

# Historic Reno PRESERVATION SOCIETY

# FootPrints

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

VOL. 8 NO. 4 ❖ FALL 2005

## 2005 UNR Master Plan

*by Debbie Hinman*

**H**ave you taken a look around the Truckee Meadows lately?? You probably see what we see – growth, and lots of it. The Truckee Meadows seems to be growing exponentially. The Washoe County School District has been building schools just as quickly as time and money allow. Another educational institution that has recognized the growth pattern is the University of Nevada, Reno. In December, 2004 they unveiled their regional center plan, designed to guide development and redevelopment for the University area over the next thirty years and beyond.

Throughout the United States, colleges and universities are integrated differently into the communities they serve. Some are the center of their community so that the community life seems to depend on the school and most local activities revolve around it. Some are separate entities, keeping to themselves in their own little sector of the city and rarely interacting with the community itself. The University of Nevada, Reno has a history of being the latter. This is due in part to its location “up on the hill” to the north, but also to the nature of the local economy. Gaming and matrimony, or the dissolution of such, have had very little to do with the student population, and the university activities, while enjoyed by local residents, particularly alumni, have historically held no interest for the tourist population. President John Lilley’s intent is to change this relationship and promote stronger community ties with his ambitious 30-year strategic plan for university expansion.

Why is expansion necessary? The University is projecting that it will grow to 30,000 students over the next 30 years, doubling its current student population.

The development concept is based on seven principles:

■ **Compact Campus.** While Truckee Meadows Community College has expanded via securing new classroom locations throughout the city, Lilley feels it is important to keep the university as a consolidated academic community, infilling existing campus lands and simply expanding the perimeters.

■ **Formal Academic Quadrangles and Streets.** From its earliest days, the University with its quadrangle and stately buildings around its perimeter was modeled on Thomas Jefferson’s “Academical Village” at the University of Virginia. The expansion plan calls for using today’s “quad” in the south portion of the campus as a building block from which to add a series of interconnected formal spaces along east-west axes, also to the middle and north parts of the campus.



*The University of Nevada Reno campus in the 1930s, a much smaller version of today's campus.*

■ **Integrated Open Space Network.** This is created by interconnecting formal and informal open spaces, streets and landscape features. A key feature of this network is that it provides six strategically located crossings of the railroad tracks.

■ **Pedestrian Orientation.** A network of landscaped pathways will connect the various parts of the campus. These pathways connect to proposed shuttle service and parking structures.

■ **Places for Interaction.** This will be achieved at numerous locations by placing key facilities such as student services, residential support and open spaces in highly visible areas at major campus crossroads. Facilitated by the pedestrian pathways, these areas are within a ten-minute walking distance of most parts of the campus.

*Continued on page 2*

## UNR Master Plan (continued)

Continued from page 1

■ **Campus Gateways.** Gateways are proposed at various locations on the perimeter of the campus. The original plan called for a major landscaped frontage along Interstate 80, to present a welcoming face to traffic passing by and using this exit to reach downtown points.

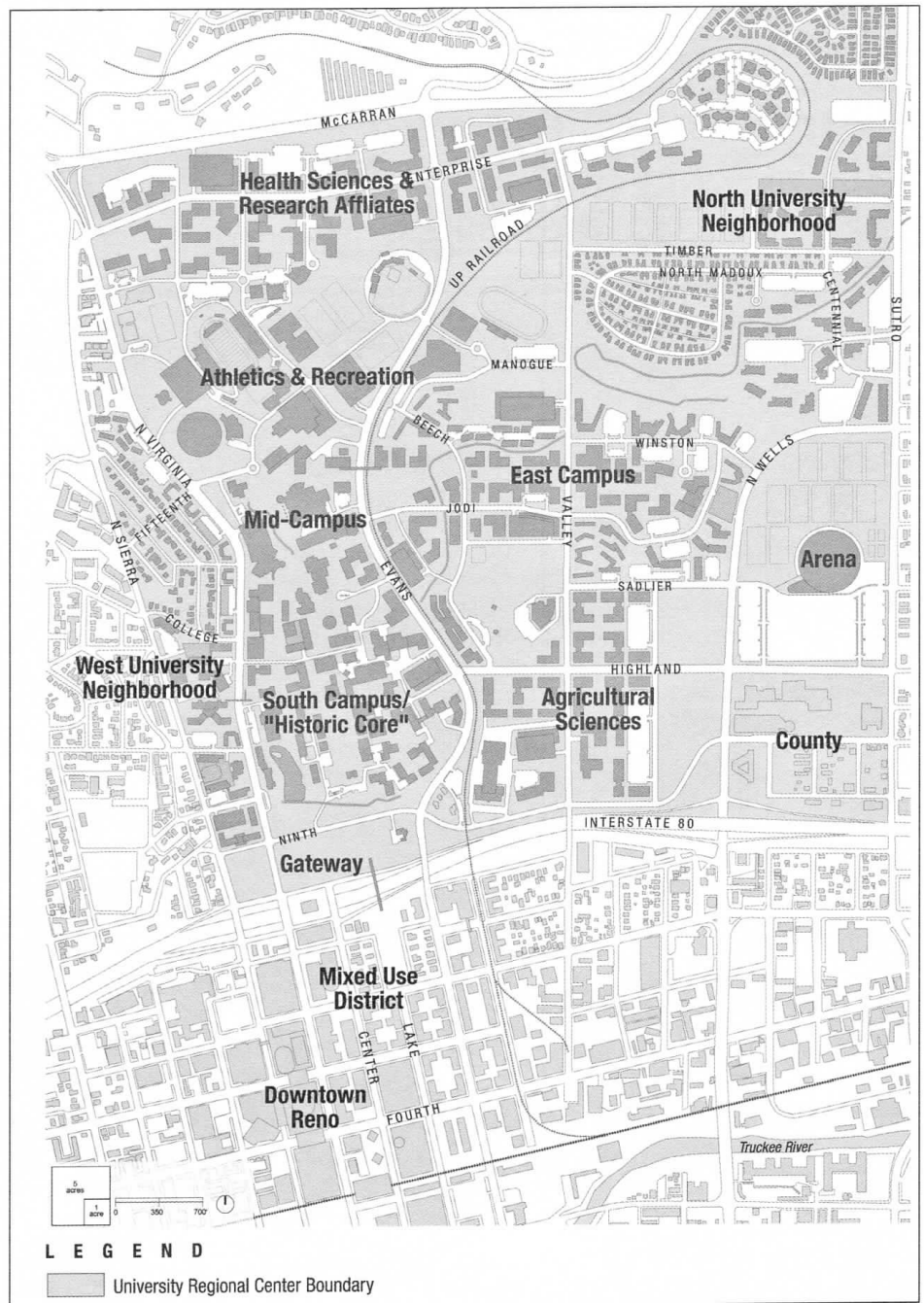
■ **Responsiveness to the Environment.** The Plan states that the proposed development respects the environmental aspects of the campus including topography, and wind and sun patterns. The university facilities would conserve resources through the use of passive heat, and other technology.

