

**STAFF REPORT FOR THE HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING OF  
JANUARY 8, 2015**

**FILE NO:** HRC-14-169

**AGENDA ITEM:** F-3

**STAFF AUTHOR:** Susan Dorr Pansky, AICP  
Planning Manager

**REQUEST:** To consider a request from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to review and approve the final draft of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Nevada State Prison located at 3301 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, APN 010-041-55.

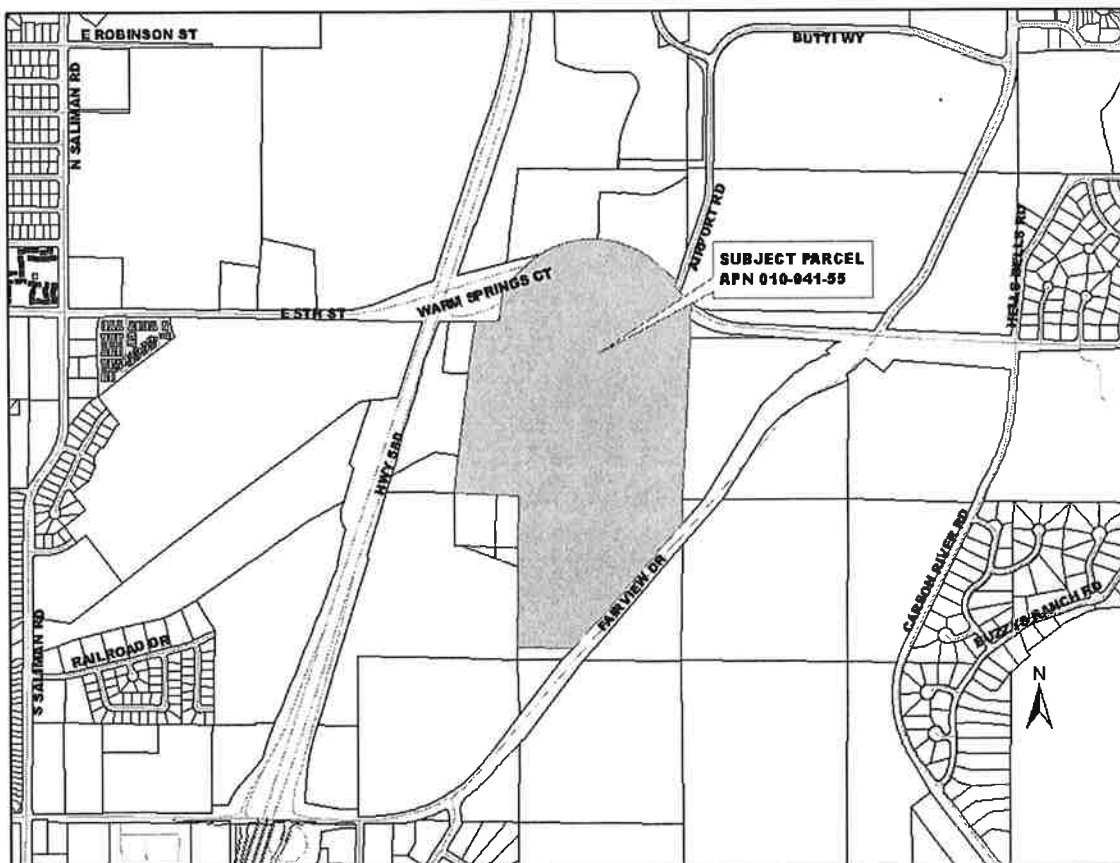
**APPLICANT:** State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

**OWNER:** State of Nevada, Division of State Lands

**ADDRESS:** 3301 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street

**APN:** 010-041-55

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** "I move to approve HRC-14-169, a request from the State Historic Preservation Office to review and approve the final draft of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Nevada State Prison, located at 3301 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, APN 010-041-55 based on Federal Rules 36 CFR Part 61 as they relate to Certified Local Governments' requirement to review nomination applications within their jurisdictions, the Carson City Historic District Guidelines and consistent with Historic Resources Commission Policies."



**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:** Federal Rules 36 CFR Part 61, CCMC 18.06.030 (Duties of HRC)

## **HISTORY:**

Assembly Bill No. 356 was enacted on July 1, 2013 encouraging the development of recommendations to preserve the Nevada State Prison (Prison) for use as a historical, educational, and scientific resource for the State of Nevada. To further this process, the Nevada State Prison Steering Committee was formed in 2013 and included members from both Carson City and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), among other important stakeholders.

Recognizing the importance of a listing on the National Register of Historic Places for the Prison, the SHPO had initially planned to prepare a nomination to the National Register through the work of a consultant. Unfortunately, the consultant had to withdraw from performing the work and the SHPO was not able to provide a replacement. As a result, Carson City modified its project for the 2014 Historic Preservation Fund grant to assist in the preparation of the nomination, with the assistance of staff members Elizabeth Dickey and Jennifer Riddle from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). Ms. Dickey and Ms. Riddle had a previous version of a nomination for the Prison prepared and agreed to work with Carson City to complete and resubmit it to the SHPO.

Carson City hired Dan Pezzoni of Landmark Preservation Associates to assist with the data collection and inventory portion of the nomination, as well as to facilitate the final draft of the nomination that would be submitted to the SHPO for review. The first draft of the nomination was submitted to the SHPO on October 1, 2014 and review comments were received very shortly thereafter. Following extensive discussion, it was mutually agreed between Carson City and the SHPO that the SHPO would finalize the draft nomination to address its review comments.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Nominations to the National Register of Historic Places are completed in basically three steps. The first step is the preparation of the nomination and submittal to the SHPO for review. With the assistance of the SHPO, a final draft nomination is completed for submission to the Board of Museums and History. The review of the nomination by the Board of Museums and History is the second step in the process, and is required to be completed before the nomination can move forward. The Board of Museums and History will either recommend a property for nomination or will decline to make the recommendation if the property doesn't meet the criteria for evaluation. Once the Board of Museums and History makes a recommendation for nomination, a final version of the nomination is prepared and forwarded on to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. as the third step in the process. The Keeper then has 45 days in which to comment on the nomination or to list it.

Under Federal Rules 36 CFR Part 61, local governments that are designated as Certified Local Governments (CLGs) are required to review nomination applications within their jurisdictions and provide a report of local evaluation to the SHPO in advance of the Board of Museums and History meeting. Carson City is a CLG and, as a part of its responsibilities as a CLG, the Historic Resources Commission is required to review nomination applications.

As outlined in the History section above, the nomination was initially prepared by NDOT staff and Carson City's consultant in October 2014 and was finalized by the SHPO in December 2014. The SHPO has submitted the attached draft Prison nomination for review by the Historic Resources Commission and anticipates that it will take the nomination to the Board of Museums and History on April 8, 2015.

Staff does not have any recommended revisions or conditions of approval at this time and looks to the Historic Resources Commission members to provide comments and recommended revisions, if any, to the SHPO as a part of the review process.

Staff would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their hard work and participation in the effort to prepare and finalize the Nomination of the Nevada State Prison to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Elizabeth Dickey, Historic Resources Commission and Nevada Department of Transportation
- Jennifer Riddle, Nevada Department of Transportation
- J. Daniel Pezzoni, Landmark Preservation Associates
- Michael Drews, Historic Resources Commission and Great Basin Consulting Group
- Rebecca Palmer, State Historic Preservation Office
- Karyn de Dufour, State Historic Preservation Office
- Jim Bertolini, State Historic Preservation Office
- Elyse Jolly, State Historic Preservation Office
- ZoAnn Campana, State Historic Preservation Office
- Glen Whorton, Nevada State Prison Preservation Society
- Tom Porada, Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

Attachments:

Draft Nomination of Nevada State Prison to National Register of Historic Places

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Nevada State Prison

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 3301 East Fifth Street

City or town: Carson City State: Nevada County: Carson City

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this    nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national   x   statewide    local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  x   A    B    C    D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☐

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☒

Public – Federal

☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>23</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>32</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

INDUSTRY/Quarry

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

FUNERARY/cemetery

LANDSCAPE

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

FUNERARY/cemetery

LANDSCAPE

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classic Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT

OTHER: Mid-20th Century Minimal Traditional

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Foursquare

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: sandstone, concrete, metal, stucco, asphalt, other

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Nevada State Prison is located on the northern slope of a sandstone hillock near the northwestern edge of the Pine Nut Mountains in Carson City, Nevada.<sup>1</sup> The setting is arid, with sagebrush scrub predominating, although a warm spring and several designed landscape features on the west side of the complex support trees and marsh growth. The historic district encompasses 33 contributing buildings, structures, and sites and 3 non-contributing buildings and structures. Construction is primarily stone, reflecting the presence of the prison Quarry, and is generally lacking in stylistic features having often been constructed with prisoner labor. However, the designs of professional architects have led to the incorporation of Classical, Picturesque, and Modern influences in the prison campus as well. The buildings retain their original sandstone material, and the workmanship of the prisoner stonecutters is evident in the often decorative chiseled and pecked finishes of the stone. The design of the prison has evolved over a hundred years of active use; however, most alterations occurred during the period of significance between 1868 and 1967. The prison retains good integrity of location, materials, workmanship, design, setting, feeling, and association.

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<sup>1</sup> Carson City is an independent city and county under Nevada state law.

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## **Narrative Description**

The Nevada State Prison (NSP) is on the site of the Warm Springs Hotel, built in 1861 by Carson City's founding father, Abraham Curry. In 1862 the Nevada Territorial Legislature leased the hotel from Curry to use as a territorial prison. Two years later in 1864, the newly established State of Nevada purchased the Hotel and adjacent sandstone quarry for permanent use as what would become known as the Nevada State Prison (NSP). The site was in continuous use as a prison until 2012, when the state closed the facility citing rising maintenance costs and security problems. Currently only the early 1960s License Plate Factory remains in use, although it is slated to close in 2015. The prison execution chamber and courthouse, within the historic Administration Building, are maintained in the event they may be needed for use.

The entire prison complex encompasses forty-five acres of land and contains more than forty buildings, structures, and sites, dating from between 1868 and 2002. The nominated area encompasses roughly twenty-five acres, consisting of the prison complex developed during the period of significance between 1868 and 1967. A major building campaign during the 1920s created the historic core of the Prison which still stands today. Prison administrators used sandstone from the Prison Quarry to construct most of the contributing buildings in the prison including the Administration Building, the Warden's House, the Officer's Cottages, and Cell Blocks A and B. The sandstone buildings are similar in design and construction. They are made from cut blocks of sandstone quarried and finished by prisoner labor. The masonry typically uses a running bond pattern, though some ragwork and random work patterns are also seen. Beginning in the 1950s poured concrete, concrete block, and steel began to supplement the traditional stone construction. After 1960, prison workers completed virtually all construction in concrete or steel.

The NSP's resources resulted from three general periods of development: the early period from 1862-1900, the Progressive and beyond from 1900 to 1940, and then the Modern period from 1940 to 1967. The early period consisted of the prison's first development, but many of the related resources have since been demolished. The core of the prison consists of resources constructed in the Progressive Era and beyond into the 1930s, dominated by a building boom in the 1920s. This includes the majority of contributing buildings including the Administration Building, Cell Blocks A and B, and the Prison Yard. There are also a significant amount of resources relating to the Modern period, including residential and landscape development along the west side of the prison complex.

### **Early Prison Development, 1868-1900**

Many of the resources relating to the earliest period of prison development have since been demolished. Among the first buildings at the site was the Warm Springs Hotel, established by Abraham Curry in 1861 and leased to the Territory of Nevada as a prison beginning in 1862. According to Curry biographer Doris Cerveri, the two-story hotel measured 100-by-32 feet with an adjoining bath house measuring 160-by-38 feet with six pools about twenty-five feet square.



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Historic photos of the resort show a two-story stone building of side-gable form fronted by a long porch, presumably the Hotel portion of the resort.<sup>2</sup> The Hotel was connected to a one-story building of considerable architectural distinction via two intervening stone structures. The one-story building was fronted by a porch and a façade of precisely cut, smooth-faced ashlar blocks, and topped by a stepped parapet with an eagle statuette at its crest. The function of this building is uncertain; it may have been the bathhouse, although historic photos show a more crudely constructed stone side shed with a sign reading “Warm Springs Bath” (“Warm Spring Bath” in another photo), whereas the building with the eagle had painted signage reading “Warm Spring’s [sic] Hotel” above the porch posts. A photo from the early twentieth century shows a replacement bath house on this site. If the eagle building did not function as a bath house, it may have served as a dining and/or meeting hall.<sup>3</sup>

The earliest operations at the Nevada State Prison involved adapting the Warm Springs Hotel to penitentiary use. The Warm Springs Hotel’s row of connected buildings established the front line of the former and present prison buildings. A report by Warden Howland dated December 9, 1864, described partial completion of a “new addition” that measured 41-by-28.5 feet and eighteen feet high at the eaves. Completed by Warden J.S. Crosman in 1865, the addition contained two tiers of cells, apparently eight cells to each side with a center passage on both floors for a total of thirty-two cells. The cells measured eight feet long and four feet wide and were constructed of stone on all sides with doors of double thickness two-inch planks. The cell doors were secured by an ingenious contraption consisting of “an iron bar which fastens each door at the same moment being worked by a brake from the Guard Room.” The cell block, which seems to have been referred to in later years as the “Territorial Addition,” survived the May 1, 1867 fire that destroyed most of the rest of the prison. In a report to the legislature following the fire, Warden James Slingerland described the main building that was destroyed as having measured 100-by-40 feet and to have been in deteriorated condition.<sup>4</sup> The prisoner dining room may have been adobe, which would explain how inmates were able to dig a hole through its wall and escape in 1865.<sup>5</sup>

The Hotel and bath house had been demolished by the 1920s but vestiges of this early landscape remain, principally the pools of water in the northwest corner of the nominated area.. The pond-like pool was once much larger and extended as a marsh beyond the Armory. Beyond it was a warm-water swimming pool constructed in the mid-twentieth century and now filled in, though stone retaining walls and steps remain in evidence. The wall that separates the pond-like pool from the front parking lot incorporates a number of smooth ashlar blocks. Several of these have

<sup>2</sup> Lawrence & Houseworth, “State Prison and Warm Springs, near Carson City,” c.1860s, Image #495, The Society for California Pioneers, Online Photographic Database, [http://www.californiapioneers.org/lh/search\\_image.php?id=0495](http://www.californiapioneers.org/lh/search_image.php?id=0495), accessed 12/8/2014.

<sup>3</sup> Cerveri, *With Curry’s Compliments: The Story of Abraham Curry*, (Elko, NV: Nostalgia Press, 1990), 13-14, 26-28; Jennifer E. Riddle, Sena M. Loyd, Stacy L. Branham, and Curt Thomas, *Images of America: Nevada State Prison*, (Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2012), 12-13.

<sup>4</sup> From its dimensions and other evidence the main building may have been the converted ca. 1861 hotel.

<sup>5</sup> “Warden’s Report and Inventory, 1864,” Nevada State Prison Papers, Nevada State Library and Archives, Carson City; John B. Snyder, untitled manuscript – history of the Nevada State Prison, 2005, 4-5; Myron Angel, *History of the State of Nevada*, (Oakland: Thompson and West, 1881), 546, 547, 556.

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enigmatic rows of lightly drilled holes and one has hammered into it a corroded iron nail that appears nineteenth century in date.<sup>6</sup>

The early NSP campus featured workshops and other auxiliary buildings or wings that supported the operation of the facility. The blacksmith shop mentioned in the March 1864 deed is also referenced in the December 1864 Warden's Report at which time it contained a bellows, anvil, and other ironworking tools. The 1864 Report also mentions a carpentry shop, kitchen, armory, guard room, office, the prison yard, the cells, and a "cell room" which seems to have been the large space that contained the individual cells. In the Prison Yard, prisoners stockpiled worked stone for use in the ongoing construction of the cell block and perhaps other buildings. The prepared stone included "cut Sills" (window sills or door thresholds), "Ashleigh [ashlar] for fronts of buildings," "cut flag" (flagstones for floors or walkways), and "Moulded caps for Columns."<sup>7</sup>

Photographs provide a sense of the prison's physical appearance in the late nineteenth century. The prison complex was not only a prison; it included the residence of the warden and his family and at least some of the guards. The main front building where these apartments were located featured a second-story cantilevered bay window (technically an oriel window) which may have marked the location of the warden's parlor. Unlike most of the prison's windows the bay window and adjacent second-story openings were not barred. They looked onto a landscaped "front lawn" flanked by the ornamental watch towers, one of which survives in altered form, and shaded by trees. A photograph dated to the 1870s, taken from an elevated location above the south Quarry wall, shows an extensive complex of one- and two-story buildings. Most appear to be stone but there are accounts of adobe structures as well. The principal building, distinguished by a cupola with lancet-arched openings, a bracketed cornice, and a domical roof, occupied the site of the present Administration Building and served an administrative function with second-floor staff quarters and a rear wing with small windows that may have lighted cells. The complex appears to have grown incrementally over the course of the 1860s, as funding allowed, with an increase in construction to replace buildings destroyed in the 1867 fire. Another fire occurred in 1870. After the 1870s the complex appears to have grown more slowly, a state of affairs that continued until a new phase of construction commenced in 1920.<sup>7</sup>

Newspaper accounts of a large prison break on September 17, 1871 provide incidental detail on the facility. The break began in the upper tier of the cell block which adjoined the apartments of Lieutenant Governor John Franklin Denver, who also served as warden and whose family lived at the prison. An account based on eyewitness testimony stated that the escaping prisoners, numbering around thirty, reached the roof of the main front building and cut a hole through it. Denver, his family, and guests "were seated in one of the Warden's rooms up stairs enjoying a nice little dinner" when "suddenly hearing the tramping of the prisoners along the roof with the clanking of their heavy chains they at first thought it was an earthquake." The prisoners jumped

<sup>6</sup> Cerveri, *With Curry's Compliments*, 26-28.

<sup>7</sup> "Warden's Report and Inventory, 1864," Reports, Department of Corrections collection, Nevada State Library & Archives (hereafter NSLA); *Daily Territorial Enterprise*, September 19, 1871, Nevada Historical Society Library (hereafter NHSL); Riddle et al, *Nevada State Prison*, 12-18; Photos NSP 0006 and 0323, Nevada State Prison photograph collection, NSLA.

