earl Casazza
Gloria Castillo
Theater Coalition
Judith Costin
Suzette Dietel
Angela Fantini
Helen Gotchy
Mella & Robert Harmon
Carol Haydis
Ruth Hilts
Norm & Donna Howard
Larry Jacob
Willis & Ethel Kleinsasser

Nadine Legarza
Susan Lombardi
Phinnie & Brynne Marsh
Julie Meecham
Helen Hardy Mills
Sunny Minedew
Ted & Nanette Oleson
Margaret Picard
Bert & Jennifer Pincolini
Dod & Kim Pittman & Family
Barbara Price
Sherryl Sanders
James D Santini
Louise Smith
Russ Steglich & Judy Stevens
Thomas Swart
S. M. Temen
Sharon & Bill Walbridge
Kathleen Wilson

New Members May 16 - August 2, 2004

Maureen Adams
Jim Carlton & Michelle Attaway
Ed & Ruth Atwell
Valerie Berry
Allen & Phyllis Blume
Alan & Stephanie Bohl
Doug, Linda, & Lindsay Bourger
Thomas Bourke
Kevin & Susan Browning
Tamera Buzick
Vernon Campbell
RJ & Lynn Carothers
Pera & Margo Daniels
James & Carol Dolian
Joe & Doris Dowden
Patricia Downs
Alan Griggs Miller & Richard Drath
Diane Glocksens
Cecil & Darlene Goyette
Lynn Wilson & Myrna Hoagland
Toby & Shirley Isler
LaVita Jones
Anne & John LaVoy
Ron & Barbie Lichter
Mary Lyons & Family
Manolo & Lisa Macedo

Brooks & Diane Mancini
John Marshall
Brenda McCarthy
Jim McCarty
Eldon & Linda Mohler
Paula Morton
Deborah Nelson & Family
Dorothy Oien
Lynn Orphan
Ron & Jean Pagni
Mark Paloolian
Bruce & Marcia Peck
John & Bridget Peck
Darlene & Joe Poole
Anita & Tina Reed
Rebecca Sanders
Sue Saville & Family
Jane Scott & Family
John Sparks
Kendra Stevenson
George & Jane Sullivan
Don & Pat Swindle
Don S & Norma Thompson
Sharon Westerberg & Family
Lorraine Koster & Jack
Lloyd & Carla Williams



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FALL PROGRAMS 2004

Felvia Belaustegui - Program Chair: 329-0149

All program events are on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 pm, at Mt. Rose School (Lander Street between Taylor and LaRue, just off Arlington), unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, September 22: HRPS researchers and walking tour guides, Debbie Hinman and Mac Wieland, will present facts, photos, and stories about two Powning Addition giants, the First Baptist Church and St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral. For many years they stood opposite each other calling worshippers to the corner of First Street and Chestnut (now Arlington).

Wednesday, October 27, 6 to 9 pm: PARTY++PARTY++PARTY! HRPS annual party will be held at McKinley Park Arts and Culture Center. Continuing our Walk through Time, we'll learn about Renoite Jacob Davis, creator of the riveted jean, the product that would later evolve into Levi-Strauss. A representative from Levi-Strauss collection will be present with artifacts featuring Levi history. A great grandson of Jacob Davis may also be present. Get out your old Levi's and bandanas and gear up for another evening of fun, friendship and festivities. Price is \$50.00 per person. Call Felvia Belaustegui at 329-0149 for information and/or reservations. If you have items to donate for the Silent Auction please contact Felvia. Proceeds from this year's party will go toward continuing research on the Powning's Addition.

Wednesday, November 17: John Marschall, Professor Emeritus of the Department of History at the University of Nevada, Reno, will present Ten Myths About Jewry and Judaism in Nevada. John debunks some of our tenaciously loved "common knowledge" on this subject with scholarship and a smile. Professor Marschall is currently preparing a book on "Jews of Nevada: 1850-2000."

HRPS Web Site: <http://historicreno.org/>

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Vice President: Phyllis Cates

Secretary: Mark Taxer

Treasurer: Bill Walbridge

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