In order to incorporate these seven principles into the university, it is clear that much more land will need to be acquired to accommodate this massive expansion. In the Winter 2004 issue of *Silver & Blue* magazine, President Lilley is quoted as saying, "We're looking at more than doubling the University's land mass." The proposed perimeters of the University are Interstate 80 to the south; North Sierra Street to the west; North McCarran Boulevard to the north; and Sutro Street to the east.

Campus neighbors are understandably nervous about how this land acquisition is to be accomplished. Many of them have owned their homes for many years and have invested heavily in them with remodeling and landscaping. They enjoy being part of the University neighborhood and are wary of what zoning changes and the threat of eminent domain might do to their property value.

University officials have responded to these concerns by reassuring property owners that they have no intention of invoking eminent domain. Their intention is to acquire land as it becomes available by purchasing it from owners at fair market value. They stress that this is a multi-year plan; changes will occur slowly and with forethought.

Residents also have concerns about what would become of the many historic homes in this area, more than



Map above and photo on page one courtesy of:  
[http://www.unr.edu/masterplan/documents/UNR-MP-01\\_Screen.pdf](http://www.unr.edu/masterplan/documents/UNR-MP-01_Screen.pdf)

a few of which date from the late 19th century. The west side of North Center Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets, for example, boasts possibly the only row of pre-1900 Queen Anne structures in the city. The original Master Plan did not provide for any structures on this land.

Historically, the physical connection between Downtown and the University was on Lake Street, named for Myron Lake, the founder of Reno. This connection, now severed by Interstate 80, can still be seen visually where the steps from historic Morrill Hall connect to the north end of Lake Street. The

Continued on page 3

## UNR Master Plan (continued)

*Continued from page 2*

UNR Master Plan calls for reestablishing this physical connection and providing a pedestrian linkage from the University to downtown.

The University Master Plan came before the Reno Planning Commission on March 16, 2005. The meeting was crowded with concerned university area residents, some of whom spoke quite eloquently to the Council on behalf of their properties. One such property owner was local attorney Fred Atcheson, who recently sold the popular Record Street Café. Atcheson also owns several other properties, including a striking 1895 Victorian which was his family home. These properties fall within the area designated as the "sweeping lawn" or open space, originally conceived to extend from Interstate 80 to the current entrance on Ninth Street, with Sierra Street and Evans Avenue as the respective west/east boundaries.

The Commission voted 5-1 to recommend the city adopt the plan, subject to a regional planning review and on the condition the university provide an update every three years on how the plan is progressing. The dissenting vote was cast by Darrin Georgeson, who objected to the Gateway Principle of "sweeping lawn." Georgeson was quoted in the April 10th *Reno Gazette-Journal* as saying, "I don't see how education will benefit by an open space area that's the size of nine to 10 football fields. It's not compatible, and it's going to ruin that area."

The issue went to the Reno City Council in April 2005. After several meetings to obtain public input, on April 27, the Council adopted the University of Nevada, Reno Regional Center Plan as an element in the City's Master Plan.

In adopting the plan, the City Council removed two physical areas from the plan after hearing testimony from property owners. The affected areas

include a small area on the west side of the plan, east of Sierra Street, and the area west of Evans Avenue and east of Sierra Street, south of Ninth Street, which will remain in the West University Neighborhood Plan. This latter area includes the row of Queen Annes on Center Street and was of particular concern in the Campus Gateway Principle.

The university's initial request sought an immediate rezoning of surrounding



*One of a row of classic Queen Annes on Center Street. These homes were originally destined to be removed, but now appear to be saved from the Gateway. Photo courtesy of Jack Hursh, Jr.*

neighborhoods. But heeding the concerns of area residents, the City Council decided existing zoning will remain intact until the university actually buys the land it wants.