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down into the upper stair hall and secured the prison armory on the first floor. A gun battle ensued, with Denver shooting from above while guards and the proprietor and bartender from the adjacent Warm Springs Hotel fired at the emerging armed prisoners from outside. The account describes an "outer wall" that enclosed the yard in front of the prison and had provision for guards, either a parapet, platforms, or towers. It is possible the octagonal towers were in place by this time.<sup>8</sup>

By 1875, the prison had expanded further to provide larger facilities. An inventory taken that year describes, in addition to the shops and functional spaces described in the 1864 report, a tailor shop, laundry, bath house, prisoner's dining room, guard dining room, store room, library, warden and guard lodging rooms, stable and barnyard, magazine (containing blasting powder, caps, and fuse), and Butcher Shop. An account of the buildings that existed prior to the destructive fire of May 1867 described the "old kitchen" as "nothing but a tinder box built of rock." The 1875 inventory also described the equipage of the cells: 133 bunks, the same number of mattresses and pillows, and sixty buckets. The latter were presumably used as chamber pots and their number, roughly half the number of bunks, suggests two prisoners to a cell and possibly three in some instances.<sup>9</sup>

#### 1. Butcher Shop, c.1887, Contributing Building.

The Butcher Shop is the northern-most building within the complex and is located outside of the secure prison fence line. The first mention of a butcher shop is in an 1875 inventory. The building contained a chopping block, a large cupboard with twelve meat hooks, meat spikes, and a "large Force Pump & piping" presumably for hosing down the interior, as well as foodstuffs including large quantities of beans, potatoes, cabbages, and flour. A period description of the food consumed by the prisoners includes the same items, suggesting that prison staff also used the Butcher Shop for preparing meals. However, an 1887 Warden's Report mentions the construction of a new butcher shop, indicating the building was replaced by that year.

The extant building stands apart from the rest of the complex, possibly in an effort to reduce the fire hazard imposed from the large cooking fires needed for meal preparation. It is a 300-square foot, coursed sandstone rubble building. The north side of the building has one off-center opening for a window. The opening is lined with a dressed sandstone lintel, jambs, and sill. An off-center door opening is located on the west elevation of the building. The original door is gone and has been replaced with a wood door and a repurposed three-light sash window with a vertical axis. The building's front-gabled roof is made of concrete slab supported by a metal ridge beam, likely added in the twentieth century. The Butcher Shop is currently not in use and the interior is in poor condition.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *Daily Territorial Enterprise*, September 19, 1871, and *Nevada State Journal*, September 23, 1871, NHSL.

<sup>9</sup> "Nevada State Prison Inventory and Account Book, 1875," Nevada State Prison ephemera file, NSLA; Angel, *History of the State of Nevada*, 546, 547.

<sup>10</sup> "Nevada State Prison Inventory and Account Book, 1875," Nevada State Prison ephemera file, NSLA.

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## 2. Nevada State Prison Cemetery. Nineteenth Century. Contributing site.

Early prison staff buried unclaimed bodies of prisoners who died while incarcerated on a hilltop to the south of the prison. There are eleven marked graves and the potential for unmarked graves. Tablet-style stone grave markers with round-arched crests record death dates during the 1870s and 1880s and brief biographical information including name, birth date, and in some instances place of birth. The graves are defined by rock borders and were once mounded. One tombstone has a lightly pecked depiction of a cross on its obverse. Two graves are marked by unhewn sandstone blocks. Some graves have footstones. The area of marked graves is defined by a partial rock border. An undated photo (probably first half of the twentieth century) suggests some tombstones have been moved or replaced. Separated from the cemetery, but possibly formerly part of it, is a broken obelisk tombstone discovered behind Cottage 2. The partially effaced inscription appears to read "Thomas Miller, died Feb. 2d 1865, age 42 years." The tombstone is most likely that of F. Miller, a convicted highwayman who died on February 2, 1865, after being shot in a failed escape attempt. Located to the south of the cemetery, outside the nominated area on the grounds of the modern Warm Springs Correctional Center, is a second cemetery that is believed to have succeeded the 1870s-80s burial ground.

## Progressive Era Developments – 1900 to 1940

NSP administrators undertook a significant building phase beginning in 1920 alongside nationwide reforms in many aspects of American political, social, and cultural life, a period known as the Progressive Era. Nevada adopted many reforms regarding the administration of the NSP that had a direct effect on its built environment. As in the previous period of development, prison administrators used prisoner labor for the construction, but contracted architects including the regionally-renowned Frederick DeLongchamps to design new buildings. Sources suggest that architect Edward E. Hoxie was also involved in some designs. State Engineer W.J. Boudwin oversaw the majority of new construction. Among individuals involved with the project in 1920 was W. Heidenreich, likely William M. Heidenreich, a Carson City contractor active in the 1910s and 1920s.<sup>11</sup>

The developments at the NSP between 1920 and 1927 provided the core of the prison complex's current form. Historic photos from 1924 illustrate the demolition of the nineteenth-century buildings on the north end of the campus, making way for the construction of the present Administration Building and Cell Block A. Changes in the style and workmanship of stonework suggest that construction of the L-shaped building proceeded in stages, including a phase that added a second story on a portion of the west wing. The Administration Building and Cell Block A together gave the present rectangular form to the prison yard which had evolved continuously

<sup>11</sup> "Prison Construction Claims, July-October 1920," Nevada State Prison ephemera file, NSLA; Drawings NAA1/005, NAA1/061, NAA1/116, Frederic J. DeLongchamps, Nevada Architectural Archives, University of Nevada – Reno (hereafter NAA-UNR); *R. L. Polk and Company's Reno, Sparks, Washoe County and Carson City Directory, 1917*, 237, 260; *Polk's Reno City, Washoe County and Carson City Directory, 1923*, 452.

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since the 1860s. The Administration Building perpetuated the general outline of the old prison and continued the north-facing front established by the Warm Springs Hotel buildings in the 1860s. The NSP removed the vestiges of the hotel around 1920, their former site now occupied by the parking lot in front of the Administration Building's west wing and main entrance.<sup>12</sup>

After the remodel, the NSP was described as "modern in every respect, being sanitary and fireproof." The flammable wood roofs and combustible interiors of the old prison had been replaced with reinforced concrete roofs and interiors finished with cement parging on metal lathe. Prisoners landscaped the grounds inside the walls and out, including setting out a large American flag made from painted river cobbles, located on a manicured sloping embankment at the south end of the Sally Port. Nevadans generally thought that prison should be a humane place and the newly renovated NSP became a source of pride for the city and the state. A ca. 1930 pamphlet stated, "Today [there are] beautiful lawns[and] every conceivable variety of flower . . . lending a soothing touch to offset the necessary 'Spanish Lace' that bars the doors and windows." In regard to Cell Block A the pamphlet continued, "In this building many nice attempts are made to make surroundings as home-like as the situation will permit."<sup>13</sup>

### 3. Cell Block A. 1920-25. Contributing Building.

Perpendicular to the northeast end of the Administration Building is Cell Block A. Construction of the cell block began in 1920 and appears to have been delayed persistently by poor funding and weather. Prisoners completed the building in late 1925, resulting in a four story, coursed sandstone masonry building. Entrance to the building is via a staircase on the exterior northwest corner of the building.

Frederick DeLongchamps designed the cell block with thirty-two concrete cells on each of the four floors and the barred windows were the back walls of the cells. Sandstone quoins were on the southeast and southwest corners of the building and went from the bottom of the wall to the top. There were also stone towers for gun posts on the southwest and southeast corners of the building. DeLongchamps designed the flat roof as a space to allow guards to patrol; thus a metal railing encompasses the roof. The cells are arranged "back-to-back" in two rows, facing outward toward the prisoners corridor and the windows. Each cell has three concrete walls and an open wall with bars facing the exterior, where there are multi-pane sash windows to provide natural lighting. A pipe chase runs between the row of cells, providing electricity and ventilation, and a corridor from which guards could access water and electricity for each cell without opening the cell door. Each cell housed one prisoner (though the inmates quickly found themselves with a bunkmate as the population increased) and was sparsely furnished with a metal bed, a toilet, and a sink.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> NSP Photos 102 and 104, Nevada State Prison photograph collection, NSLA.

<sup>13</sup> "ADDITIONAL CITATIONS NEEDED for quoted pamphlet.; "Perils of Fire Faces Many U.S. Prisons."

*Syracuse Herald*, April 25, 1930, 21.

<sup>14</sup> John B. Snyder, unpublished manuscript on the NSP, (2005), 52, 57-58; Drawings NAA1/005 and NAA1/061, Frederick DeLongchamps, NAA-UNR.

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The 1920-21 construction Warden R. B. Henrichs directed the construction work, which was most active in 1920-21. A period newspaper article noted:

With the cell house completed the new prison will begin to pay for itself through the decreases made possible in the force of guards, at the rate of about \$9000 per year. Construction of the first floor of the cell house has been practically finished and work has been started on the walls of the second story. When completed, under present plans, the cell house will be a four-story building, made of stone cut in the prison yard by convict labor, and will have a housing capacity of 125.<sup>15</sup>

Construction crews removed the gun posts on the south side of the building in 1948 when the prison constructed Cell Block B. Since that time, a metal fire escape has been added to the west side of the building, new flood lights have been installed at the roofline and on the roof, and a few window unit air conditioners have been added. Later, prison administrators enlarged the cells of Cell Block A by removing selected concrete partitions between them and inserting new steel partitions as needed. Other than this interior modification, Cell Block A preserves its essential 1920s character. It remained in use for housing prisoners until the State legislature decommissioned the prison in 2012.

#### 4. Administration Building. 1920-27. Contributing Building.

The Administrative Building serves as the official visitor entrance to the prison. The two-story building has an L-shaped footprint and is built of sandstone ashlar with a running bond and some random ashlar pattern stonework. The building serves as the northwest barricade, keeping the inmates confined within the prison proper. Except for the simple Classical Revival entrance surround, the building has no identifiable style.

Designed by State Architect Frederick J. DeLongchamps, the Administration Building appears to have been constructed in stages between 1920 and 1927. Like much of the prison's built environment at that time, prisoners provided the labor, cutting and laying the stone from the Prison Quarry. Added in 1950, a third story was added to the east end, constructed with poured concrete and known as the Hospital Wing. A plaque at the top of the stairs near the east end of the addition notes architect Edward S. Parsons provided the plans for the addition, and that Nevada Engineering Construction Company and G. Panicari constructed it.<sup>16</sup>

The main entrance to the prison is on the western side of the building and consists of double doors. Historic photos show wooden double doors with nearly full-length glazing, however, the current doors are unlighted replacements. Surrounding the doors are square sandstone Doric pilasters. The Nevada State Seal is painted above both pilasters. The words "Main Entrance" are painted on wood and attached above the double doors. "Nevada State Prison" also appeared above the door in historic photos, but has since been removed or painted over. Flanking either side of the entrance are electrical sconces with

<sup>15</sup> "Prison Plans told at Lunch." *Reno Evening Gazette*, February 16, 1921, NHSL.

<sup>16</sup> Snyder, 52, 58; Drawings NAA1/005 and NAA1/061, Frederick DeLongchamps, NAA-UNR.

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wrought iron light fixtures. A simple corbelled cornice above the entrance repeats the cornice on the building.<sup>17</sup>

In 1931, Warden Penrose added the NSP's first license plate factory to the south elevation of the building. That extension connected the Administration Building to the Sally Port. In Penrose' 1931 report he described the newly-constructed addition:

"The building was planned and erected under my direction. Construction started May 1, 1931 and was finished the latter part of 1932. It is a two-story structure of prison limestone [*sic*] and reinforced concrete, matching other prison buildings. All labor, stone which was cut by hand, crushed stone and rock was supplied by the prison without cost to the state. Only one-half of the ground floor is being used for the license plate factory. The other half, and the entire second floor is vacant, and could be used to house other prison industries which would not interfere with anything in our state. Such industries would not only save the state money, as the license plate factory is doing, but would provide education and more work for the inmates. The several pieces of machinery are the most modern, and are electrically driven. The factory runs about one month and a half each year as no outside work is done. Most states [have] their own plants, the same as ours. An average of 20 inmates are employed during the most part of the time, and about 15 during the remainder, finishing up."<sup>18</sup>

The building retains its original wooden one-over-one sashes with either sandstone or concrete sills and lintels throughout. A stone on the east elevation notes that this building housed the prison's first license plate factory in its west wing from 1931 until administrators constructed a dedicated building in approximately 1962. The added third floor has wooden 4-over-4 windows but with no lintels or sills. All windows are secured with exterior bars. The roof is flat and composed of tar and gravel. Metal staircases access the second and third stories from the Prison Yard.

#### 5. Warden's House. c.1921-1925. Contributing Building.

Frederick DeLongchamps designed this two-story Foursquare house in 1921 with 2,880 square feet of floor space. The designs called for a hipped, moderately pitched roof, with a symmetrical façade, dominated by a hipped-roof porch with sandstone walls, pillars, and steps. The walls of the house are ashlar on the first story and presumably stucco on the second story. The main entry included a half-view wooden door with a twelve-light glaze, with flanking two-by-four sidelights. Windows on the façade were symmetrically placed, with two flanking the entry on the porch, and three on the second story. Side elevations generally included four windows. The rear elevation included a concrete stairway to the elevated first floor, with an iron railing and entry door with a small window. The second story included two sash windows and what appears to be glazing for a sleeping porch along the northeast corner of the building, with a ribbon of four fixed pane windows or screens. The designs did not specify beyond sash windows, showing

<sup>17</sup> NSP Photo 0327, NSP Photograph Collection, NSLA.

<sup>18</sup> Penrose report in c.1931?

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options for either one-over-one or four-over-one vertically-divided units. There were two sandstone chimneys, one on the rear of the building and one on the north elevation.

While much of the building remains intact, there have been several modifications since its construction in the 1920s. The most significant alteration was the addition of a second story porch at an unknown date. This is evidenced by the replacement of the porch roof with a shallow, shed roof, and the presence of two doorways on the second story of the façade. Although most of the windows have been boarded up or removed, the window ports are mostly still present. The sleeping porch openings either were replaced after construction, or in-field designs altered to include paired one-over-one sash windows. The porch has also been boarded over, with an unlit entry door at the top of the stoop. The original wood shingles were replaced in the last decade with composition shingles. The rear elevation has ghost marking indicating a gabled roof was placed over the rear entry at some time, but later removed. The rear concrete stoop has also been removed. The second-story stucco is still in place. The second-story doors were French doors and the roof of the front porch was surrounded by a wood balustrade which was removed at an unknown date (post 1950).<sup>19</sup> The French doors and most of the second story windows are missing and the openings have been covered with plywood. There are three chimneys attached to the house. Located on the north, east, and south elevations of the house, each chimney is constructed of exterior coursed sandstone masonry.

Toward the end of the period of significance, Warden Fogliani oversaw the conversion of the Warden's Residence into an investigation facility. It was then left vacant for many years and the condition deteriorated. The interior suffered extensive water damage and prison labor was used to remove all of the lathe and plaster, down to the studs. The original tongue and groove wood floors, stairway, turned banisters, and some historic trim remain intact.<sup>20</sup>

#### 6. Electrical Shop. c.1926. Contributing Building.

South of the Maintenance Shop is a single-story coursed sandstone building known as the Electrical Shop, presumably built in 1926 to house the electrical plant constructed for the prison in that year. However, it may have acquired that use in the 1950s when the prison used the building as a shop for electrical, television, and radio maintenance. The Electrical Shop is built into the hillside and has a lower level walk-out. The flat roof is concealed by a low parapet wall. Modern wood stairs lead to the upper level which is entered through a wooden door with two-by-six glazing, sheltered with a flat metal gablet. Beside the door is a large, eight-over-eight wooden window. The other windows in the building are small, and frequently boarded over, some of which have iron bars on the outside. The exterior and interior of the Electrical Shop have been altered since

<sup>19</sup> CITATION NEEDED. Most likely photographs used in Riddle NSP book.

<sup>20</sup> Snyder, 53, 58.



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construction. The front door and 8/8 window appear not original and the fenestration appears to have been enlarged to fit the door and window.<sup>21</sup>

#### 7. Fossilized Sloth Footprint Tunnel. c.1927-28. Non-Contributing Structure.

Excavated into them is the 1880s Fossilized Sloth Footprint Tunnel. After the discovery of fossilized footprints in the Prison Yard/Quarry, prisoners excavated tunnels into the Quarry walls in an effort to uncover more footprints. Officials were successful and excavated two tunnels in 1882-83. In 1927-28, prisoners extended the horseshoe shaped Footprint Tunnel and installed viewing stations, complete with lighting. A sloth statue was placed at one of the tunnel entrances.<sup>22</sup>

Unfortunately, today the entrance to the Fossilized Sloth Footprint Tunnel is permanently closed by a block of poured concrete. The Footprint Tunnel was filled with concrete in the 1990s due to fears that in an earthquake the tunnel would undermine the stability of the License Plate Factory, built just above it. Before the concrete was poured, prison staff allowed a conservator from the Nevada State Museum to place sand and wood barriers on top of the prints so that if the cement were removed the prints might remain. The condition of the footprints is unknown.<sup>23</sup>

#### 8. Sally Port (Courthouse). c.1928. Contributing Building.

Connected to the southwest corner of the Administration Building is the Sally Port/Courthouse. The exterior walls are constructed of rusticated ashlar with a running bond. Constructed in 1928, the building functioned solely as a sally port, a controlled entry point into the Prison Yard. It was hollow and roofless, with archways on the north and east elevations, providing access to the exterior and the Prison Yard, respectively. The archways were Classically-influenced with well-defined voussoirs and a keystone with a molded stone cap. The east archway into the Prison Yard is inscribed with the name Penrose, a former warden, and the date 1928. In 1966, crews of prisoner and Synanon\* labor filled in and finished the Sally Port for use as a Courthouse. Workers filled in the arched entry points on the north and east elevations with square concrete blocks, also adding flush metal doors to each. They added a roof, and finished the interior, creating a 1,475-foot Courthouse, predominantly used for processing paperwork

<sup>21</sup> M.R. Penrose, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Penitentiary and Supt. Nevada State Police For the Period July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1928, Inclusive*, NSLA..

\*Synanon was a prison reform organization that attempted to provide work experience for prisoners in preparation for eventual release. More on the Synanon movement at the NSP can be found in Section 8.