The City of Reno Master Plan is being revised to reflect the City's new initiative *Making It Great*, as well as to bring the Plan into conformance with the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan as required by the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). The City of Reno Master Plan includes citywide plans that cover the City and

sphere of influence, plans for centers and transit-oriented development (TOD) corridors, and neighborhood plans. In addition to the University of Nevada Regional Center Plan, the City of Reno Master Plan includes the Downtown plan, the Meadowood plan, the Washoe plan, the Reno-Tahoe International Airport plan, the Dandini plan, the Reno-Stead Airport plan, and the Redfield Plan. (see [www.cityofreno.com/res/comdev/plans/](http://www.cityofreno.com/res/comdev/plans/))

In the words of Benjamin Disraeli, "Change is inevitable. Change is constant." It is commendable that the University Administration has had the forethought to project growth numbers, and arrive at a detailed, progressive plan to handle this growth. Certainly planned growth is a far more desirable thing that haphazard, disjointed, unplanned growth. University officials know where the school is going, and can now more easily plan for how best to get it there. But they need to listen to the existing neighborhood property owners, and work with them in a spirit of cooperation to plan a community that will serve the best interests of all. New facilities will be needed to house the students, educate them, and serve their needs but adaptive reuse of historic buildings and the incorporation of them into the newly expanded campus would create a much richer, more interesting academic community. 

*References: UNR Master Plan, Reno Regional Center Plan, May 2005 Remiges, Nevada Silver and Blue, Winter 2004 "University Bursting at its Seams", and two Reno Gazette-Journal stories: "Council OK's UNR Process for Rezoning" 4/27/05 Ben Kieckhefer, "Neighbors Wary of UNR Expansion" 4/10/2005 Lenita Powers.*

*Debbie Hinman is HRPS Tour Director and a member of the HRPS FootPrints Editorial Board.*



## October 2005 HRPS Walking Tours

Historic Reno Preservation Society will present eight historic walking tours, one biking tour and one bus tour this fall. These will be the final tours until May 2006. The cost of the Bams Bus Tour is \$40 per person and you must pay in advance. Walking Tours are \$10 per person; they generally last 1 1/2 to 2 hours. No dogs, please. We would appreciate it if you would call 747-HIST (747-4478) to reserve space, as we can better plan for the appropriate number of guides.

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2005  
9:00 a.m.

**BARN OR BUST BUS TOUR:** Join Tour Guide Jack Hursh for a unique retrospective of some of the Truckee Meadows' oldest remaining barns. The tour includes lunch at Bartley Ranch, and runs approximately 6 hours. Meet at the National Automobile Museum parking lot. Call Jack at 747-3252 for reservations.

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2005  
6:00 p.m.

**RIVERSIDE DISTRICT AND LITTLE ITALY:** Discover Reno's beginnings with a walk along the Truckee River through "Little Italy," noting historic churches, parks, hotels & motels, homes, and other fine old buildings. Meet at Dreamer's Coffee House in the Riverside Artists Lofts, 17 South Virginia Street. Tour guide, Joan Collins.

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005  
10:00 a.m.

**NEWLANDS NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR:** An architectural walk through one of Reno's oldest and most prestigious neighborhoods. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. Tour guide, Scott Gibson.

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2005  
10:00 a.m.

**BIKE TOUR THROUGH OLD RENO:** Ride along quiet streets under a canopy of trees in Reno's oldest neighborhoods. Meet at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. Tour guide, Glee Willis.

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2005  
6:00 p.m.

**PARSONS/MILLS/DELONGCHAMPS ARCHITECTURAL WALK:** Join us for a stroll in one of Reno's most unique neighborhoods to view the distinguished designs of three famous Reno architects: Edward Parsons, Russell Mills and Frederic DeLongchamps. The historic walk will begin at the corner of Marsh and La Rue Avenues. Tour guide, Anne Simone.

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2005  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**NOT-SO-LIVING HISTORY AT HILLSIDE CEMETERY:** "Meet" some of Reno's earliest residents and hear their personal histories with tales of Reno in the early days. Sturdy footwear suitable for uneven, rocky terrain and flashlights suggested.

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2005  
6:00 p.m.

**BRICKS AND STONES TOUR:** A walk in the vernacular Humboldt and Lander Streets neighborhood. Discover the architectural treasure trove of this area, a mix of bungalows, Tudor, mission revivals and cottage styles. Begins at My Favorite Muffin, 340 California Avenue. Tour guide, Mark Taxer.

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2005  
10:00 a.m.

**EL RENO APARTMENTS AND SIERRA VISTA ADDITION TOUR:** Visit seven of the remaining El Reno Apartment homes and a popular working class neighborhood of the 1930's. Meet at the Statewide Lighting parking lot, 1320 S. Virginia St. Tour guide, Debbie Hinman

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2005  
6:00 p.m.

**UPPER RALSTON/NORTHERN LITTLE ITALY:** Enjoy a walk in a neighborhood with agrarian roots dating to the late 1800's combined with a mix of architectural styles, some built by Genovese Italians and others designed by prominent architects. Proximity to the University of Nevada has traditionally determined the mix of residents...professors and students alike. Meet at the intersection of Washington Street, The Strand, and College Avenue. Tour Guide, Jim Smith.

Saturday, Oct. 29, 2005  
10:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**GHOST WALK:** A fun stroll through downtown Reno and its older south neighborhoods, with tantalizing tales of murder, mayhem and reported hauntings galore. Evening walkers are requested to bring a flashlight. Tour guides, Tammy Buzick, Joan Collins, Debbie Hinman and Mark Taxer.

## A Look Back at July 2005 Walking Tours

by Debbie Hinman, HRPS Walking Tour Director

While the May walking tours were plagued with icy gales and cold, inclement weather, most of the July Artown Walks represented the other end of the spectrum, featuring triple-digit heat and blinding sunshine. Participants on the Riverside District/Little Italy walk, however, began their walk welcoming a respite from the heat, with a light breeze and overcast skies. The breeze quickly evolved into a windstorm, and pelting rain drove walkers under shelters along the river walk. But walkers persevered through the blustery weather and stepped carefully around downed trees and branches on Riverside Drive. The scorching heat returned the next morning, barely missing a beat.

In spite of the heat, the participation numbers were stellar, with over 650 walkers (and 39 bikers)! They came equipped with water, sunscreen and headgear and cheerfully kept pace with the guides, pausing thankfully under available shade from trees and buildings to hear stories of old Reno and to admire the local architecture.

Many also contributed to the information given on the walks. "Our walkers today are far more sophisticated than those of previous years," commented long-time tour guide, Joan


Collins. "They have more knowledge and ask more probing questions."

One of the most rewarding experiences for the guides is when participants share their own experience and knowledge. One of the "Alley Walks," which centers around the local divorce trade and housing for the short-term residents, was enhanced by the personal story of a divorcee who came to Reno in the 1940's for "The Cure," met and married a local man, and made Reno her permanent home. Edward Parsons' daughter Alice came along for the Parsons/Mills Architectural Walk and added wonderful color to guide Anne Simone's already detailed script. One of the most heartwarming stories came from locals Bill and Beth Isaef, who attended the University Historic District walk. They shared with the group how they had met in the Jot Travis Student Union many years ago, fell in love, married, and are still together today. Walking through the "old" campus brought back many fond memories for them.

Many of the walkers support the organization by being "regulars." The guides were gratified to see familiar faces on each walk, and to know these new friends were interested enough in Reno lore to brave the heat and burning pavement. HRPS also acquired 21 new

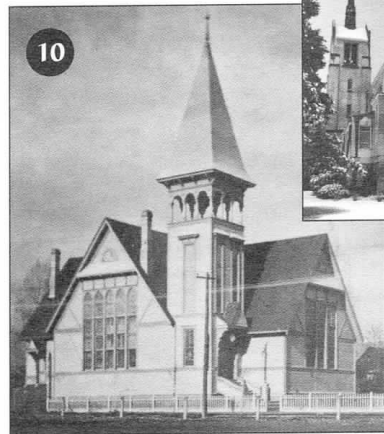
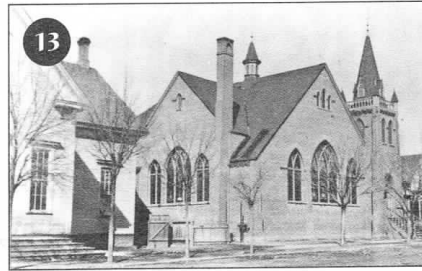
individual members and 24 families in July! It is exciting to witness the growth of our organization and to see the interest in and commitment to historic preservation expanding with each series of walking tours.

This interest is a direct result of the skill and diligence of HRPS' dedicated volunteer tour guides. Not only did they appear for the occasion of their own walks, but they came along on others to help with sign-ins and to support their fellow guides. Their contribution to the organization is invaluable.

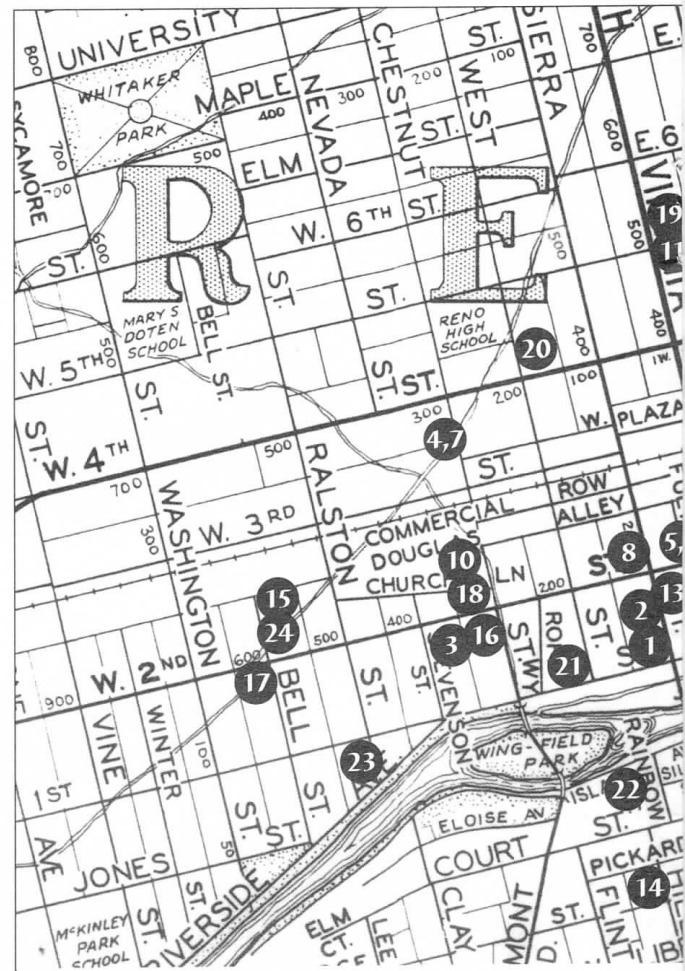
Many of these walks, and others that have been done in the past, will be offered again in October. With any luck, more moderate temperatures will prevail! Last October's overwhelmingly popular Ghost Walk will be offered again this year, at 10 a.m. for the faint of heart, and at dusk for the more intrepid. The walk scripts are in constant revision and occasionally different guides are assigned different walks, so even if you've attended a certain walk before, you may learn something new if you take it again. Or maybe you'd just like to share the experience with a friend or family member! Please join us in October—we'd love to see you. 