<sup>22</sup> There is a lively discussion in national journals regarding the discovery of the footprints at the Nevada State Prison. Despite their significance to late-nineteenth century zoology, the prints are now covered by concrete, and thus non-contributing to the historic district at this time. See "Ancient Footprints: A Record of Post-Tertiary Man-Gigantic Sandals and Small Men," *The Helena Independent*, August 20, 1882, 1; "Find relics of the Days of Civil War," *The Carson City News*, February 2, 1928, 1:6; "Footprints of Monster Men," *New York Times*, August 18, 1882; Mark Twain, "Carson Footprints," *Sacramento Daily Record-Union*, March 25, 1885, 1; Robert H. Davis, "Nevada Footprints," *The Californian Illustrated Magazine*, 4(1893):598-605, available via Google Books.

<sup>23</sup> CITATION NEEDED.

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associated with executions. The building has no windows except for glass blocks randomly placed among the concrete blocks within the arches. A wheelchair ramp has been added to the exterior doorway. The flat roof has wood trim around the cap of the stone walls, and is a single-ply membrane. The conversion of the originally roofless shell of the Sally Port to the Courthouse, though substantial, took place within the period of significance and contributes to the importance of the prison in the mid-twentieth century.<sup>24</sup>

9. Fifth Street Guard Tower. 1929. Contributing structure.

Near the Administration Building, inside the prison fence line but inaccessible to inmates, is the only remaining example of three stone guard towers built in 1929 under Warden Penrose. The octagonal tower is a 100-square foot structure built of coursed sandstone masonry. Seven of the building's sides have window openings and the eighth has an entry, but all openings are boarded up. The decorative metal sheathed roof has an ornamental metal weathervane-like finial, a decorative overhanging fascia, and a molded base. A round-arched opening at the base, under a modern wraparound deck, has a decorative wood door on iron strap hinges. The style of the tower echoes those of the post-1868 wall and towers that fronted Fifth Street. The original towers were taller and narrower, but were demolished as part of the construction phase in the 1920s.<sup>25</sup>

10. Pump House. 1933. Contributing structure.

In the parking lot on the west side of the Administration Building and Sally Port is the Pump House. Built in October of 1933 under Warden Penrose, the Pump House is a sixty-four square foot structure made of coursed sandstone ashlar with a barrel-vaulted concrete roof studded with small river cobbles for ornament.<sup>26</sup>

11. Prison Trash Dump – Early. c.1907-1940. Non-contributing Site.

Outside the eastern fence line of the prison, yet still on prison ground, is one of two archaeologically significant historic trash dumps. The early Prison Trash Dump is located north of the Prison Yard/Quarry and appears on a 1907 map. This represents just the eastern portion of the original dump site, the western half being disturbed by new construction.

**The Modern Period – 1940 to 1967**

Following the Second World War, the NSP underwent a second major phase of development as wardens sought to modernize the prison campus. Modern architectural typology and styles,

<sup>24</sup> Snyder, 57.

<sup>25</sup> "Warden Calls for Books for Library at the State Prison", *Carson City News*, January 6, 1928, 1:5; "Beautifying Grounds At State Prison", *The Carson City News*, April 13, 1928, 1: 3.

<sup>26</sup> M.R. Penrose, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Penitentiary and Supt. Nevada State Police For the Period July 1, 1932, to June 30, 1934, Inclusive*, NSLA.

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alongside new technology, and expansion of services, led to the addition of new buildings and the modification of existing buildings to suit new needs. NSP administrators converted the once-hollow Sally Port into an enclosed Courthouse. Dedicated library and culinary facilities freed space in the cell blocks to house more prisoners as the prisoner population in State facilities rose steadily in the 1950s and 60s. The expansion and modification of the prison complex facilitated these increases and brought the NSP into the contemporary age of prison operations. While the prison continued to expand after 1967 due to massive increases in incarceration, modifications after that date were generally concentrated in the eastern portion of the NSP, outside the historic district boundary.

12. Prison Trash Dump - Modern. c.1940-1967. Contributing Site.

Outside the eastern fence line of the prison, yet still on prison ground, are two archaeologically significant historic trash dumps. The modern Prison Trash Dump is located on the eastern fringe of the prison grounds, and is an extensive, dense, historic trash dump that measures approximately 695 feet north/south by 235 feet east/west and covers an area of 3 acres. This dump was in use by the early 1940s and use continued through the 1950s.

13. Cell Block B. 1948. Contributing Building.

South of Cell Block A, and connected to it, is Cell Block B, a four-story, coursed sandstone masonry building constructed in 1948. A plaque on the interior identifies the architect as Edward S. Parsons and the contractor as the Walker Boudwin Construction Company. The window openings are barred and have sandstone lintels and sills. The windows have a unique glazing of steel grating with glass inserts, showing a nine-by-nine array of glass tiles. The roof is flat and has a railing around its perimeter to allow guards to patrol. As built, NSP staff projected that the cell block would house 216 inmates. During this reconstruction, crews removed the stone tower guard posts, replacing them with steel and glass towers.<sup>27</sup>

14. Armory (Property Warehouse). 1950. Contributing Building.

Just south of the Greenhouse is the Armory, a one-story, gabled building with wood lapboard siding and a concrete block half wall around the perimeter above the foundation. The windows and doors are boarded over. Prisoners constructed the building in 1950, which originally served as a warehouse and armory storage building. It has been vacant since at least 2009. Aside from maintenance and a newer composition shingle roof, there have been no significant changes to this building.

15. Storage and Maintenance Building. 1952. Contributing Building.

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<sup>27</sup> NSP 0107 and 0108; Richard H. Sheehy, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Prison For the Period July 1, 1946, to June 30, 1948, Inclusive*, NSLA.

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East of the Warden's House is the Storage and Maintenance Building, a one-story, rusticated sandstone building with a side gabled roof. In the southeast corner of the building is an inscription stone carved with name of Warden A. E. Bernard and the date 1952. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal. The building is long with four entrances on the west façade and garage bays and doors on the rear/east elevation. One of the front entrances has been filled in with concrete slump block, and another contains a modern air conditioner unit. Prison administrators made at least two additions to the building that extended it to the north. The first of these was a single car garage built with a coursed sandstone foundation and panel and batten walls, and the second, a ragwork stone addition extending north to the historic route of Fifth Street. Both additions were added before 1962. With the additions, the building measures 2,190 square feet. The Storage and Maintenance Office has no identifiable architectural style.<sup>28</sup>

16. Cottage 1. 1953. Contributing Building.

Cottage 1 is a one-story, Hipped-Roof Box-type house constructed of rusticated sandstone laid in a running bond. The hip roof has been recently re-roofed with composition shingles and reconstruction of the boxed eaves. There is an inset porch supported by two wood posts on the west façade. At an early date, a stone pony-wall was added around the porch. The pony-wall uses a random un-coursed pattern. A sandstone exterior chimney is on the north side of the house. The windows are wood with mostly 1/1 double-hung sashes although there is also a front picture window and an octagonal accent window.

17. Cottage 2. 1953. Contributing Building.

Cottage 2 is a one-story, Hipped-Roof Box-type house constructed of rusticated sandstone laid in a running bond. The hip roof has been recently re-roofed with composition shingles and reconstruction of the boxed eaves. There is a small inset corner porch supported by a concrete post. The windows have wood 1/1 double-hung sashes and include a picture window inside the porch.

18. Cottage 3. 1953. Contributing Building.

Cottage 3 is a one-story, Hipped-Roof Box-type house constructed of rusticated sandstone laid in a running bond. The hip roof has been recently re-roofed with composition shingles and reconstruction of the boxed eaves. There is a small inset corner porch supported by a concrete post. The windows have wood 1/1 double-hung sashes and include a picture window inside the porch.

19. Cottage 4. 1953. Contributing Building.

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<sup>28</sup> NSP Photo 0002, Nevada State Prison photograph collection, NSLA.

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Cottage 4 is a one-story house, Hipped-Roof Box-type constructed of rusticated sandstone laid in a running bond. The hip roof has been recently re-roofed with composition shingles and reconstruction of the boxed eaves. There is a small inset corner porch supported by a concrete post. The windows have wood 1/1 double-hung sashes and include a picture window inside the porch.

20. Cottage 5. 1953. Contributing Building.

Cottage 5 is a one-story, Hipped-Roof Box-type house constructed of rusticated sandstone laid in a running bond. The hip roof has been recently re-roofed with composition shingles and reconstruction of the boxed eaves. There is a small inset corner porch supported by a concrete post. The windows have wood 1/1 double-hung sashes and include a picture window inside the porch.

21. Greenhouse Foundation. 1954. Contributing Structure.

West of the main gate are the remains and stone foundation of the former Greenhouse. Built by 1954 near a hot spring, it originally consisted of a wood framed, front-gabled greenhouse building set on a two foot high stone foundation made of uncoursed sandstone masonry and capped with concrete. A rectangular, concrete trench in the middle of the floor is fed with water from the warm springs designed to keep the plants from freezing in the winter. The wood-framed building is now gone and only the stone foundation remains. A building of similar form stood at the same location in the 1920s and was labeled as a nursery on a c.1930s site plan.<sup>29</sup>

22. Cottage 6. 1955. Contributing Building.

Cottage 6 is a Minimal Traditional type house with one story and a side-gabled roof. The roof has been recently re-roofed with composition shingles and reconstruction of the boxed eaves. Cottage 6 was built from sandstone cut to the dimensions of standard bricks. Red bricks have been used as an accent around the windows to mimic shutters. The front porch has ladder-like wood supports.

23. Boiler Plant. 1958. Contributing Building.

South of the License Plate Factory is the Boiler Plant, a 2,688 square foot, painted, pre-cast concrete building constructed in 1958. It has one- and two-story sections, a flat roof, and multiple pedestrian and freight doors with glass panels. Windows are predominantly paired, two-by-two steel frame windows. The building's west elevation includes a ribbon of paired windows along the full length of the two-story section, providing light into the boiler and utility room.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Arthur E. Bernard, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Prison For the Period July 1, 1952, to June 30, 1954, Inclusive*, NSLA.

<sup>30</sup> NSP 0001, Nevada State Prison photograph collection, NSLA.

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24. Cell Block C. Ca. 1960. Contributing Building.

The two-story cell block of pre-cast concrete construction has an asphalt, shallow gabled roof and barred windows. Constructed in 1960, this building became a separate block to house high-security inmates. Although possessing a separate floor plan, it served as an addition onto the south elevation of Cell Block B, extending the east definition of the Prison Yard southward by several hundred feet. The construction of the Culinary eventually eliminated this relationship to the Prison Yard.<sup>31</sup>

25. License Plate Factory. c. 1962. Contributing Building.

West of Cell Block A is the License Plate Factory. The factory is a 7,462 square foot concrete masonry building that appears to have been built in approximately 1962. It has a shallow gable roof, high ribbon windows in multiple sets, and billboard-style painted signage on the north gable end. There is a two-story, shed-roof projection on the west elevation. The first story of the projection is concrete block, with a single door on its north elevation. The second story of the projection is corrugated steel.<sup>32</sup>

26. Two Tower. 1962. Contributing Building.

South of the Electrical Shop is a 624-square foot pre-cast concrete guard tower with an asphalt roof with a wide overhang. An interior staircase climbs up three stories to the guard room at the top. The majority of the tower has squared concrete walls. The guard post portion has a concrete half wall and glass picture windows that are canted outward to the roof overhang and provide a full view of the prison.

27. One Tower (Main Gate). 1963. Contributing Building.

One Tower, a pre-cast concrete 450-square foot building constructed in 1963 sits at the northwest entrance to the prison. The first floor is canted inward, and contains ribbons of aluminum framed windows on all four sides. The walls of the second story are made of canted glass windows. The roof is flat with a wide overhang, and is topped by several utility and communications modules.

28. Three Tower. 1966. Contributing Building.

Three Tower stands on a single, round steel support with an octagonal guard room at the top. The structure contains twenty-five square feet and is accessed by a spiral steel stair outside the prison fence, with the entrance via a platform on the south face of the

<sup>31</sup> NSP 0001, Nevada State Prison photograph collection, NSLA.

<sup>32</sup> The License Plate Factory does not appear in an aerial photo series from 1962. However, it was constructed shortly thereafter and appears in photographs of the prison from the late 1960s. It is also mentioned in subsequent reports by Warden Fogliani prior to his removal in 1967.

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octagon. The guard room itself has a metal half wall canted inward, joining a continuous ribbon of steel-frame windows that are canted outward. The roof is flat, with flat metal faces approximately two feet in height above the windows.

29. Culinary and Dining Hall. 1966. Contributing Building.

North of the southern Quarry wall is the one-story Culinary and Dining Hall. Built in 1966, the building encompasses 11,334-square feet built from concrete masonry units with a flat, single-ply membrane roof with a large face along the eave with evenly-spaced block brackets. Though of concrete and steel construction, the exterior walls are faced with square tile.

30. Kennel. c.1962. Contributing Building.

Southwest of the Butcher Shop, but still north of the prison fence line, is a 1,200 square foot, side-gabled building built from coursed sandstone masonry. The original function of the building is unknown, but it served as a kennel for guard dogs in the 1970s. The building has a moderately pitched gable roof sheathed with corrugated metal. The gables have wood siding. On the north elevation, toward the northwest corner are three large sliding bay doors. There are some paired, fixed windows on the building.<sup>33</sup>

31. Gymnasium and Book Bindery. 1976. Non-contributing Building.

South of the Boiler Room is the Gymnasium and Book Bindery Building, a prefabricated building with metal siding and a metal gabled roof. It was constructed in 1976. The Book Bindery occupies 4,137 square feet of the building and the Gymnasium occupies 7,980 square feet of the building.

32. Shed. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing Building.

Beside the blocked off tunnel entrance is a small shed built from concrete blocks with a front gabled roof. The construction date of the shed post-dates 1990.

33. Maintenance Shop. 2004. Non-contributing Building.

East of the Storage and Maintenance Office is the Maintenance Shop, a 4,000-square foot prefabricated building with metal siding and a metal roof. It is on a concrete slab foundation and was built in 2004.

## **Landscape Features**

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<sup>33</sup> The construction date of the Kennel is unknown but it does appear in the 1962 aerial photograph set. NSP 0001, Nevada State Prison photograph collection, NSLA.

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The landscape of the Nevada State Prison includes many features dating from all three historic periods associated with the prison. The sites, structures, and features that have been modified after their initial construction are treated separately to show their ongoing evolution and importance during the period of significance. Like the majority of the campus, although landscape elements may have been initially constructed or established in the 1860s, most no longer retain integrity to that period, instead reflecting association with Progressive Era or Modern developments at the prison. Other parts of the NSP's landscape are not designed landscapes, with sagebrush scrub predominating. The scrubland between Three Tower and the cemetery and to the south of the Butcher Shop were used as rock dumps throughout the history of the prison and in the area to the south of the Butcher Shop rock piles are evident as are more recent piles of road asphalt and other debris. The entire landscape also includes courses of ten-foot chain-link fence

34. Quarry. c.1861-1967. Contributing site.

The Quarry, in existence by 1861, has expanded over the years as prisoners removed stone for buildings both at the prison and in nearby Carson City. The walls of the Quarry have gradually moved southward as prisoners removed more stone for the various projects. This movement not only provided an additional barrier to escape, but provided more flat surface area for the construction of new buildings in the Modern period.

The walls are full of fossilized faunal and floral remains and excavation of stone revealed prehistoric animal tracks beginning in the nineteenth century. During the early days of the prison, prison staff used some of these caves for solitary confinement. During the 1940s, the prison repurposed the caves for prisoner activities such as the *Sagebrush Newspaper* office, a carpenter's shop, and prison offices. Graffiti and a human face are carved into the stone near some of the cave entrances, which have iron barred or strapwork gates. One has a lintel inscribed with the name of Warden Denver S. Dickerson who served two terms as warden in the 1910s and 1920s.

The walls wrap around the complex more or less continuously to the east side of Cell Block A. Near the south end is an area with modern sweat lodge foundations and other features associated with native and earth-based religions. The walls have a more terraced character between Cell Blocks A and B and the License Plate Factory, with constructed retaining walls some of which date to the 1970s and which may have formed flower beds.

35. Prison Yard. c.1868-1967. Contributing site.

The Prison Yard has existed since the late 1860s, defined by the historic buildings that formed a south-facing U-shape surrounding an open enclosure. During the nineteenth century, a stone wall what historic photographs reveal as a simple, dirt enclosure. The Prison Yard achieved its present rectangular form in the 1920s with the construction of the Administration Building, Cell Block A, and Sally Port. Several stone buildings defined the south wall from the 1920s until 1966, when construction crews razed them to



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build the Culinary. During the 1920s, supervised prisoner crews planted the Prison Yard as a lawn and divided into rectangles by steps and walkways. The current configuration preserves the overall character but the slope is now occupied by terraced stone-lined flower beds or open dirt. Memorials to Vietnam veterans occupy one section. The main part of the yard in the 1920s was similar to a parterre in appearance with broad walkways, rectangular lawn areas, and topiary-like coniferous plantings. By the 1960s, although the Prison Yard retained its shape and slope, it lacked the lawn and plantings and the basketball court had been added on the west side. Prisoners built and maintained most of the landscape features, which include many examples of decorative stonework and stone carving. The yard retains the straight and angled concrete sidewalks, and some planted lawn areas.

36. Front Yard and Parking Area, c.1868-1967. Contributing Site.

The Front Yard and Parking Area includes the designed landscape covering the northwest corner of the prison along the north and west elevations of the Administration Building. They provided an ornamental introduction to the prison's sandstone buildings, and established a visual border between Fifth Street and the complex.

Initially developed during the late-nineteenth century, the Front Yard provided an ornamental space that greeted passers-by as they traveled along Fifth Street east of Carson City. Early historic photos show a triangular, flat lawn of mown grass, and deciduous trees, likely cottonwoods (*Populus* sp.) lining Fifth Street and the access road in front of the prison. There was also an ashlar stone wall lining Fifth Street's south edge, which had a concrete cap. Aerial photographs from the 1930s indicate that the formal appearance of the lawn retained its formal character into the late Progressive era, with the addition of what appear to be garden or sculpture features (no longer extant). At present, the Front Yard retains its shape, and the trees lining its northern edge have matured. The coursed stone wall runs an abbreviated course from the prison entrance 200 feet to the east.

A semi-rectangular space adjacent to the west façade of the Administration Building is the open, paved Parking Area. Designed and built by the time of a 1931 aerial photo, the Parking Area is defined by open parking and turn-around space, anchored by an oval planting bed near the main entrance to the Administration Building. Painted stones similar to those used in the American flag structure formed the planting bed, which is now also surrounded by a concrete curb. In the 1931 photo, a small grassy strip fronted the access road, and spelled the words "N. S. PRISON" in river cobble. The dirt parking lot has also been paved with black asphalt.

37. West Lawn and Garden, c.1920-1966. Contributing site.

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The West Lawn and Garden encompasses landscaping, walls, water features, and various artistic and structural features on the west side of the campus, outside the prison walls. Situated around and west of what became housing for prison guards, this area reflects developments begun as Warden Penrose's beautification program in the late 1920s and refined under Wardens Bernard and Fogliani in the 1950s and 60s. The construction of this designed landscape provided not only a gardening opportunity for low-risk prisoners outside the prison fence, but also allowed a sense of quiet and solitude for prison staff who lived on site with their families. The area straddles a service road, and is defined by a chain link fence running along its east side along the edge of the controlled prison grounds, along its west by an irrigation ditch, and on the north by a dressed sandstone wall.

The dressed sandstone wall at the northern edge of the lawn runs along the south side of the parking lot. The wall incorporates a stone carved with the name of Warden A. E. Bernard and the date 1957 and it terminates at both ends at pillars with decorative pointed tops. On the south side of the wall is the aforementioned Greenhouse Foundation and a squarish pond-like pool. The pool is a remnant of a larger marshy area that formerly extended beyond the adjacent Armory. At its southwest corner is a stone walkway and a small stone.

The landscaped grounds follow the west side of the access road to the Cottages and the Warm Springs Correctional Center and include, on the south side of the Armory, a lawn area that was developed as the prison vegetable garden by the end of the 1920s. On the north side of the former garden is a contemporaneous circular fountain constructed of white, reddish, and green stone with an octagonal walkway border of the same stone. On the south side of the former garden are contemporaneous stone walkways, a stone-lined swale, and a footbridge paved with white, green, and reddish rock. A low bank has the initials WSCC spelled out in white-painted river cobbles and rises to planting beds and an earthen platform that is the filled-in remains of a mid-twentieth century spring-fed swimming pool. The grounds continue as a tapering triangular lawn opposite the cottages, shaded by trees, scattered with stone plant borders, and slightly raised above a marshy area on the west side.

The triangular lawn ends opposite Cottage 6. Just south of Cottage 6 is a grotto-like feature with a small sunken pool of cold water, rock faces, sandstone rubble-paved slopes, stone-lined beds and walkway, and a stone bench. The steep slope behind the cottages, the far side of the Quarry area on the prison side, features rock terraces, concrete planting beds, and the entrance to a tunnel of unknown original function which appears in a c. 1931 aerial photo. At the foot of the slope are vestiges of a line of garages that formerly stood behind the Cottages. Between 1929 and 1931, the south end of the slope adjacent to the Sally Port was graded, planted at the top with trees, converted to lawn, and ornamented with a large US flag formed of painted river cobbles. Stones painted red, white, and blue form the letters USA at the top.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

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**Period of Significance**

1887-1967

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**Significant Dates**

1920 – Construction begins on main campus

1967 – End of rehabilitation-focused methods at NSP

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

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**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

DeLongchamps, Frederick J. (contributing architect)

Parsons, Edward S.

Heidenreich, William M.

Nevada Engineering Construction Company

Panicari, G.

Walker Boudwin Construction Company

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Nevada State Prison is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the Area of Politics and Government for its association with Nevada's state administration

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from the 1860s to the 1960s, and for its representation of rehabilitative methods of penology established in the state during that time. The period of significance begins in 1868, the date of the earliest surviving resources from the nineteenth century prison, and closes in 1967 with the transition from Medical Model administration to contemporary, security-based modes of prison administration. The Nevada State Prison (NSP) is Nevada's oldest state agency, and served as the only correctional institution in Nevada from 1862 through 1964, after which the State opened other prisons in response to a massive rise in prisoner population in state-run prisons beginning in the late 1960s. From the late-1860s to the 1960s, the NSP developed and practiced a rehabilitative model of prisoner management that adapted to Progressive-era and Postwar strategies of American prison administration. By 1967, the administration of the NSP, and the treatment of its prisoners, changed dramatically leading into the contemporary age of prison management in the United States.<sup>34</sup>

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Nevada State Prison (NSP) began as a makeshift territorial prison when Congress established the Territory of Nevada in 1862. Americans flocked to Western Nevada in 1860, seeking riches from the newly discovered Comstock Lode in Virginia City.<sup>35</sup> The United States government officially recognized the Nevada Territory in 1861, and the subsequent 1862 Territorial Legislature provided that a prison be established at the territorial capital of Carson City. The population boom following the "Rush to Washoe" exposed the need for a tiered correctional system in Nevada which has guided the state's corrections since that time.

The tiered correctional system established in the United States, and subsequently in Nevada, allowed for a combination of county jails, state prisons, and federal prisons, each with its own purpose. While federal penitentiaries exclusively housed those who had violated federal laws, state and county institutions had a closer relationship. Although each tended to house convicts under state or county law, respectively, state prisons often housed convicts with long-term sentences from throughout the state, regardless of whether local or state law had been violated. The Nevada legislature formed a Prison Commission in 1862 and charged it with finding a suitable building to serve as the state prison. Because no such building existed, legislator and Carson City founder Abraham Curry offered to board prisoners at his Warm Springs Hotel east of Carson City for \$500 per month.<sup>36</sup> Curry's land featured a warm spring and a sandstone Quarry, upon which he built a stone bathhouse and hotel.

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<sup>34</sup> James W. Hulse, *The Silver State: Nevada's Heritage Reinterpreted*, (Reno and Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 2003), 291-92.

<sup>35</sup> Hulse, *The Silver State*, 75.

<sup>36</sup> Snyder. 2-3.

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Upon its conversion to a prison in 1862, the Hotel housed four prisoners who spent their time laboring in the Quarry. Curry served as their warden, agreeing to “keep all convicts for their labor, and a bonus of \$6,000 more or less per annum. He will employ them in his extensive stone Quarry, and has already prepared cells etc., for their safe retention.”<sup>37</sup> Curry sold the property to the Nevada Territory for \$80,000 in March of 1864. The twenty-acre purchase included the thirty-eight-cell prison building that measured thirty-two by ninety-six feet, the sandstone Quarry with its tools and horse teams, and use of Curry’s adjacent toll road. Despite its reuse as a prison, the property retained the impression of a crude frontier hotel: canvas lined the interior walls, the roof was comprised of wood shingles, and no fences or walls existed around the building’s perimeter. Period newspapers also indicate that the hotel portion remained available for public accommodations for several years after the transfer.<sup>38</sup>

### **The Reformatory Movement at the Nevada State Prison, 1864-1900**

On October 31, 1864, Nevada made the transition from territory to statehood, and on November 5, the prison officially became a state-administered institution. From its earliest days through the modern era, the NSP sought to adopt nationally-recognized correctional practices. However, limited funding often hampered this goal, leading to partial adoption of Reformatory practices until the twentieth century. Additionally, despite the institution’s status as Nevada’s first State agency, its management remained somewhat provincial in its early years. In 1864, Warden Howland added the first cell block to the campus, which came to be known as the Territorial addition, but by the following year, the prison housed only nineteen inmates. In 1865, J.S. Crosman assumed wardenship, inheriting twenty-two inmates and a dismal budget. In spite of fiscal constraints, Crosman successfully secured funding to complete construction of a twelve-foot high security fence around the Hotel, Quarry, and Prison Yard, as well as guardhouses, two water wells, an icehouse, an enclosed garden, and a cellar. He also constructed an addition to the Hotel measuring thirty-two by forty-one feet, which provided fourteen additional two-person cells.<sup>39</sup>

Among the consistently defining features of the prison was the stone Quarry, included in the 1864 deed. The deed granted to the State of Nevada “all the quarried stone now on said premises.” In addition to the spring waters, the NSP’s outcrop of sandstone provided raw materials for building purposes and began operation by 1861. While early stonecutting at the Quarry was a commercial venture of Curry’s, stonecutting soon became a source of revenue and an occupation for prisoners. However, as late as 1870, non-inmate quarrymen worked along the prisoners to blast out rock for the Nevada State Capitol (NRIS#75002126).<sup>40</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Undated newspaper article, “Nevada State Prison,” ephemera file, Nevada State Library, Carson City.

<sup>38</sup> Snyder, 4; Nevada Statute 1864: 66 “An act to provide for a territorial prison;” Ormsby County Deed Book 8, 63; Raymond Smith, *Carson City Yesterdays*, Vol. 1, (Minden, NV, 1999), 29.

<sup>39</sup> Snyder, 4-5.

<sup>40</sup> Ormsby County Deed Book 8, 64; Robinson, *Nevada Directory of 1862*, 1, 3, 5-8, 11; “Warden’s Report and Inventory, 1864,” Nevada State Prison ephemera files, NSLA; Dolan, “Pages from the Past,” April 30, 1972. The 1862 business directory lists five stonecutters as boarders at Curry’s Warm Springs Hotel, presumably cutting and facing stone for projects in the Eagle Valley region.

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A prison escape in December of 1865 illuminated the need for improved security, in spite of the new fence. A group of inmates were able to loosen mortar and dig their way out of the main building.<sup>41</sup> As a result, Warden Crosman plastered the interior walls of the prison, in addition to raising the southwest security wall by four feet. In 1866, Crosman also increased the size of the prison yard by blasting out the Quarry, constructed a masonry water tank that delivered water to the kitchen, and added a twenty-two by seventy-eight foot room to the rear of the main building.<sup>42</sup>

The subsequent management of the NSP responded both to national trends in prison management and Nevada's population trends in the second half of the nineteenth century. The expansions and improvements outlined below responded to overcrowding at the NSP, mirroring national trends that saw a swell in inmate population between 1868 and 1878.<sup>43</sup> The NSP's population increases correlate with the state's early mining boom between 1859 and 1879.<sup>44</sup> According to Warden James Slingerland, the population at the NSP tripled from 41 in 1867 to 128 in 1869. Because of the crowded conditions, the 1873 Legislature passed a law mandating a new prison, large enough to house 300 inmates and to be constructed in nearby Reno.<sup>45</sup> However, the project ran over budget, and the massive spending resulted in only a partial perimeter wall being built. The 1877 Nevada State Legislature refused to provide additional appropriations for the construction of the state prison at Reno, and the site was abandoned.<sup>46</sup> In 1877, the inmate population at the NSP ballooned to 144, forcing guards to house prisoners three to a cell in the prison's fifty-three cells.<sup>47</sup> According to contemporary prison historian McKelvey, the overpopulation problem was a result of Nevada "thronging with desperadoes" in the "boom days" of the 1870s, but may have been influenced by a rise in crime following the end of 'bonanza' mining in the late-1870s.<sup>48</sup> The population remained relatively steady until 1888, when it declined to 99 as people began to leave the state to seek employment elsewhere. The prison population remained steady into the 1900s.<sup>49</sup>

The appointment of James Slingerland to the NSP wardenship in 1867 signaled the beginning of the prison's early Reformatory period. Despite Nevada's relative youth as a state, the legislature and administrators attempted to adopt contemporary strategies for prison management. Shortly after Slingerland, assumed wardenship, a kitchen fire consumed much of the prison, largely sparing the "Territorial Addition," but precipitating some of the first Reformatory changes at the institution. Slingerland began a reconstruction project that helped institutionalize the prison, replacing the improvised frontier hotel with a dedicated iron-and-stone penitentiary, adding two dungeons for solitary confinement, iron gates, and a locking mechanism that he designed

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<sup>41</sup> Snyder, 7.

<sup>42</sup> Snyder, 6.

<sup>43</sup> Blake McKelvey, *American Prisons*, (University of Chicago, Chicago: 1936), 76.

<sup>44</sup> Hulse, *The Silver State*, 101.

<sup>45</sup> Snyder, 17.

<sup>46</sup> Snyder, 28.

<sup>47</sup> C.C. Batterman, *Biennial Report of the Warden of the Nevada State Prison for the Years 1877 and 1878*, NSLA.

<sup>48</sup> McKelvey, 197.

<sup>49</sup> Snyder, 33; Hulse, *The Silver State*, 162. Frank J. McCullough, *Biennial Report of the Warden of Nevada State Prison for the Years 1889 and 1890*, NSLA.

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himself.<sup>50</sup> Compared to other castellated state prisons that were the norm during the late nineteenth century, the NSP was relatively modest in appearance, yet it did possess a number of architectural flourishes. The ornamental gates, medievalist octagonal watchtowers, and roof-top cupola seen in historic photographs suggest a conception of the prison as a State institution worthy of such embellishments. The prison's proximity to the Warm Springs resort may also have encouraged a more decorative approach.<sup>51</sup>

Slingerland's developments echoed an ideological shift in American penology away from the harsh discipline of the Auburn System, which enforced absolute silence and solitary confinement at night. Prisons throughout the country began adopting a rehabilitative approach known as the Reformatory System, compelled by an 1867 report on correctional institutions. In that year, the New York Prison Association employed Enoch Wines and Theodore Dwight to examine prison conditions in the United States and Canada. Wines and Dwight emerged from their investigation with a list of recommendations, including larger cells, better sanitation, rehabilitation incentives, and non-corporal punishment.<sup>52</sup> Despite the call for improved conditions for prisoners, the report also espoused simplicity of construction. To Wines and Dwight, "highly ornamental" prisons were "objectionable" because they were more expensive to build, increasing the cost of crime to society. Wines and Dwight argued that investment in architectural adornment would discourage prison authorities from modifying or replacing their facilities in the event that evolving prison theory suggested better arrangements. The authors also claimed that ornamental prisons lent "dignity" to crime. While their suggestions were not broadly adopted until the 1876 establishment of Elmira Reformatory in New York, their influence became apparent in Warden Slingerland's sanitation improvements at the NSP. Beginning in 1867, Slingerland implemented several improvements to the facility, including increasing ventilation by installing transoms over doors and draining the adjacent marshland. Despite his desire to improve health and hygiene at the prison, Warden Slingerland insisted that he had "not proposed to consume precious time in trying to make an unmitigated rascal an honest man."<sup>53</sup>

Among the key Reformatory developments at the NSP was the creation of a Public Account system of penal labor, which involved producing goods onsite and selling them on the open market.<sup>54</sup> This was common for correctional facilities in the nineteenth century, which largely administered prisoner labor for two reasons: to cover operating expenses and to dispense punishment. Warden Crosman reported that prisoners were put to work cutting stone in the Quarry, and the prison sold much of the sandstone that it produced. The quarried sandstone, either rubble or dressed, often went to projects in nearby Carson City, including the First United Methodist Church (NRIS# 11000785, contributing resource), the United States Mint (NRIS# 75002127), the Nevada State Printing Office (NRIS# 78003212), the Governor James W. Nye

<sup>50</sup> James Slingerland, *Biennial Report of the Warden of the Nevada State Prison for the Years of 1867 and 1868*, NSLA.

<sup>51</sup> Riddle et al, *Nevada State Prison*, 12-18.

<sup>52</sup> John W. Roberts, *Retribution and Reform: An Illustrated History of America's Prisons*, (American Correctional Institution by United Book Press, Inc., Baltimore: 1997), 61.

<sup>53</sup> Slingerland, 1869; Wines and Dwight, *Report on the Prisons and Reformatories*, x, 109-111.

<sup>54</sup> Slingerland, 1869, 82.



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Mansion (NRIS# 75002128) and Armory buildings in Carson City.<sup>55</sup> In 1869, the Nevada State Legislature passed the Capitol Building Act, which required that the new capitol building (NRIS# 75002126) in Carson City be constructed of sandstone cut from the Nevada State Prison Quarry. According to the act, the NSP did not receive compensation for the stone. In order to supply the amount of stone required, the legislature charged Slingerland with expanding the Quarry operation, which including demolishing the yard's south fence and employing 60-70 inmates at a time to cut stone.<sup>56</sup>

Although Slingerland only tacitly adopted Reformatory concepts, the 1873 appointment of P.C. Hyman introduced a period of formal incorporation of Reformatory principles. Hyman arrived in the wake of a prison riot and prison break occurring within ten months of each other. Witnessing an inadequate prison wall as a security threat, Hyman commissioned a fourteen-to-eighteen foot high wall that connected to the high Quarry wall.<sup>57</sup> In an effort to ensure the prison was adequately managed, the Nevada Prison Commission sent Warden Hyman to the 1874 Prison Congress of the United States.<sup>58</sup> The National Prison Association held an annual Congress beginning in 1870, during which the organization adopted a Declaration of Principles that recommended the reformatory concept.<sup>59</sup> The yearly meeting served as a gathering to share new ideas, models, and trends in American penology. Hyman returned with an architectural plan for a new prison based on the reformatory model. During his tenure, Hyman oversaw the construction of a new dining room, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, shoemaking shop, and tailor shop.<sup>60</sup> The warden sought additional opportunities to employ inmate labor, and he intended to use the shoemaking shop to do so.<sup>61</sup> The enterprise was successful from 1874 to 1877, after which it steadily declined.

Frank McCullough succeeded Hyman and continued operations at the Quarry and shoemaking shop during his tenure beginning in 1887. Under McCullough, prisoners continued to cut stone to be used in onsite construction in addition to providing stone for state projects; in 1887, the warden commissioned the construction of a Butcher Shop, water building, and improved walls using prison-quarried stone.<sup>62</sup> In his 1887 report, Warden McCullough insisted that the shoemaking shop, despite its operation at a deficit, proved valuable for the rehabilitation and vocational training of inmates.<sup>63</sup> He recommended maintaining the shoemaking shop in order to provide employment to inmates, in spite of its poor economic returns. However, when Warden Frank Bell assumed the wardenship in 1893, he closed the shoemaking shop, unable to justify its continued deficit.

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<sup>55</sup> Snyder, 9, 32.

<sup>56</sup> Snyder, 13.

<sup>57</sup> Snyder, 16.

<sup>58</sup> Snyder, 17.

<sup>59</sup> Roberts, 62.

<sup>60</sup> Snyder, 16-17.

<sup>61</sup> Snyder, 17.

<sup>62</sup> Snyder, 33.

<sup>63</sup> Snyder, 32.