### Report on July 2005 Historic Walking Tours

Date	Walk	Guide(s)	Participants	Members	Collected
7/2/05	Parsons/Mills Walk/South Alley Walk	Simone/Buzick	61	4	\$275.00
7/3/05	Bike Tour Through Old Reno	Willis	39	4	\$230.00
7/5/05	Newlands Neighborhood Back Alleys/North	Buzick	87	10	\$510.00
7/7/05	Beyond the Arches	Simone	44	4	\$170.00
7/9/05	Newlands Neighborhood Back Alleys/South	Buzick	70	6	\$355.00
7/12/05	University of Nevada Historic Walk	Hursh	28	3	\$115.00
7/14/05	Truckee River Corridor Walk	Collins	28	2	\$110.00
7/16/05	Wells Avenue Neighborhood Walk	Collins/Taxer	29	3	\$130.00
7/19/05	Mansions on the Bluff Walk	Wishart/Collins/Buzick	77	1	\$285.00
7/21/05	Riverside District and Little Italy Walk	Carter	34	1	\$70.00
7/23/05	Bricks & Stones Neighborhood Walk	Soliday	25	1	\$90.00
7/24/05	Three Historic Churches Walk	Wieland	57	1	\$190.00
7/26/05	DeLongchamps Walk	Simone	38	3	\$185.00
7/28/05	Lake Addition Walk	Hinman	32	1	\$70.00
7/30/05	Upper Ralston/Little Italy Walk	Smiths	56	1	\$195.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>705</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>\$2,980.00</b>



## Downtown Reno Cl



The downtown Reno map is a 1940s Thomas Bros. map. Note that Cl is the main east-west route, known as Hwy 40. Virginia is the main n Historical Society, 24 from the State Historic Preservation Office, 18 from 16 from Debbie Hinna

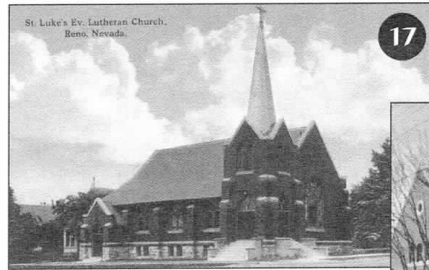
#	Year Built	HRPS Vol.	Church Name	Address & Details
1	1868	7#4	all denominations	Riverside Schoolhouse (First & Sierra)
2	1870	8#2	First Methodist	First & Sierra (moved to back of lot in 1900)
3	1870	7#4	St. Thomas Aquinas	Second & Chestnut(Arlington) (burned in 1879)
4	1873	8#1	Congregational	Chestnut between Third & Fourth (shared with Oddfellows)
5	1876	7#4	First Baptist	Second between Virginia & Sierra (burned in 1879 fire)
6	1877	8#4	Chinese Joss House	First & Center (burned in 1878)
7	1879	7#4	Chebra B'rith Shalom	Odd Fellows Hall, Chestnut between Third & Fourth
8	1879	7#4	Trinity Episcopal	Second and Sierra (burned in 1879)
9	1880	7#4	First Baptist	Second between Virginia & Sierra (burned in 1889)
10	1890	7#4	First Baptist	Second & Chestnut (torn down in 1917)
11	1892	8#1	Congregational Church	Fifth & Virginia (until 1918)
12	1899	8#4	Chinese Joss House	First & Lake (torn down in 1957)



# Churches 1870-1950



Chestnut is now called Arlington. I-80 has not been built yet. 4th Street north-south route. Photos 13, 21, 4, 11, 12, 10, 20 are courtesy of Nevada UNR Library Special Collections, 22 from Jim Durner and 17, 23, and 24's postcard collection.



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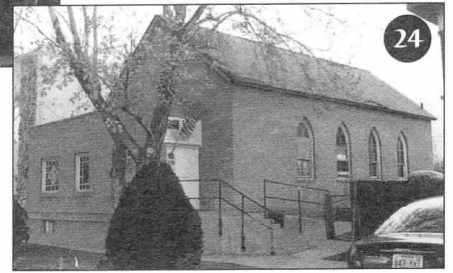
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21



23



24

#	Year Built	HRPS Vol.	Church Name	Address & Details
13	1900	8#2	First Methodist	First & Sierra St (until 1925)
14	1902	8#1	First Presbyterian	Ridge & Hill (maintained until 1921)
15	1907	8#1	Bethel AME Church	Second & Bell
16	1908	6#2	St. Thomas Aquinas	Second & Arlington (standing today)
17	1914	8#2	St. Luke's Lutheran	W. Second & Bell (torn down in 1970)
18	1918	7#4	First Baptist	Second & Chestnut (until 1956)
19	1918	8#1	Federated Church	(Congregational/Presbyterian) Fifth & Virginia (torn down in 1950)
20	1921	7#4	Temple Emanu-El	426 West Street (torn down in 1970)
21	1925	8#2	First United Methodist	First & West Sts. (standing today)
22	1929		Trinity Episcopal	Island & Rainbow (standing today)
23	1939	6#2	Church of Christ Scientist	Riverside Dr. (held services until 1998 - standing today as Lear Theater)
24	1941	8#1	Bethel AME Church	Second & Bell (expanded) (Until 1993 - standing today as a cultural center)

# The Role of Joss House in the Chinese Community

by Linda Sievers

*"Respectfully presented by the disciples.  
May the auspicious winds come to  
the Association Hall." – Inscription on  
Nevada Railroad Museum's Joss House  
incense burner.*

From the gold rush era through the railroad boom, Chinese immigrants played an important role in the building of western communities. The influx of thousands of Chinese, imported from the Orient by the shipload, were eager to work for wages that meant starvation to a white man. Much of the labor on the great construction job of the Central Pacific Railway, winding up over the high Sierras and down through Reno, was supplied by great gangs of Chinese. Once the Central Pacific was completed in 1869, some 60,000 Chinese looked elsewhere for work, building the V&T Railroad, constructing ditches, as cooks, day laborers and running laundries.

And everywhere they established a presence, a Joss House was built to serve their spiritual and social needs. Tong meeting houses, and "Chinatowns" were common. Their customs were a constant source of wonder and ridicule to the white inhabitants.

The term "joss" refers to incense sticks that are burned as part of ancestral worship. Reno's first Joss House was built in June, 1877 near First and Center Streets. It and most of the surrounding Chinatown was destroyed in a fire in August 1878. According to the 1880 census, there were 185 Chinese out of 1,645 people living in Reno.

A new brick Joss House was erected in the rebuilt and relocated Chinatown

around 1899 near the east corner of First and Lake Streets. A.H. Manning and D. H. Haskell donated the lot and building funds came from Chinese residents living as far away as Susanville and San Francisco. Like most of Reno's churches, it played a vital community role as a social hall, hostel and temple to the town's Chinese residents.

The new structure had only one large room, which included a kitchen area. As a temple, it also had an altar/shrine where statues of Chinese deities were displayed. In front, an offering table would have

als to the altar, incense burners, gong, drum and a beautiful large lantern with etched glass panels.

To view a community gathering place and appreciate what the Reno house could have been like, visit the Auburn, California Joss House. The size is about the same, although it is two stories and made of wood. It has similar proportions with a center door and two front windows. The interior walls are blackened from years of soot from burning joss sticks.



*Reno's second Joss House, located at First and Lake Streets. The photo, circa 1957, was taken shortly before the building was condemned and torn down due to damages from the 1955 flood.*

*Photo courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society.*

teacups and rice bowls for each of the gods, divination blocks and fortune sticks. Since the Chinese come as individuals to seek help and direction from the gods, there was no need for pews.

The current exhibit "Tireless and Unremitting: The Chinese and Nevada's Railroads" at the Railroad Museum in Carson City presents a Joss House interior. Artifacts from collections around the state are displayed including an elaborate silk fan used in procession-

When you enter, the altar with three divided niches is immediately to your right. Confucius occupies the left niche, Kwan Tai (god of war and courage) the middle section and Tin Hou (Queen of Heaven) the right. A large round table with chairs is opposite the altar. Two small bedrooms off the main room housed the resident monk and a schoolteacher. The back wall of the room contains a blackboard and large map of China. Rows of school benches with stools face the blackboard. Behind the back wall is a large kitchen area with wood stove, Chinese oven and kerosene heating stove.

According to Richard Yue, whose family owned the Auburn building for many years, the locals met here regularly to play cards and talk politics around the table. His father and uncles attended school there as well. Today it is both a museum and history center.

Yue explained that Reno's Joss House probably would have had different chosen deities on display except for Confucius. Each house usually chose a name

*Continued on page 9*



## The Role of Joss House (cont.)

*Continued from page 8*

for their association as well. Auburn's was the Lin Ying (Brave Heroes) Association.

Reno's Chinatown near First and Lake Streets stretched along the northern banks of the Truckee River. Unfortunately, the area had begun to deteriorate and residents of the lower Truckee feared their water would be contaminated due to unsanitary conditions. By 1908, the town's Board of Health conducted an investigation that eventually led to most of the community being torn down and burned. The incident got national attention when photos of the now homeless residents standing around piles of lumber and debris were published in newspapers.

While the Joss House escaped this destruction, the society ended up in court after Manning and Haskell died. In 1916, their heirs attempted to reclaim the donated lot because the society had never incorporated nor paid taxes on the property. The case of Su Lee vs. Peck ended up in the State Supreme Court in 1925. They found in favor of the Joss House Society since it was a religious group and exempt from taxes.

By the late 1930s, Reno's Chinese community consisted of the Joss House and a few stores on Lake Street. Reno photographer Walt Mulcahy labeled it the Chinese Free Mason Hall in his 1950's print on file at the Nevada Historical Society. Large Chinese characters in black paint surround the double front door. Over the recessed entry a wooden pagoda-style canopy gives the building a sense of Asian flair.

Henry Yup of Reno remembers the Joss House as "just a place to hang around." He was 12 years old when his family immigrated to the United States from China during the Depression. They settled first in Lovelock, then Battle Mountain before coming to Reno.

According to a May 3, 1985 *Reno Gazette-Journal* article by Tracy Wong Briggs, the house's caretaker in 1937 was Henry Woo, a faro dealer at the Golden Hotel and Casino. Woo was trapped in the house during the 1955 flood and was rescued by the fire department in a motorboat.

Those inauspicious waters of the 1955 flood finally undermined the foundation of Reno's 56-year-old Joss House. The boxy brick building was eventually condemned in 1957 due to the water damage.

Several local families had helped maintain the house and after the flood, decided to have it torn down. According to a March 22, 1959 issue of the Nevada State Journal, the façade of Reno's Joss House was to be relocated to Gold Hill and would be assigned a historical marker.