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The 1882 discovery of fossil tracks provided a not only a unique tourist attraction for the prison, but a source of revenue to expand the Reformatory offerings of the prison.<sup>64</sup> Though fossil discoveries were common in the NSP Quarry, the 1882 discovery of oddly shaped, eerily human-looking fossilized footprints prompted a formal investigation by the California Academy of Sciences. The Academy dispatched C. Drayton Gibbs, H.W. Harkness, and Joseph LeConte to the scene and the investigators documented footprints measuring eighteen to twenty inches long and eight inches wide. Eventually determined to have been made by a prehistoric sloth, the footprints drew more than 5,000 visitors over a two year period, and the tourist interest influenced the physical development of the prison grounds.<sup>65</sup> The prison could not curtail quarrying to accommodate the interest; therefore, inmates excavated a tunnel into the Quarry wall with the hope of uncovering more of the footprints, assuming that if prints were inside the tunnel, they could be protected without impeding the everyday function of the prison and the Quarry. The effort was successful, and the revenue raised from the collection of visitors' fees helped to further expand the facility supporting the construction of a prison library as well as the acquisition of a prison chaplain. The sloth prints also provided a degree of international attention, featured in history books, scientific journals, and satire of the period.<sup>66</sup>

### **The Progressive Era and the Nevada State Prison, 1900 – 1940**

The Progressive Era, generally defined as the period between 1890 and 1920, began as a drive for social reform that developed into a national reform movement by the twentieth century. Among the tenets of American Progressivism were the ideals that social problems should be addressed by providing education, safety, and efficiency in economics and the workplace. Nevadans shared these ideals, and became active in the Progressive movement by 1900, seeking to make their State government a "responsive and effective instrument in relieving the social and economic distress of the people."<sup>67</sup> The movement greatly influenced American penology in the early twentieth century, reflecting a refinement of the Reformatory concept that the NSP fully embraced by 1900. This echoed national prison trends of the time, as the Auburn System's influence disappeared from American penitentiaries, with the exception of Auburn-style architecture.<sup>68</sup> Moreover, prison commissions widely accepted Reformatory practices that emphasized prisoner rehabilitation and sanitation and rejected exploitation and degradation.<sup>69</sup> The quintessential Progressive reformer, Theodore Roosevelt further extolled a prisoner's right to "proper work, health, reasonable moral and mental training, and [...] rehabilitation" in his

<sup>64</sup> Garrard, William, *Biennial Report of the Warden of the Nevada State Prison for the Years 1881 and 1882*, NSLA.

<sup>65</sup> Snyder, 31; There is a lively discussion in national journals regarding the discovery of the footprints at the Nevada State Prison. Despite their significance to late-nineteenth century zoology, the prints are now covered by concrete, and thus non-contributing to the historic district at this time. See "Ancient Footprints: A Record of Post-Tertiary Man-Gigantic Sandals and Small Men," *The Helena Independent*, August 20, 1882, 1; "Find relics of the Days of Civil War," *The Carson City News*, February 2, 1928, 1:6; "Footprints of Monster Men," *New York Times*, August 18, 1882; Mark Twain, "Carson Footprints," *Sacramento Daily Record-Union*, March 25, 1885, 1; Robert H. Davis, "Nevada Footprints," *The Californian Illustrated Magazine*, 4(1893):598-605, available via Google Books..

<sup>66</sup> McKelvey, 197.

<sup>67</sup> Rullell R. Elliot, *History of Nevada*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987), 239.

<sup>68</sup> McKelvey, 213.

<sup>69</sup> Roberts, 79.

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1913 work *The New Penology*, arguments that became the defining philosophy for Nevada's corrections in the early 1900s.

Technological advances, improved living conditions, individualized treatment, and rehabilitation-focused labor are components of Progressive Era penology that shifted the NSP's administrative model from the Reformatory to the Progressive. During this period, the prison adopted new technologies to improve sanitation and security, as Warden J.L. Considine replaced the pump room's steam engine with an electric engine, installed an electric alarm system, and positioned incandescent lights outside the prison during the 1904-1905 biennium.<sup>70</sup> Between 1907 and 1908, Warden W.J. Maxwell oversaw the construction of an eight-foot electrified fence along the rear of the yard, in addition to a new iron door installed on the armory and three guard houses built at the prison gate and along the south and west perimeter.<sup>71</sup> In an effort to further improve health and sanitation, Warden Denver Dickerson added a modern steam laundry and outfitted the hospital with modern operating equipment in 1913.<sup>72</sup> These improvements mirrored contemporary technological developments in national prisons, including the installation of plumbing, electric lighting, and the replacement of iron-latticed, hinged cell doors with case-hardened, cylindrical barred doors that slid on tracks.<sup>73</sup>

The Progressive Era penology utilized by the NSP advocated inmate rehabilitation through the individualized treatment of prisoners, indeterminate sentences, and convict employment programs. Warden Maxwell recommended the construction of a separate cell house in order to segregate first-time offenders from hardened criminals, following national recommendations to classify inmates and prescribe specialized treatment plans. These plans aimed to create reformed, contributing members of society.<sup>74</sup> Maxwell also recommended that the State form a committee to address inmate employment issues, in addition to considering an indeterminate sentence system to reward prisoners for good behavior.<sup>75</sup> By 1923, the prison established a credit system that reduced sentences based on good behavior and time spent working for the benefit of the prison.<sup>76</sup> This signaled a shift in the emphasis of prisoner labor from a means to cover operating costs to a rehabilitation method that offered vocational training and eliminated idleness.<sup>77</sup> In 1909, Warden Maxwell reported that twenty-five percent of inmates were addicted to opium, and he attributed this statistic to the lack of available work at the prison.<sup>78</sup> Maxwell believed that prisoner idleness, in combination with the current penal system, harmed more inmates than it rehabilitated. In his report for the 1925-26 years, Maxwell stated that "there are some men, serving their first prison terms, who are not at heart criminals. We find law-breakers and we find criminals in prison . . . Idleness, especially in a prison, does more . . . toward making criminals of

<sup>70</sup> J.L. Considine, *Biennial Report of the Warden of Nevada State Prison for the Years 1903 and 1904*, NSLA.

<sup>71</sup> W.J. Maxwell, *Biennial Report of the Warden of the State Prison, 1907-1908*. Nevada State Archives, NSLA.

<sup>72</sup> Snyder, 45.

<sup>73</sup> Roberts, 95-104.

<sup>74</sup> Roberts, 121; Maxwell, 1908, NSLA.

<sup>75</sup> Maxwell, 1908, NSLA.

<sup>76</sup> Snyder, 54.

<sup>77</sup> Roberts, 82.

<sup>78</sup> Maxwell, 1908, NSLA.

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these law-breakers than anything else.”<sup>79</sup> Although under Maxwell’s wardenship, the Quarry continued to supply stone and cracked rock for Carson City construction and infrastructure projects, he contended that the Quarry did not provide enough work for the inmate population.

The aim to provide work opportunities to aid in reforming prisoners precipitated the proliferation of prison honor camps at state penitentiaries, including the NSP, in order to relieve overcrowding and provide more rehabilitation opportunities. Through work such as road building and farming, these honor camps provided an opportunity for well-behaved inmates to work in minimum-security conditions.<sup>80</sup> In 1911, the Nevada Legislature authorized the NSP to establish road camps, which allowed inmates to work on the roads between Carson City and Reno, between Carson City and Glenbrook, and along the east side of Washoe Lake.<sup>81</sup> These road camps were common throughout the United States, although they were particularly common in the West. In fact, Western prisons pioneered the concept of employing trustworthy inmates, primarily men facing imminent eligibility of parole, to work in these camps. Motivated in part by the increasing number of automobiles on American roads, Colorado first developed the inmate road-building model which quickly spread to Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming.<sup>82</sup> Convict road-building in Nevada lasted only two years, until the 1913 Legislature declined further appropriations for the expensive program.<sup>83</sup>

A longer lasting labor program adopted by the NSP was an off-site farm to provide both work opportunities and food for prisoners. Amid action by several states during the period, in 1910 the Nevada Board of Prison Commissioners purchased the Schultz Farm, located between the prison and Stewart Indian School, with the intent of expanding opportunities for inmate labor and establishing self-sufficiency amid consistently inadequate funding for the prison.<sup>84</sup> At the NSP, a foreman supervised inmate farm-workers, ensuring that they did not leave farm property. Aside from this restriction of movement, prisoners on the farm enjoyed full liberty. Warden Maxwell lauded the opportunities for rehabilitation, and the prison administration anticipated the potential of the farm to meet the prison’s need for meat, vegetables, and hay.<sup>85</sup> Under the subsequent leadership of Warden Henrichs, the farm expanded to include a dairy that met the needs of the prison in excess.<sup>86</sup> Despite the farm’s success, Henrichs noted in 1919 that inadequate employment opportunities for inmates persisted, particularly during the winter, which interrupted work at the Quarry and farm. To ease the lull, he leased prisoners to nearby, privately-owned farms and ranches to assist in harvest activities. The warden requested appropriations to build a manufacturing shop to bolster inmate employment; however, the Legislature did not approve them.<sup>87</sup> Additional employment opportunities did not materialize until prison construction began

<sup>79</sup> Maxwell, *State of Nevada Biennial Report of the Supt. Nevada State Police and Warden State Penitentiary: 1925-1926*, 6, NSLA.

<sup>80</sup> *The American Prison: From the Beginning...A Pictorial History*, (The American Correctional Association, 1983), 114; Roberts, 90.

<sup>81</sup> Snyder, 43.

<sup>82</sup> McKelvey, 223.

<sup>83</sup> Snyder, 46.

<sup>84</sup> McKelvey, 104.

<sup>85</sup> Snyder, 42.

<sup>86</sup> Snyder, 46.

<sup>87</sup> Snyder, 47.

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the following year. As another effort to reduce inmate idleness, Nevada adopted strategies to increase inmate exercise. In an effort to encourage physical activity, Warden Dickerson installed a tennis court in the Front Yard of the NSP in 1915.<sup>88</sup>

Alongside the popularity of prisoner labor was a movement to provide compensation to prisoners for their labor. These developments grew out of the 1910 formation of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor, which stated its “intention to investigate the prison labor problem broadly and systematically and to promote appropriate remedies.”<sup>89</sup> The NCPPL urged state prison boards to abolish contract and forced labor, based on Director D. E. Stagg Whitin’s work *Penal Servitude*, which argued that forced labor was akin to economic slavery and therefore in direct conflict with rehabilitation. The committee recommended paying a fair wage to working inmates and promoted education and exercise as integral to rehabilitation.<sup>90</sup> In 1923, amid the NSP’s significant expansion project, which primarily employed convicts, the Prison Board instituted a daily wage schedule for inmate labor.<sup>91</sup>

The expansion of the prison in the 1920s reacted to a general increase in both Nevada’s, and the prison’s, population in the early twentieth century. During Warden Considine’s 1903-1907 tenure, the prison housed an average of 106 prisoners.<sup>92</sup> After W.J. Maxwell assumed wardenship in 1908, the population doubled to 217.<sup>93</sup> Simultaneously, the state experienced its second mining boom in copper, gold, and silver, resulting in a population significant population increase from 1900 into the early 1920s.<sup>94</sup> Considering the overcrowded conditions at the NSP, the 1909 State Legislature allocated \$205,000 for the construction of a new prison.<sup>95</sup>

In 1910, the state commissioned Nevada’s prominent architect, Frederic DeLongchamps, to design the new prison. His blueprints, inspired by the Auburn and Eastern State Penitentiaries, called for an imposing Gothic Revival style penitentiary with a central rotunda and radiating wings of cells. The design featured a large chapel to encourage the moral reform of inmates, a photography studio and darkroom to document incoming prisoners, a “Beccaria Room” to take body measurements as a way of identifying prisoners prior to the acceptance of fingerprint identification, and a separate cell block exclusively for female prisoners, the first such accommodations at the prison.<sup>96</sup> However, funds were not available to build the huge facility, and the plans did not take into account the terrain that included an ever-expanding stone Quarry. The steep Quarry walls worked well as a barrier and the more the prisoners worked the Quarry, the more formidable the walls became. A prison modeled after New York State Penitentiary or Eastern State Penitentiary, with their static stone fence lines, could never have accommodated the growing Quarry. Also, the new prison would have been built with unskilled prison laborers

<sup>88</sup> Denver Dickerson, *Biennial Report of the Warden of the State Prison, 1913—1915*. Nevada State Archives.

<sup>89</sup> Rebecca M. McLennan, *The Crisis of Imprisonment: Protest, Politics, and the Making of the American Penal State 1776-1941*, (Cambridge University Press, New York: 2008), 324.

<sup>90</sup> McLennan, 325-326.

<sup>91</sup> Snyder, 54.

<sup>92</sup> Considine, 1904, NSLA.

<sup>93</sup> W.J. Maxwell, *Biennial Report of the Warden of the State Prison, 1907—1908*. NSLA.

<sup>94</sup> Hulse, 162-179.

<sup>95</sup> Snyder, 41.

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who were not trained to the level of craftsmanship required for such a detailed and complex building. As such, the state placed the prison's expansion project on hold.

In response to the need for a new facility, in 1919, the Nevada legislature revived the expansion project for the NSP. That year, the legislature appropriated \$520,000 appropriated that year for state construction projects and created a State Architect position. State Engineer J.G. Scrugham appointed Frederic DeLongchamps to the position.<sup>96</sup> DeLongchamps' designs for the NSP reflected the tenets of Progressive Era penology. The architect created plans for a new cell house (now Cell Block A) and the Warden's Residence, both of which would be constructed using convict labor. W.J. Boudwin eventually replaced Scrugham as State Engineer, and he employed a black convict named "Slim" as his foreman. Prisoner work crews broke ground on the new cell house in April of 1920.<sup>97</sup> The floorplan for each cell included a flush toilet, washstand, drinking fountain, electric lighting, and provisions for adequate ventilation.<sup>98</sup> In order to keep costs down and avoid patent royalties, DeLongchamps and Boudwin designed custom cell fronts that recycled existing metal, including old cell gratings and doors, and they engineered a new locking device and door suspension scheme. Slim had served in a similar capacity for a construction project at Folsom Prison, and his observations informed their designs. Inmates performed metal work for the project in the prison shop in addition to assisting with excavation and construction.<sup>99</sup>

The expansion project took place between 1920 and 1927 and in addition to the residence and cell house, resulted in commissary, kitchen, dining rooms, women's quarters, heating plant, dungeons, cold storage, and administration offices, all housed in the Administration Building. The expanded facilities proved necessary as the NSP received more prisoners into the 1920s. In 1920, NSP housed ninety-nine prisoners, but the population rose again to 200 by 1925.<sup>100</sup> This reflected national trends at the time, as the crime rate in the United States increased steadily between the late 1910s and early 1920s. This was in part due to rising unemployment after World War I and the enforcement of new laws such as the Volstead Act passed by Congress in 1918, signaling the beginning of Prohibition, followed by the National Vehicle Motor Theft Act in 1919, which made interstate transport of stolen vehicles a felony. This act authorized convicted offenders to be sentenced to state or federal prison.<sup>101</sup> These statutes, as well the housing of federal prisoners at the NSP from 1925 to 1933, partially explain the rise in inmate population. The United States established the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 1930, precipitating the transfer of a number of federal prisoners housed at the NSP to the federal penitentiary at McNeil Island in Washington, while others served their entire sentence at the state prison. The NSP housed an average of forty federal prisoners between 1925 and 1927, although in 1927, forty-six federal prisoners were transferred to McNeil Island. Between 1928 and 1932, the

<sup>96</sup> Snyder, 48.

<sup>97</sup> Snyder, 48-49.

<sup>98</sup> Snyder, 49; Scrugham, James G., to Dr. J.W. Kime. Letter, April 9, 1924, Reports, Department of Corrections collection, NSLA.

<sup>99</sup> Snyder, 50.

<sup>100</sup> R.B. Henrichs, Biennial Report of the Warden of the State Prison, 1921—1922; Snyder, 57.

<sup>101</sup> The American Prison: From the Beginning...A Pictorial History, (The American Correctional Association, 1983), 126-127.

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number of federal inmates gradually increased, ultimately peaking at 109. However, by 1933, all federal prisoners had vacated the state prison, either by fulfilling their sentences or transferring to federal facilities.<sup>102</sup> The NSP housed a total of 334 federal prisoners between 1925 and 1933, earning \$217,148.51 in fees from the federal government.<sup>103</sup> The elimination of federal prisoners resulted in a largely depopulated prison. In fact, Warden Penrose sent a telegram to the United States Attorney General requesting more federal prisoners in exchange for a reduced per diem, as the prison's recent expansions and reduced population provided a surplus of space, but the Attorney General denied his request.

Prisoner entertainment and the public's attitude toward acceptable forms of entertainment in prisons also influenced the development of the NSP. One of the activities sanctioned by prison officials was gambling. From 1932 to 1967 the NSP was home to an inmate-run casino housed in a building known as the "bullpen," which has since been demolished. Inmates could wager on craps, poker, blackjack, and gin rummy in addition to placing bets on sports. Each game was run by an inmate and as in any other casino environment, the person running the game had to bankroll it. In addition to facilitating the casino games, the NSP created its own gambling currency by issuing tokens known as "brass" in denominations ranging from five cents to five dollars. According to Warden Penrose, who organized the casino program, gambling taught inmates basic banking skills that they would need on the outside. "Odd though it may sound," Penrose said, "the gaming table has given many a dead broke inmate a start in this little world within. Gambling helps a little in the refining. It is legal in Nevada, well-regulated, tax-burdened, and a great deal cleaner than say, the big casino in Wall Street."

By 1929, the built environment of the NSP fully reflected Progressive Era values of improved living conditions and security. Warden M.R. Penrose reported a spurt of new construction in that year that included a heated library outfitted with electric lighting, as well as three new guard towers: one at the main entrance, one atop the south end of the cell house, and one atop a wall on the south side of the main building. The towers were of rusticated quarry stone, and featured electric heat and telephones. New walls, punctuated by three arches with large iron gates, provided additional security to the main entrance, and existing walls were heightened. Additionally, Penrose launched an exterior beautification program for the grounds, which included grading the grounds east of the warden's residence, clearing all sagebrush within 11,500 feet of the prison, and grading the hill to the west of the prison, sowing it with grass seed. Penrose also rebuilt the stone wall north of the prison, laid a stone walk on the north and east side, excavated the yard by two inches to provide additional drainage, and laid concrete walks in the yard leading from the main building to surrounding buildings.<sup>104</sup> Penrose's 1929 report mentions a library under construction, as well as the "improved appearance of the grounds" as a result of planting various trees, shrubs, and flowers. By 1931, Penrose had graded the pond in front of the prison and spread crushed rock on its banks, as well as planting 100 cottonwood trees along the south side of 5<sup>th</sup> Street between the prison and Carson City. He also graded the hillside on the southwest corner of the prison and laid painted cobblestones on it to resemble the

<sup>102</sup> Snyder, 63-64.