The land was sold to the neighboring Bundox restaurant in 1960. The Joss Society trustees, Teng Gee,




*An incense burner at the Nevada State Railroad Museum's display of a Joss House interior.*

Charlie and Lai King Chew, Bill Fong and Henry Yup, banked and invested the proceeds. By 1982, the account totaled \$35,000 and only three trustees were still alive. Some younger members of the Chinese community wanted to reestablish a Joss House but eventually the group decided to erect a memorial instead.

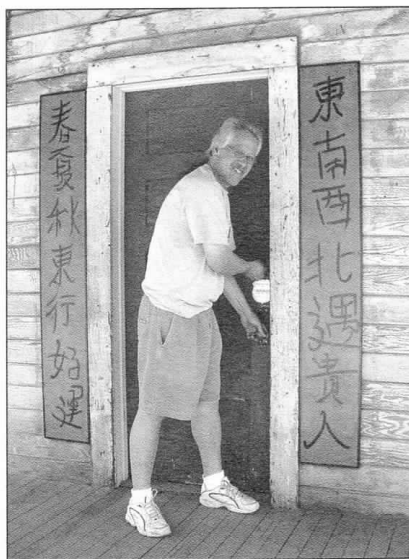
Today, that memorial can be seen at San Rafael Park. The Pagoda picnic pavilion includes large tiled

Chinese characters and a plaque honoring Reno's Joss House.

To learn more about Joss Houses, visit these California examples in Weaverville the Joss House State, the Temple of Kwan Tai in Mendocino, China Alley in Hanford, and the Auburn Joss House on Sacramento Street. To find out more about these and other Chinese historical sites, log on to [www.khamsin.org/chinese](http://www.khamsin.org/chinese) on the internet. 

*Information for this article came from Tough Little Town on the Truckee by John M. Townley and "Reno Put Torch to Chinatown," The Nevadan, August 6, 1972 by Phil Earl, Phil Earl's card file at Nevada Historical Society, and Pioneer Nevada published by Harold's Club of Reno.*

*Linda Sievers is a retired copy editor who worked 20 years for the Anchorage Daily News. She is currently working on a family history of her Lothrop and Stoddard relatives.*



*Richard Yue in front of Auburn California's Joss House which is now a museum and history center. Pictures on this page courtesy of Linda Sievers.*

## From Your HRPS President

What a wonderful summer we've had... a gift after a long intense winter and a little spring.

The HRPS Walking tours during Artown were outstanding thanks to our enthusiastic, well-trained tour guides. Comments that were returned to us were very complimentary.

Tour Director Debbie Hinman, HRPS Board members and off-duty HRPS Tour Guides kept each walk in smooth operation, even with huge numbers of attendees. Former Tour Director Susie Carter directed and developed several of our new walks – thanks, Susie.



After all their hard work and dedication, our tour guides were entitled to a quiet August. Now we await our October barn bus tour and more delightful walks.

This fall our programs return to the 4th Wednesday at the Mt. Rose Elementary School. Jack Hursh has arranged for very informative programs for September 28 and November 16.

Our Annual Party will be Wednesday, October 26 again at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center. Board Member Marilyn Tuerville is our able Chairman for the event. See you there.

— Joan L. Dyer, President

## The Times They Are a Changin'

by Mella Rothwell Harmon


Bruce Barton said, "When you are through changing, you are through." So as to not test Mr. Barton's hypothesis, I made a big change in May when I left the State Historic Preservation Office after seven years and moved to the Nevada Historical Society. My new title is "curator of history," but it might as well be "herder of cats." Included in my job duties are developing and administering the society's educational programs, public outreach, museum activities, including exhibits and events, and managing the production of the Quarterly. See what I mean?

It is all good, though, because the Historical Society is a great place. It was founded in 1904 by a determined history professor named Jeanne Wier. The Society is, in fact, the State's old-

est museum. Housed within these walls are remarkable treasures of manuscripts, photographs, maps, and artifacts. The research library has served countless seekers of history, from scholars to genealogists. Our permanent museum exhibit, Nevada: Prisms and Perspectives, tells the state's compelling story through artifacts and photographs, while the Changing and Entry Galleries explore different aspects of Nevada history through a variety of media.

What I would especially like HRPS members to know is that there are exciting volunteer opportunities at the Nevada Historical Society. Members of the Docent Council perform important duties, including leading school tours of the gallery. This function is vital to the

Society's educational programming and one to which HRPS members are particularly well suited (after all, look what you have done with your walking tours). The next docent training program begins on September 19. You can register by calling me at 688-1191, ext. 223 or by filling out the form on our webpage at NevadaCulture.org. Please think about it. It will be rewarding, and it is fun.

My place of work may have changed, but not my close association with HRPS. Come see me or give me a call. In the meantime, I'll keep writing. 

Mella Rothwell Harmon  
Curator of History  
Nevada Historical Society  
775-688-1191, ext. 223  
mrharmon@clan.lib.nv.us

## HRPS Invites you to an Evening of Rails Tales

**Guest Speaker:** Lawrence K. Hersh, author of *The Central Pacific Railroad Across Nevada, 1868-1997*.

Wednesday, October 26, 2005 • McKinley Arts & Cultural Center • Riverside Drive, Reno

6 p.m. Wine • 7 p.m. Buffet Dinner • Silent Auction  
\$50 per person

**Reservations required by October 19th – Call Felvia Belaustegui 329-0149**

Make checks out to HRPS and mail to 3015 Heatheridge Lane, Reno NV 89509

## 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 \$15.00      ☐ Individual \$25.00      ☐ Family (Children 18 yrs and younger) \$40.00  
☐ 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 08.28.05/FO-DCD

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: March 6 – August 15, 2005

### Renewals:

Maureen Adams  
Patti & Carson Adams  
Cindy & Tom Ainsworth  
George & Mary Aker  
Bobbie Anderson-Hubbard  
Mark Backus  
Robert & Sandra Backus  
Carrol Baird  
Patricia J. Beach  
Diana Beggs  
Felvia & Richard Belaustegui  
Jim & Lani Bonar  
Thomas Bourke  
Sue Broderdorf  
Lawrence & Betty Brown  
Trudy & Peter Brussard  
Holly & Kel Buchanan  
Carol Buckman  
Tosca Byars  
RJ & Lynn Carothers  
Wanda & Earl Casazza  
Gloria & John Castillo  
Delores & Press Clewe  
Ty & Suellen Cobb  
Judith J. Cole  
Carol & Sam Coleman  
Judith Costin  
Julie Deectram  
Tom Dinkel  
Joe & Doris Dowden  
Peter & Sherry Dunn  
Marie Edwards  
Sheila & Joe Erlach  
Mary Lee & Chuck Fulkerson  
Louise Gilmartin  
Jeff Goldsmith

Fritz & Evelyn Grupe  
Mike & Nanette Harker  
Mella & Robert Harmon  
Carol Haydis  
Phyllis Hedgpeth  
Ruth Hiltz  
Nancy Holmes  
Toby & Shirley Isler  
Harold & Alice Jacobsen  
Larry Jacox  
Inge Jahn  
Sally Jeffers  
Christy Jerz  
Jean Johnson  
Jeanne Harrah & Jerry Johnson  
Dan Kaminski  
Barbara Keller  
Willis & Ethel Kleinsasser  
Kenneth & Victoria Krater  
Donna Lage  
Chip Latham  
Marian & John LaVoy  
Bill & Doris Leonesio  
Susan Lombardi  
Janice & Gary Lubra  
Jon & Linda Madsen  
Jane & George Magee  
John Marschall  
Phinnie & Brynne Marsh  
Ellen Marston  
Marty, Steve, Molly, & Bernie Matles  
Mr. & Mrs. John Matley  
Brenda McCarthy  
Charlotte & Dick McConnell  
Loretta Terlizzi & Jim McCormick  
Jan McGinty  
Eileen McGowan  
Darla McKenna

Don & Anne Meier  
Lou Melton  
Kathryn "Sug" Miles  
Beth Miramon  
Bruce Nemenoff  
Elsie & Larry Newman  
Rosalie Nolan  
Geno Oliver  
Tony & Nettie Oliverio  
Deedee Carter Pace  
Al & Nancy Pagni  
Ron & Jean Pagni  
Margaret Picard  
Robert & Kathryn Pickens  
Mrs. D. Pittman  
Darla Potter  
Carol Quinn  
Patricia Radosevich-Coia  
Sally Crawford Ramm  
Millard & Irene Reed  
Connie Remde  
Cheri Ridenour  
Tom & Paula Ringkob  
Rebecca & Sonny Rosenberg  
Rich Rossi  
William Salas  
Fredilyn Sison & Rick Hayes  
Fran & Paul Skrotzki  
Marjorie Smith  
Michael & Karren Smith  
Tracy Soliday  
Roger & LuAnne Steiningier  
Marc & Morgan Tiar  
Sharon & Bill Walbridge  
Shirrie Wallace  
JoAnne Sbragia Waters  
Karen Wells  
Robert Wexler

Angela Whited  
Richard & Maureen Wilde  
Kay Wilkinson  
Glee Willis & John Tor  
Kathryn & Ed Wishart  
Hilda Wunner  
Mary Yeargin  
Dr. Sally Zanjani

### New Members:

Heidi Adkins  
Duncan & Mary Ann Aldrich  
Bruce Atchison  
Darleen R. Azizisefat  
Bill & Sue Bishop  
Patricia Blanchard  
Robert H Broili  
Diane Carlin  
Mike & Joannie Cassity  
Robert & Ann Chase  
Nirmal & Ellen Chatterjee  
Judith J. Cole  
Jackie Colton  
Ray Corradetti  
James & Mary Lou Cox  
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Sharon Gard  
Robert Gerber  
Greiner  
Roger & Joanne Hildahl  
Tyson Kales

Knute Knudson Family  
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Ann Little & John Fontius  
Victor McDonald  
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Liz Ray  
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Gail Sande  
Nina Sawyer  
Ann Katherine Sawyer  
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Susanne Sexton  
Alan Seymour & Ann Allison Andrit  
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## FALL PROGRAMS 2005

**Jack Hursh, Jr. – Program Chair: 746-3252**

*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 28, 7:00 pm

Jack Kelley, KNPB, House With A History

Join Jack Kelley (writer/host), Marla Carr (writer/host) and Ethan Salter (producer) as they discuss the making of the KNPB series "House with a History."

### Wednesday, October 26, 6:00 pm.

HRPS Annual Party at McKinley Arts & Cultural Center on Riverside in Reno. Theme of the evening is an Evening of Rails Tales. Guest Speaker is Lawrence Hersh, author of The Central Pacific Railroad Across Nevada, 1868-1997. Silent Auction. Make your reservation by October 19. See page 10 for details.

### Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 pm

Russell Mills' life and work will be the topic of this month's meeting. Mr. Mills designed some outstanding homes in the area, notably the Hart House, which was one of the "House With A History" presentations by Channel 5 this past year. Slides and talk will be by Anne Simone, HRPS researcher, with additional comments by Rusty Mills about his father.

#### HRPS Officers

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**Vice President:** Phyllis Cates

**Secretary:** Joan Collins

**Treasurer:** Bill Walbridge

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