<sup>103</sup> M.L. Penrose, *Biennial Report of the Warden of the State Prison, 1933-1935*, NSLA.

<sup>104</sup> Snyder, 60.

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American flag. In his 1935 report, Penrose reported building a hothouse over a stream from the hot spring, installing a sprinkler system, and laying additional driveways, walks, and a lawn in the yard.<sup>105</sup>

The rebuilt NSP became the setting for an important development in the national debate on capital punishment: the adoption of lethal gas as a method of execution. Debate about capital punishment in Nevada extended back to the period of early statehood when officials grew alarmed by the mob-like, spectacle atmosphere of public executions and stipulated that all capital sentences should be carried out in a controlled setting at the NSP. In 1912, Nevada still condoned hanging and shooting as the preferred methods of execution, however, state officials were uneasy with the methods. Reviving Enlightenment-age concerns regarding the nature of civilized society and the continuing use of gruesome execution methods, Progressive advocates began an international conversation about “humane” execution. Establishing a humane approach to capital punishment became a primary concern of Progressive reformers.<sup>106</sup>

Nevada led this effort, with the NSP becoming the first institution in the United States to execute a prisoner using lethal gas. The first execution by electric chair, taking place in New York in 1890, faced public criticism, and Nevada officials continued to seek a humane execution method. In 1921 two state legislators, assemblymen Harry L. Bartlett of Elko County and J.H. Hart of Pershing County, officially proposed a solution in Assembly Bill 230. The bill stated in part that:

The judgment of death shall be inflicted by the administration of lethal gas. The execution shall take place within the limits of the state prison, wherein a suitable and efficient enclosure and proper means for the administration of such gas for that purpose shall be provided by the board of prison commissioners. The warden of the state prison must be present, and must invite a competent physician, and not less than six reputable citizens, over the age of twenty-one years, to be present at the execution; but no other persons shall be present at the execution.<sup>107</sup>

The Nevada Legislature passed the law in 1921, and Nevada became the first state in the nation to approve lethal gas for execution. Reaction to the new method was swift with comments coming from all over the world ranging from enthusiastic approval to abject horror. Despite the mixed reception, Nevada moved ahead and conducted the first legal execution by lethal gas in 1924. To prepare for the execution, warden Denver Dickerson oversaw the creation of the world’s first gas chamber, which began its life on the NSP campus in 1888 as a barbershop. To convert the barbershop into a death chamber, inmate laborers sealed its doors and windows with

<sup>105</sup> M.L. Penrose, Biennial Report of the Warden of the State Prison, 1925-1927; 1927-1929; 1929-1931; 1933-1935. NSLA.

<sup>106</sup> “Kemmler Executed: A Sickening Sight to Behold,” *Reno Evening Gazette*, August 6, 1890, 1.

<sup>107</sup> Assembly Bill No. 230. Statutes of the State of Nevada Passed at the Thirtieth Session of the Legislature 1921, Carson City: Nevada State Printing Office, 1921; Spellier, Louis A. “They Don’t Know Whether it is Good or Bad Politics.” *Reno Evening Gazette*, January 4, 1919, NHSL.



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wax and installed a steel cage inside the building.<sup>108</sup> A series of pipes delivered hydrocyanic acid to a spraying apparatus within the room, which featured an observation window from the outside.<sup>109</sup> The state executed inmate Gee Jon on February 8 despite strenuous efforts by his defense team to convince the Nevada State Supreme Court that the untested method was cruel and unusual. In October 1928, a new stone and cement execution chamber, featuring a guardroom and two condemned cells, replaced the converted barbershop.<sup>110</sup>

The tenets of Progressive penology received criticism by the 1930s in response, in part, to concerns from business leaders who criticized the practice of using prisoner labor. By the 1920s, unions and other supporters of free industry criticized American prisons for interfering with the free market, as inexpensive convict labor undercut fair market prices. As a result, prisons established the state use system, in which convicts produced goods—including license plates—for sale to the United States government. In response, many states like Nevada adopted the state use system, which focused prisoner labor on specific state needs, such as the production of license plates. The prison-run license plate factory has become ubiquitous in popular culture, as it was an early adoption of the state-use system of penal labor in America.<sup>111</sup> In 1931, Warden Penrose introduced the manufacture of license plates to the NSP after he constructed a factory expressly for this purpose, housed in an addition to the Administration Building.<sup>112</sup> The addition featured a cell house on the second floor; however, the extra space was not needed, and Warden William Lewis converted the space into a school in 1936. Lewis wrote a letter to the Works Progress Administration, the New Deal's most ambitious agency, requesting their assistance in establishing the school. As a result, the WPA largely provided support to the NSP education program, including furnishing a classroom instructor.<sup>113</sup>

### Modern Rehabilitation at the Nevada State Prison, 1940 – 1967

After 1940, the Nevada State Prison moved into a period characterized by new models for inmate rehabilitation, including detailed classification of prisoners, community involvement, and improved medical care. In the early 1940s, World War II and wartime industries influenced the

<sup>108</sup> Snyder, 53; "Boston's Lethal 'Humor,'" *Reno Evening Gazette*, April 8, 1921, 4; Brisbane, Arthur. "Death by Gas in Nevada." *The Ogden Standard Examiner*, July 28, 1921, 4; "Death Gas In Nevada Brings Murder To End." *The Evening Republican*, Mitchell, S.D. January 22, 1925, 12; "Execution by Gas Sought in Arizona." *Reno Evening Gazette*, January 13, 1933, 12; "Fight to Save Gee Jon May Go Into U.S. Court." *Reno Evening Gazette*, February 6, 1921, 1; "First Gas Execution Is A Success." *Sheboygan Press-Telegram*, February 8, 1924, 1-2; "First Lethal Gas Execution Takes Place in Carson City, Nev. Prison" *Manitoba Free Press*, February 9, 1924, 1, 12; "Gas for Murderers," *The Gleaner*, April 8, 1921, 5; "Humane Nevada," *Manitowoc Herald-News*, April 7, 1921; "In the Death Chair: Further Particulars of the Kemmler Electrocution," *The Frederic News*, August 7, 1890, 1; "Lethal Chamber Plea," *The Daily Mail*, December 22, 1921, 3; "Painless, Both," *Reno Evening Gazette*, May 13, 1921, 4; "True Mercy or Cruellest Torture?," *Syracuse Herald*, May 15, 1921, 7, all at all at NHSL.

<sup>109</sup> Scott Christianson, *The Last Gasp: The Rise and Fall of the American Gas Chamber*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010), 73-74.

<sup>110</sup> Snyder, 60.

<sup>111</sup> Roberts, 86.

<sup>112</sup> "50% is Saved Buy State on Motor License Plates," *Nevada State Journal*, January 20, 1934, 4.

<sup>113</sup> Snyder, 66.

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prison's population trends, as well as inmate labor opportunities. Following the war, the prison refined new modes of prison administration adapted from the earlier Progressive model. Administrators humanized inmates, seeking to individualized rehabilitation creating a campus-like environment at the NSP.

By 1940, the NSP's inmate population had reached a record high of 340 in 1940. The cell house could only accommodate 266 prisoners, and Warden Lewis sent the overflow of inmates to the prison farm to avoid doubling cell occupancy. The establishment of wartime industries in Nevada at Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot, the Basic Magnesium Plant in Henderson, and new air bases in Fallon, Tonopah, and Las Vegas, all led to a spike in Nevada's population; a rise that correlated with additional increases in inmates housed at the NSP.<sup>114</sup> The 1941 State Legislature appropriated funds for prison expansion; however, the nation-wide defense effort indefinitely postponed construction.<sup>115</sup> In 1945, Warden Sheehy wrote, "Due to war, it was impossible to obtain materials and labor."<sup>116</sup> The NSP contributed to the war effort by donating scrap iron and scrap rubber, as well as constructing cots, stretchers, and related items for Nevada's Country Councils for Defense. This level of involvement in the war effort was common for American prisons, many of which manufactured shoes, boats, and even aircraft engines. In Nevada, prison inmates also bought war bonds and stamps.<sup>117</sup>

After the war ended, the prison attempted to address overcrowding through the expansion of prisoner housing, but this remained limited until 1951. The earliest attempt, begun in May of 1947, constructed what is now Cell Block B, along with some additions to existing buildings.<sup>118</sup> Arthur E. Bernard assumed wardenship in 1951, and his tenure is largely characterized by an ambitious building program and the implementation of individualized treatment for each prisoner. Bernard personally interviewed all incoming prisoners to determine their security risk and capacity for rehabilitation. He employed those deemed fit for reformation in the prison hobby shop, in his construction projects, and on the occasional off-site job. Between 1951 and 1954, he expanded the inmate dining room and library and remodeled the Butcher Shop and Warden's Residence. Using prisoner labor and materials for all of his projects, Bernard built a new guards' dining room, a shower and lavatory in the Prison Yard, plumbing shop, horse barn, garage, gas chamber, recreation hall, potato cellar, and paint shop. Inmates used prison-quarried stone to construct five two-bedroom cottages (Cottages 1-5) to be used as guards' residences, and they excavated a 25-by-50 foot swimming pool for use by prison personnel.<sup>119</sup> Bernard continued his building campaign between 1956 and 1958, again using convict labor and reclaimed materials to construct two more garages, a guesthouse, two dormitories, and a new

<sup>114</sup> Hulse, *The Silver State*, 213, 334; Snyder, 67.

<sup>115</sup> *The American Prison*, 181-183.

<sup>116</sup> Richard H. Sheehy, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Penitentiary and Supt. Nevada State Police for the Period July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1942*, NSLA.

<sup>117</sup> Snyder, 68.

<sup>118</sup> Richard H. Sheehy, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Prison for the Period July 1, 1948, to June 30, 1950*, NSLA.

<sup>119</sup> Arthur E. Bernard, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Prison for the Period July 1, 1950, to June 30, 1952; Biennial Report of the Warden State Prison For the Period July 1, 1952, to June 30, 1954*, NSLA.

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greenhouse. Inmates supplanted the thoughtful, Progressive-Era landscaping of the outside and inside yards with asphalt paving.<sup>120</sup>

In 1959, the Prison Board appointed Jack Fogliani as warden, who became the last of the rehabilitation-era wardens at the NSP. Fogliani focused on rehabilitation through arts and crafts, education, music, as well as vocational opportunities. The NSP property transitioned from a centralized prison compound to a decentralized campus environment. Recreational activities abounded under Fogliani. Inmates organized "The Boys in Blue" prison band, which performed at various events around Carson City, and the prison converted the solitary confinement "dungeons" in the back yard to an office for the *Sagebrush*, an inmate-run newspaper. They also formed basketball and boxing teams that competed in outside events throughout the state. During this time, prisoners demonstrated a deep connection to the larger community, as they donated to various charities and participated in blood drives. These changes represented the larger trend in American prisons, which sought to ease convicts back into society by providing rehabilitation in a campus-like setting.

Within the modern rehabilitative, or Medical, model, Fogliani emphasized the importance of medical, mental, and dental care for NSP prisoners. Under his wardenship, the prison established individual and group psychology programs, a dental clinic, and an Alcoholics Anonymous program. Fogliani also worked to enrich inmate-staff relationships, hoping that better relations would improve the overall operation of the prison. These developments fit with the Medical Model's emergence as the new standard for penology in the 1950s. Adherents viewed delinquency as equivalent to physical disease; as such, prisons had a duty to diagnose and treat each prisoner according to their unique circumstances. The Medical Model reinvigorated and expanded upon inmate classification using new developments in psychology and sociology.

Warden Fogliani invited Synanon to establish an outpost at the prison in 1963. Charles E. Dederich, a graduate of Alcoholics Anonymous, founded Synanon in 1958 to support and assist individuals in overcoming their addictions. At the prison, Fogliani reserved a tier of cells for members of the program, many of whom were addicts. The program also included non-addicts, operating on the principle that non-addict prisoners often share personality traits with drug addicts. Synanon provided cutting-edge treatment including art therapy and group therapy.<sup>121</sup> Members worked in the prison hobby shop, and prison officials often employed them to work inside the compound. Fogliani credited Synanon with improving the attitudes and morale of the prisoners.<sup>122</sup>

Fogliani developed quality vocational and educational programs as warden. He established the first successful honor camp at Spooner Summit, where inmates engaged in fighting fires and removing invasive plants, and expanded the prison farm. The prison launched a work crew program, whereby local governments, farms, and ranches employed inmates. The construction of

<sup>120</sup> Arthur E. Bernard, Biennial Report of the Warden State Prison for the Period July 1, 1956, to June 30, 1958, NSLA; "Dietitian Named at State Prison," *Reno Evening Gazette*, July 22, 1951, 12.

<sup>121</sup> "Mutual Aid in Prison," *Time Magazine*, 81:9 (March 1963), 67.

<sup>122</sup> Jack Fogliani, *Biennial Report of the Warden Nevada State Prison For the Period July 1, 1960, to June 30, 1962, Inclusive*, NSLA.

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a new auto shop and carpenter shop within the prison compound extended additional vocational opportunities to inmates. Fogliani also founded a GED program at the prison and hired the State Department of Employment Security to administer tests that assisted inmates in procuring employment upon their release.<sup>123</sup>

Concurrent with the adoption of the Medical Model, Warden Fogliani oversaw an expansion of the prison that included a new License Plate Factory, security fences, the two-story Tower One at the northwest entrance, a new library, a coffee shop, and the maximum-security Cell Block C with a private exercise yard. The NSP's population rose to 460 in 1960, prompting the Prison Board to construct a new women's prison and maximum security prison south of the main complex, respectively housing 17 and 298 prisoners. Fogliani remodeled visitors' booths to include telephones during an era in which prisons across the country sought to create more comfortable and informal visitation areas.<sup>124</sup> Despite the popularity of the Medical Model, the mid-1960s suggested a shift in prison ideology and administration during Fogliani's tenure. In light of the new maximum-security facility south of the NSP, State and prison officials began to place an emphasis on public safety and security. The State completed a north-bowing highway bypass for 5<sup>th</sup> Street to eliminate traffic through the prison grounds. In Fogliani's 1965 report, he recommended that the warden should be able to choose his residence, as opposed to living in the Warden's Residence, which at that time was located within the maximum security compound. The resulting solution led to the use of the Warden's Residence to an investigation facility, and the conversion of the Guard's Cottages to storage space.<sup>125</sup>

By 1967, security issues caused a major shift in the prison's administration away from the Medical Model to a contemporary strategy of security and control. In January of that year, two prisoners escaped, holding a Carson City family hostage before prison officials captured and returned them to the penitentiary. One week later, seven maximum security inmates escaped. Once officials recovered them, Governor Laxalt fired Warden Fogliani, replacing him with Carl Hocker, San Quentin's correctional captain.<sup>126</sup> Carl Hocker's wardenship signaled the end of an era at the NSP. Under his tenure, biennial reports of the warden were no longer composed for the Nevada Legislature, and prison officials shifted their emphasis from rehabilitation to control. Hocker endured a number of prison riots, hunger strikes, and increased violence during his wardenship that received national media attention. Alongside national trends in the late 1960s, NSP prisoners began engaging in civil disobedience in addition to violent rebellion, eventually giving way to the Inmates' Rights Movement and super-maximum custody. Subsequent developments at the NSP included the construction of the "Hill Units" cell complex on the east side of the historic district in the 1980s during an expansion of the prison to house an estimated 850 inmates. Following the recession of 2008, the State legislature chose to close the prison in 2012. Although the Nevada Department of Corrections retains administration of the facility for

<sup>123</sup> Jack Fogliani, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Prison for the Period July 1, 1959, to June 30, 1961*, NSLA.

<sup>124</sup> Roberts, 179.

<sup>125</sup> Jack Fogliani, *Biennial Report of the Warden State Prison for the Period July 1, 1963, to June 30, 1965*, NSLA; Riddle et al, *Nevada State Prison*, 34-35.

<sup>126</sup> Tom Kennedy, "Nevada Prison Warden Fired After Escape," *State Times Advocate* (Baton Rouge, LA), Jan. 31, 1967.

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limited purposes, there are currently efforts underway by the Nevada State Prison Preservation Society (NSPPS) to preserve the prison complex.<sup>127</sup>

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<sup>127</sup> Roberts, 212-224; Nevada State Prison Preservation Society website; Whorton, "Nevada State Prison."; Geoff Dornan, "Locked but still loaded with history," *Nevada Appeal*, January 15, 2012, A1, A4.

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Nevada State Prison

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☒ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Nevada State Library and Archives; Nevada Historical Society Library

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A



Nevada State Prison

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 23.65 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263337	Northing: 4338200
2. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263385	Northing: 4338189
3. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263400	Northing: 4338222
4. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263715	Northing: 4338304
5. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263747	Northing: 4338230
6. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263697	Northing: 4338138
7. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263639	Northing: 4338157
8. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263577	Northing: 4338090
9. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263572	Northing: 4338071
10. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263559	Northing: 4338071
11. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263473	Northing: 4337875
12. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263405	Northing: 4337885
13. Zone: 11N	Easting: 263334	Northing: 4338014

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nomination boundaries are portrayed on the boundary map that accompanies this nomination. The boundary begins at the northwest corner of the property, where the old Fifth Street route and the current access road join, running 250 feet east along the stone wall at the south end of the parking lot, then crossing the old route of Fifth Street for 90 feet to include Tower One, then running 865 feet northeast to a point just northeast of the Butcher Shop, then running 270 feet southeast, then south 280 feet, then turning sharply westward for 360 feet, then south 335 feet, then west again for 85 feet, then south and southwesterly for 720 feet, then west 140 feet, then northwest 600 feet, then running north along a ditch 670 feet to the beginning point.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Nevada State Prison

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The boundaries of the Nevada State Prison Historic District were selected to include known prison-related historic resources built or in existence between 1868 and 1967 (the period of significance) and associated grounds but to exclude concentrations of non-contributing modern buildings such as the 1980s Hill Units on the east side of the historic prison core. Also excluded is a nineteenth century and later prison cemetery now located on the grounds of the modern Warm Springs Correctional Center to the south of the historic district. Although it is related, it is non-contiguous to the district and has not been evaluated.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jennifer Riddle and Elizabeth Dickey / Jim Bertolini and ZoAnn Campana  
organization: Nevada Department of Transportation/Nevada State Historic Preservation Office  
street & number: 1263 S. Stewart Street / 901 S. Stewart  
city or town: Carson City state: Nevada zip code: 89703  
e-mail jriddle@dot.state.nv.us / jbertolini@shpo.nv.gov  
telephone: (775) 888-7013 / (775) 684-3436  
date: 12/22/2014

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to

Nevada State Prison

Carson City, NV

the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: unknown Date Photographed: c.1931

Description of Photograph(s) and number: NSLA Aerial photograph (NSP 0002) of prison at the Nevada State Archives showing virtually all of the contributing resources in the nominated area. View looking southeast. 1 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: unknown Date Photographed: 1962

Description of Photograph(s) and number: NSLA Aerial photograph (NSP 0002) of prison at the Nevada State Archives showing virtually all of the contributing resources in the nominated area. View looking south. 2 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: Jim Bertolini Date Photographed: November 13, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: North section of the West Lawn and Garden, showing the pond, the Greenhouse Foundation, and the wall along the parking lot. View looking west. 3 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: The Administration Building and Sally Port. View looking south. 4 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: The Pump House with the Armory and One Tower beyond. View looking north. 5 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: The flag on the slope between the Sally Port and the cottages. View looking east. 6 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Rear elevations of the cottages. View looking southwest. 7 of 30

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Nevada State Prison

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Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Front elevations of the cottages. View looking north. 8 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Cottage 6. View looking northeast. 9 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: The date stone at the front south corner of Cottage 6. View looking northwest. 10 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: The Nevada State Prison Cemetery. View looking northwest. 11 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Fifth Street Tower with the Administration Building beyond. View looking east. 12 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: The Warden's House and front yard with the Storage and Maintenance Building beyond. View looking east. 13 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Side and rear elevations of the Warden's House. View looking northwest. 14 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Kennel. View looking southwest. 15 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Butcher Shop. View looking southeast. 16 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Electrical Shop with the Maintenance Shop beyond. View looking northeast. 17 of 30.

Nevada State Prison

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Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: The License Plate Factory, Quarry Walls with Shed, Boiler House, and Gymnasium and Book Bindery. View looking south. 18 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: East elevation of cell blocks A, B and C. View looking southwest. 19 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Prison Yard with cell blocks B and C, the Culinary, Three Tower, and Quarry Walls. View looking southwest. 20 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Prison Yard with Quarry Walls, Sally Port, and Administration Building. View looking west. 21 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Prison Yard with Administration Building and Cell Block A. View looking northwest. 22 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni Date Photographed: September 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Quarry Walls with two cave entrances. View looking west. 23 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: Jim Bertolini Date Photographed: November 13, 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Armory building within the West Lawn and Garden. Looking southwest at the north elevation of the building. 24 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: Jim Bertolini Date Photographed: November 13, 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Two Tower, looking east at west elevation. 25 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada  
Photographer: Jim Bertolini Date Photographed: November 13, 2014  
Description of Photograph(s) and number: Boiler Plant, looking southeast. North and west elevations of the building. 26 of 30.

Nevada State Prison

Carson City, NV

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: Jim Bertolini Date Photographed: November 13, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Storage and Maintenance Building, looking southwest. East and north elevations. 27 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: Jim Bertolini Date Photographed: November 13, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Fifth Street (historic route) and Front Lawn, looking west. 28 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: Jim Bertolini Date Photographed: November 13, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: West Lawn and Garden, showing designed landscape features. Looking northwest. 29 of 30.

Name of Property: Nevada State Prison Historic District

City or Vicinity: Carson City County: Carson City State: Nevada

Photographer: Jim Bertolini Date Photographed: November 13, 2014

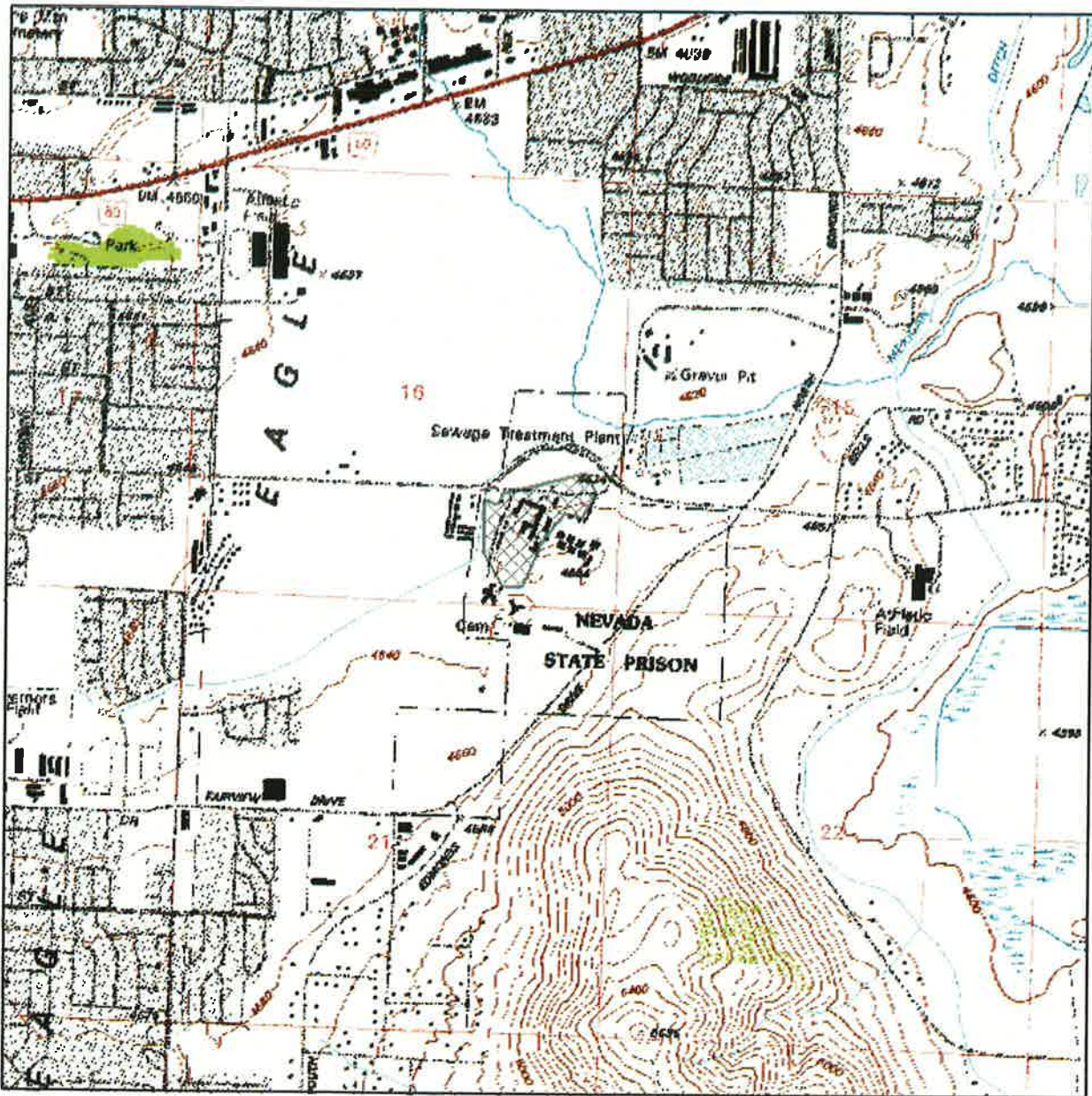
Description of Photograph(s) and number: West Lawn and Garden, looking south across the upper terrace of the site. 30 of 30.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



# Nevada State Prison NRHP Nomination Boundary



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



 Boundary

New Empire, Nev USGS 7.5' Topographic Map  
Carson City, Nev USGS 7.5' Topographic Map

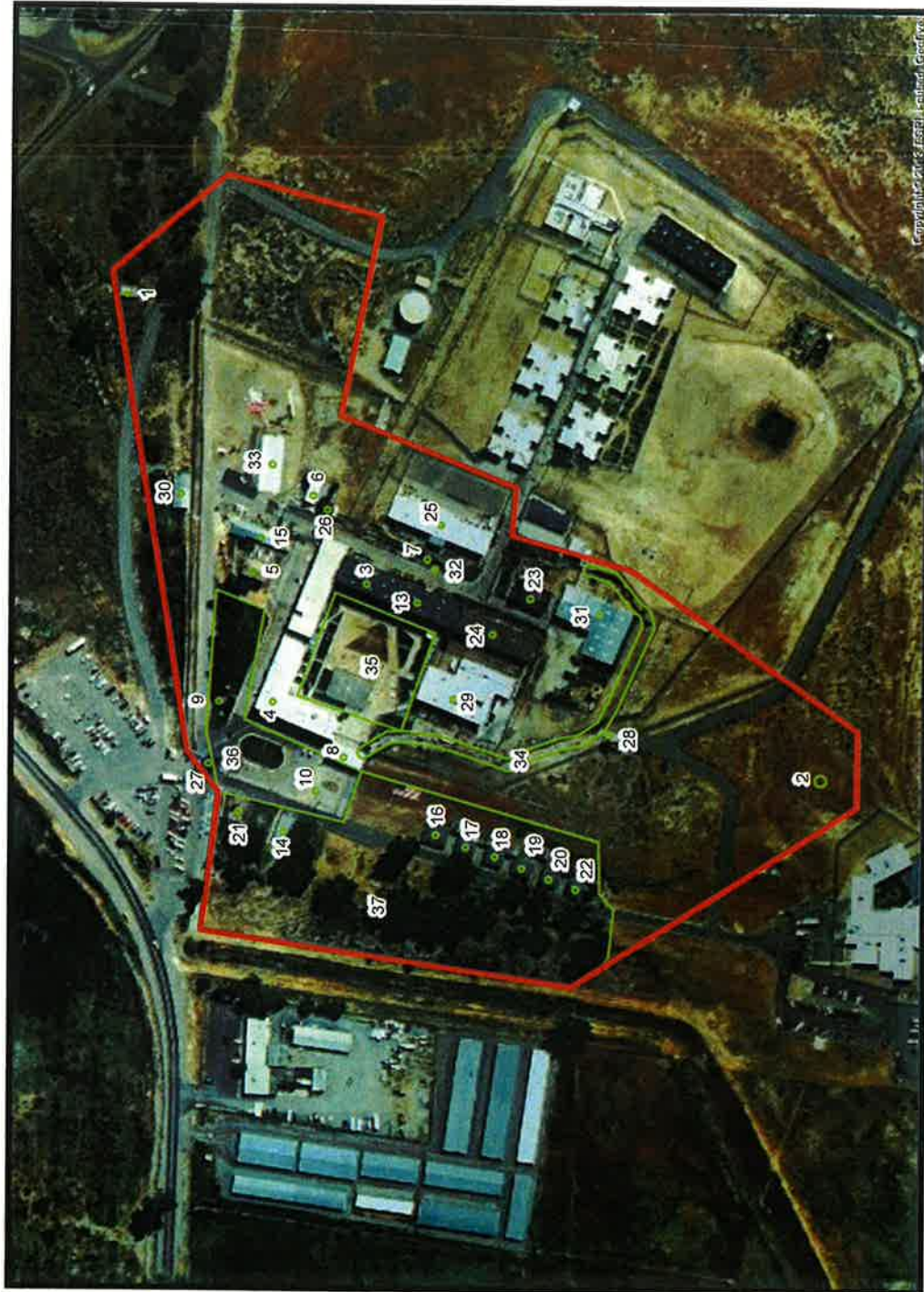
1:24,000 Scale

Coordinate System: UTM NAD 83, Zone 11





# DRAFT--Nevada State Prison NRHP Boundary Map



Author: Nevada SHPO  
 Date: 12/19/2014  
 Source: Nevada SHPO  
 Datum: NAD 83  
 Projection: Zone 11 N



## **Nevada State Prison Historic District – Resource List**

1. Butcher Shop. c.1887. Contributing Building.
2. Nevada State Prison Cemetery. Nineteenth Century. Contributing Site.
3. Cell Block A. 1920-25. Contributing Building.
4. Administration Building. 1920-27. Contributing Building.
5. Warden's House. c.1921-25. Contributing Building.
6. Electrical Shop. c.1926. Contributing Building.
7. Fossilized Sloth Footprint Tunnel. c.1927-28. Non-contributing Structure.
8. Sally Port (Courthouse). c.1928. Contributing Building.
9. Fifth Street Guard Tower. 1929. Contributing Structure.
10. Pump House. 1933. Contributing Structure.
11. Prison Trash Dump – Early. c.1907-1940. Non-contributing Site.
12. Prison Trash Dump – Modern. c.1940-1967. Contributing Site.
13. Cell Block B. 1948. Contributing Building.
14. Armory (Property Warehouse). 1950. Contributing Building.
15. Storage and Maintenance Building. 1952. Contributing Building.
16. Cottage 1. 1953. Contributing Building.
17. Cottage 2. 1953. Contributing Building.
18. Cottage 3. 1953. Contributing Building.
19. Cottage 4. 1953. Contributing Building.
20. Cottage 5. 1953. Contributing Building.
21. Greenhouse Foundation. 1954. Contributing Structure.
22. Cottage 6. 1955. Contributing Building.
23. Boiler Plant. 1958. Contributing Building.
24. Cell Block C. 1960. Contributing Building.
25. License Plate Factory. c.1962. Contributing Building.
26. Two Tower. 1962. Contributing Building.
27. One Tower (Main Gate). 1963. Contributing Building.
28. Three Tower. 1966. Contributing Building.
29. Culinary and Dining Hall. 1966. Contributing Building.
30. Kennel. c.1962. Contributing Building.
31. Gymnasium and Book Bindery. 1976. Non-Contributing Building
32. Shed. c.2000. Non-Contributing Building.
33. Maintenance Shop. 2004. Non-Contributing Building.
34. Quarry. c.1861-1967. Contributing Site.
35. Prison Yard. c.1868-1967. Contributing Site.
36. Front Yard and Parking Area. c.1868-1967. Contributing Site.
37. West Lawn and Garden. c.1920-1966. Contributing Site.

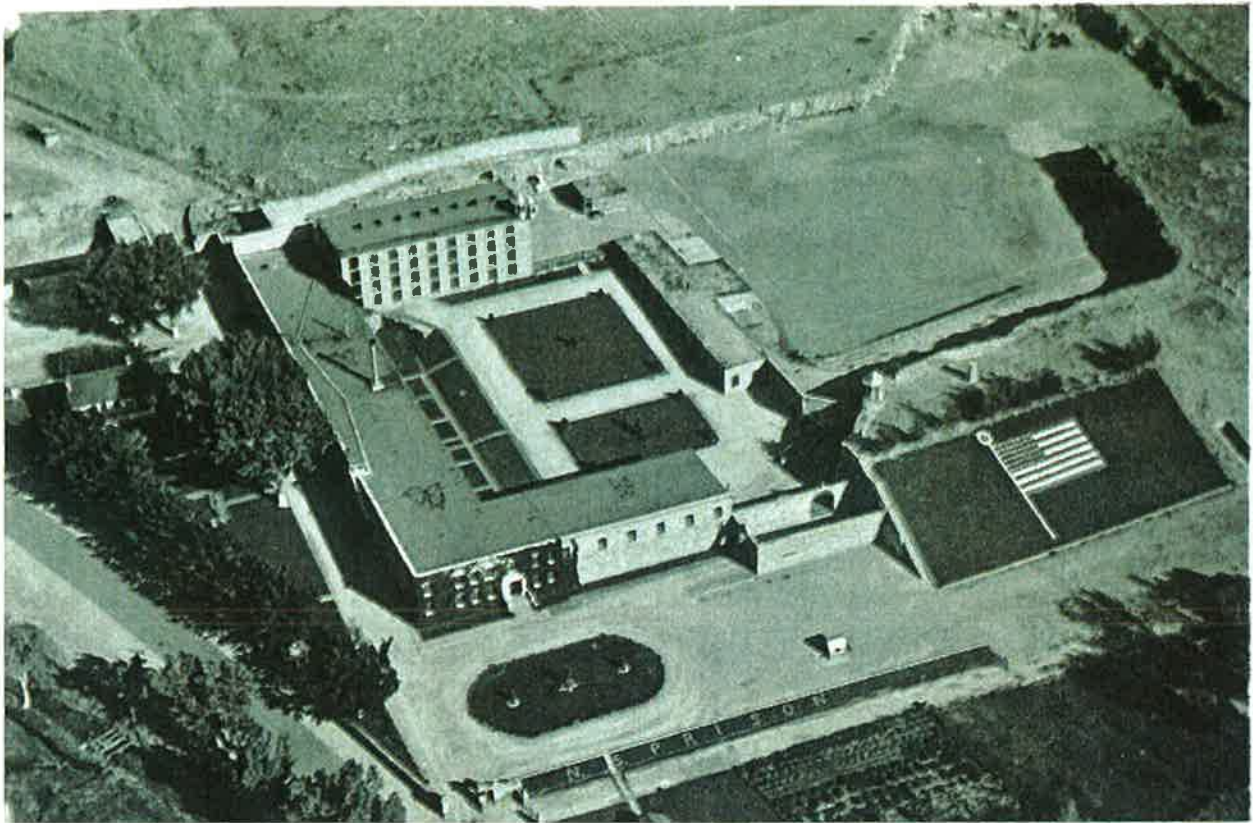


Photo 1 - NSLA 0007, c.1931



Photo 2 - NSLA 0002, c.1962





Photo 3



Photo 4



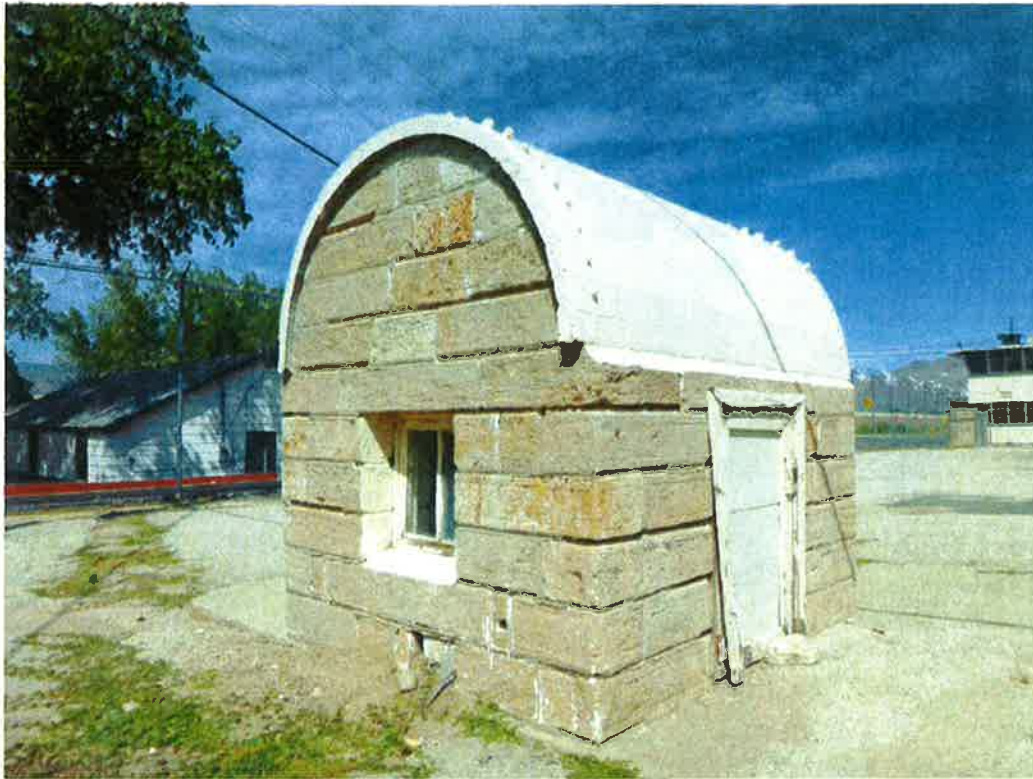


Photo 5



Photo 6





Photo 7



Photo 8





Photo 9

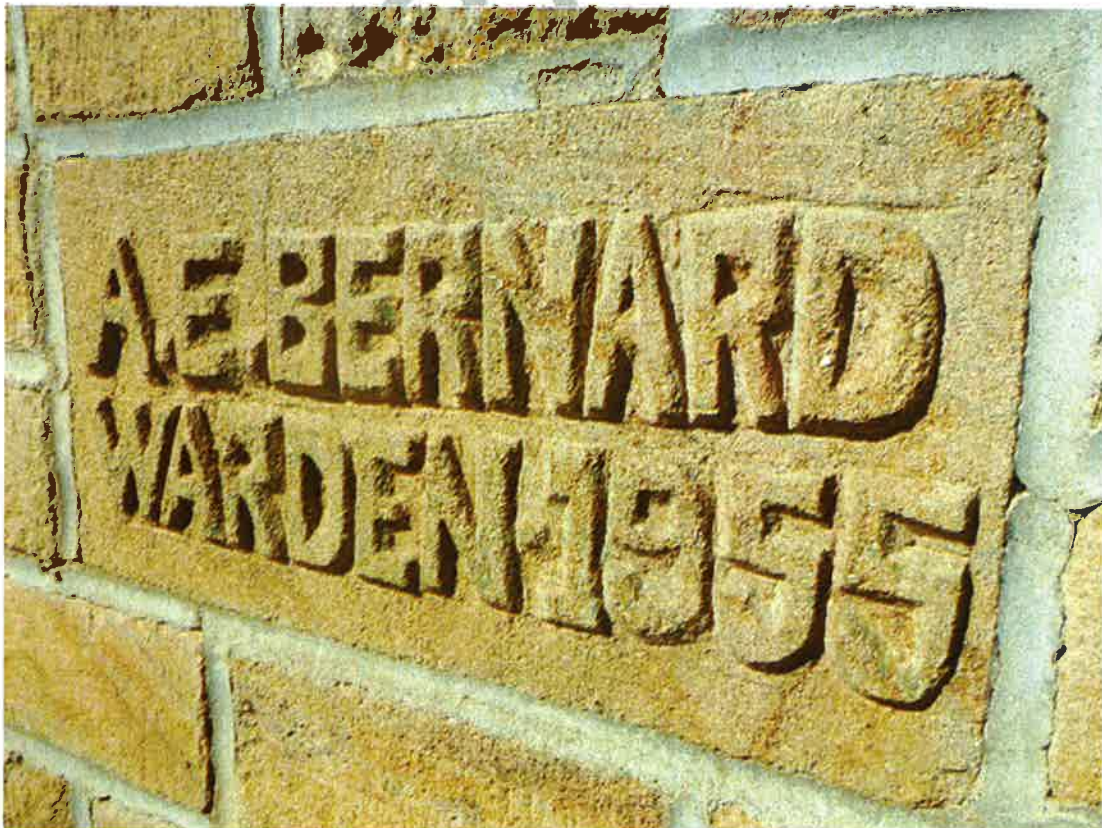


Photo 10





Photo 11



Photo 12





Photo 13



Photo 14





Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17



Photo 18





Photo 19

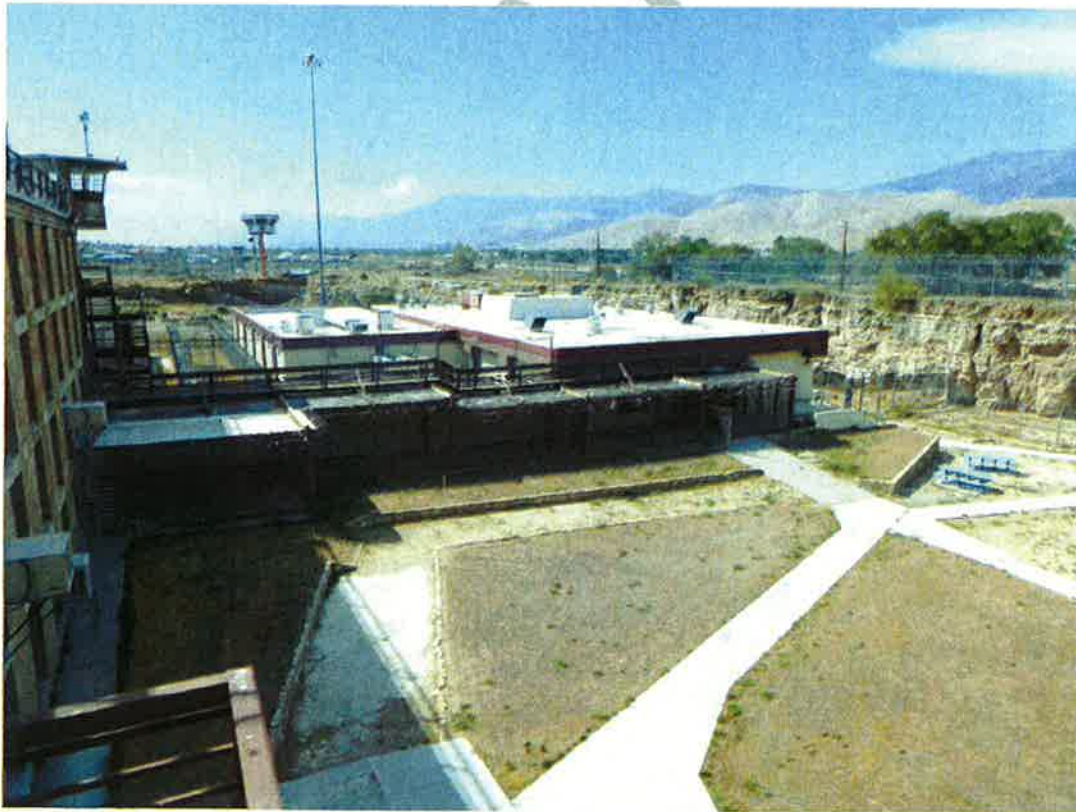


Photo 20





Photo 21



Photo 22



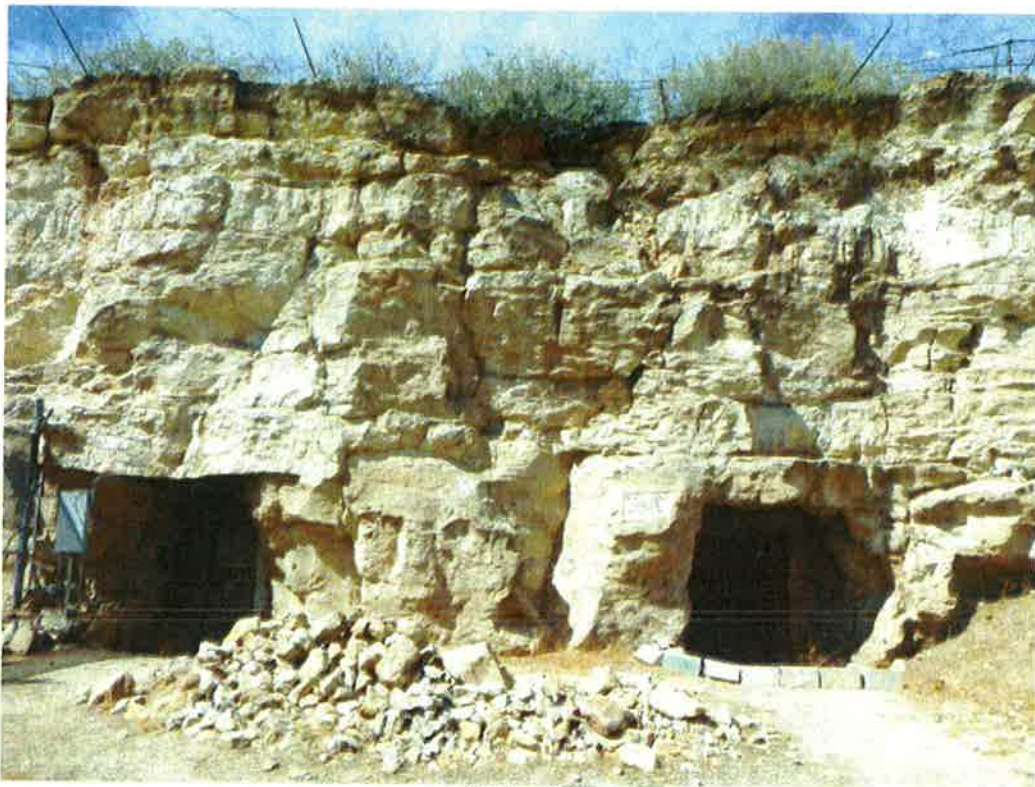


Photo 23



Photo 24



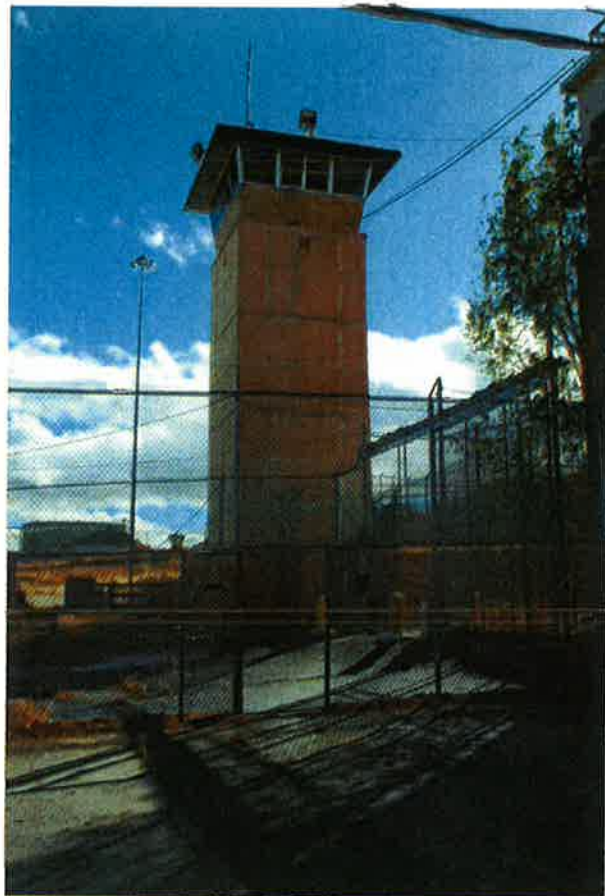


Photo 25



Photo 26



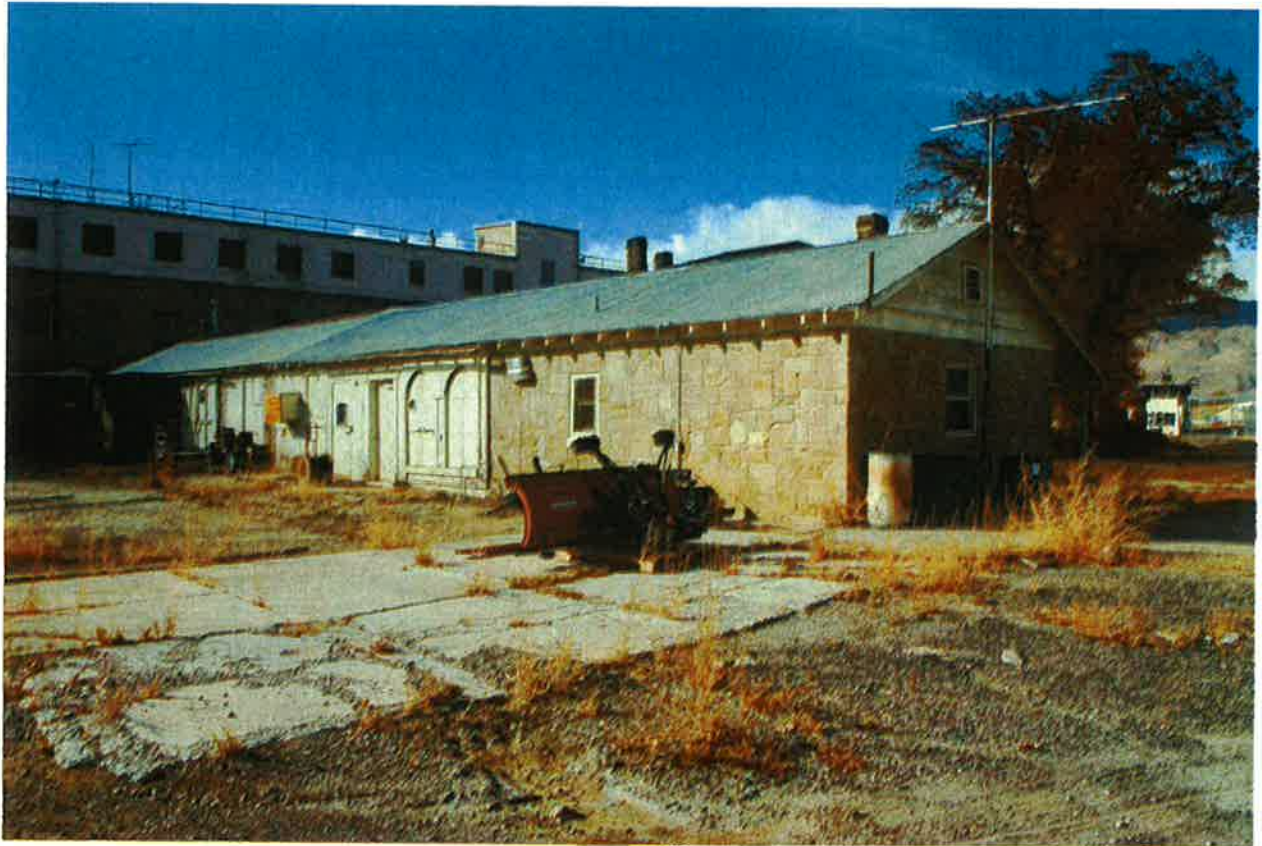


Photo 27



Photo 28





Photo 29

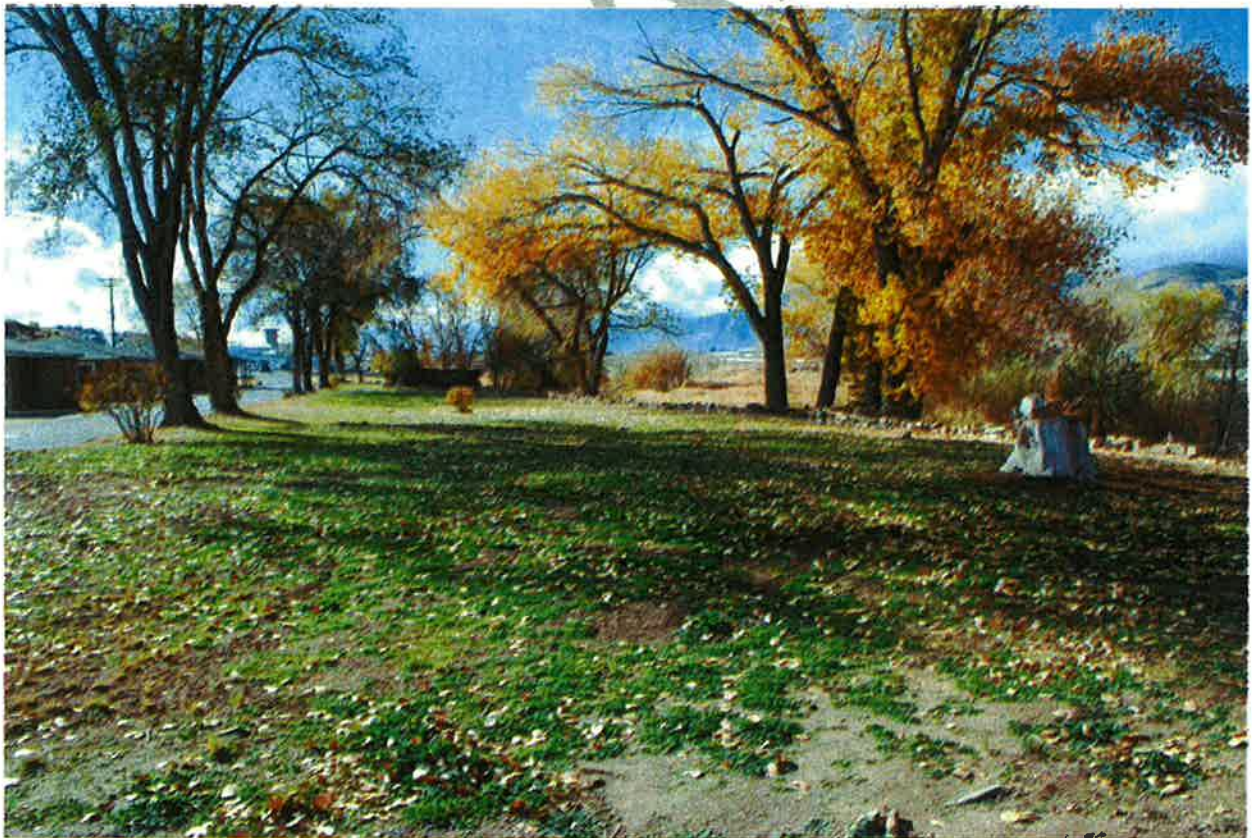


Photo 30