

A Self-Guided Walking Tour: Las Vegas High School Historic District



1. BEGIN

315 South 7th *

On the steps of the historic Las Vegas High School. The school was built in 1930 by George A. Ferris & Son, Reno architects, for \$350,000. It is the only Art Deco structure in Las Vegas. Principal Maude Frazier had to fight public opinion to get the school built; people thought it was too large and too far out of town. Two years after construction, the school was filled because of the influx of workers on the Boulder Dam project. In 1930 the Las Vegas population was 5,165, up from 2,304 in 1920, due to the Dam.

408 South 7th

Spanish Revival, 1931. This home was constructed for R. B. Griffith for \$7,500. He was a developer (Mt. Charleston, Rancho Circle); postmaster; auto dealer. He sold it to Pop Squires, who for forty years was publisher of the Las Vegas Age.

410 South 7th, site of 420 South 7th

These houses, built in the early '30s, were all associated with Prosper Goumond and A. B. Witcher, partners in the Boulder Club downtown. 420 S. 7th was moved to the Clark County Heritage Museum.

430 South 7th *

Ranch Style, 1938. This house was built for Dr. Clare Woodbury, County Health Officer, who lived here for fifty years.



2. TO CORNER. RIGHT TO SIXTH. LEFT ON SIXTH.

431 South 6th

Vernacular-Moderne, 1938. This home was designed by prominent Las Vegas architect A. L. Worswick at a cost of \$7,000, for clothing store owner Jack Price.

501 South 6th

Spanish, 1930. This house was built for Union Pacific Railroad worker Arthur Gifford for \$5,500.

* Photo



Phone: 702.229.5260 Fax: 702.384.1397
www.lasvegasnevada.gov

4. TO BONNEVILLE. RIGHT TO NINTH.

850 Bonneville *

Tudor/Bungalow, 1931. Teacher Florence Burwell lived here until she married George Franklin, Sr. in the forties, and sold the house to Lewis Rowe. It was originally 602 S. 9th. The extensive remodeling has attempted to retain some of the original design elements.



5. OPTIONAL: RIGHT ON NINTH.

624 South 9th

Ranch, 1937. This was the home of attorney Marion Earl, a civic leader who practiced law until 1988. The house cost \$4,900.

704 South 9th

Spanish Colonial Revival, 1930. Designed by A. L. Worswick and built for \$10,000, this house was owned by District Judge A. S. Henderson, who was an Assemblyman, State Senator, and City Attorney. It was restored in the 1980s and is owned by attorney Richard Segerblom.

602 South 10th

Tudor Revival, 1929. Percival Nash, Las Vegas first Police Chief, was the original owner of this house, one of the earliest in the Wardie Addition.



6. BACK ON NINTH.

529 South 9th

Bungalow, 1932. Teacher Lewis Rowe lived here in the early thirties. Later, Harry Austin, who was City Attorney, lived here.

520 South 9th

Tudor Revival, 1941. This was the home for a few years of Lorrin Ronnow, of the pioneer family which owned the Clark County Wholesale Mercantile Company.



501 South 9th

Tudor Revival, 1932. This LDS Church has served as a visual anchor in the neighborhood. Bryan Bunker was the first bishop.

7. LEFT ON CLARK, CONTINUE TO SEVENTH.

OPTIONAL: TURN LEFT.

717 Clark *

Tudor-Eclectic, 1935. George E. Harris, shop teacher and later principal, built this house with the help of high school shop students.

500 South 7th *

French Eclectic, 1938. Pioneer attorney and Justice of the Peace C. D. Breeze, whose clients included Mrs. Leopold Stokowski and Henry Stetson, lived here until his death in the '60s.

506 South 7th

Vernacular, 1930. This was the home of Union Pacific worker Walter Homan. His son Ted was a Western Air Express pilot.

514 South 7th

Spanish, 1930. This duplex was built by Olen Gates of Pioneer Title Company for \$5,000.

522 South 7th *

Pueblo, 1929. This is a rare Pueblo design, and was owned by Assemblyman and Boulder City postmaster James Finney.

8. RETURN TO SCHOOL.

The Las Vegas High School Neighborhood is bounded roughly by Sixth and Ninth Streets, and Gass and Clark. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.



Las Vegas High School Historic District

National Register of Historic Places

The Las Vegas High School Historic District is the oldest residential neighborhood within the city of Las Vegas which retains its architectural and historic integrity. The historic district consists primarily of single-family residential structures, the majority of which contribute to the district's architectural and historic character.

The district is a well preserved and cohesive group of buildings and structures associated with the growth and development of Las Vegas as the governmental and commercial center for Clark County and southern Nevada. Constructed primarily between 1928 and the onset of America's involvement in World War II, the district includes most of the homes in Las Vegas built during this period.

Researcher/Writers: Dorothy Wright, Frank Wright
Tour Design: Dorothy and Frank Wright

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Graphics by: Rita Schoonmaker



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517-519 South 6th

Vernacular, 1930. This pre-fab duplex was manufactured by Pacific Readicut for \$3,650. Because of the Dam there was a need for quickly built, affordable housing.

520 South 6t

Spanish, 1938. A. L. Worswick designed this home for himself. He was the town's most prominent architect from 1929 until around 1950. It has been extensively remodelled.

601 South 6th

Tudor Revival, 1938. Al Adams and his wife built this house for \$5,900. Adams was the manager of Ronzone's Department Store. His wife was the owner's daughter.

608 South 6th

Tudor Revival, 1933. Businessman Vernon Bunker owned this house; later his brother Berkeley Bunker, State Assemblyman and briefly, U. S. Senator, lived here until the 1950s.

618 South 6th

Bungalow, 1928. Banker Reed Whipple, who was a City Councilman for many years, lived here for about thirty years.

624 South 6th *

Spanish, 1932. Prominent dentist and civic leader J. D. Smith built this house, designed by architects Nordstrom and Warner, as a showplace, for \$8,500. It has a basement, unusual in Las Vegas. It is listed on the National Register and is the only tax credit-certified property in Las Vegas. The family still owns the house.

721 South 6th

Tudor Revival, 1937. Built by Lewis E. Rowe, well-known Las Vegas High art teacher, the house was rented briefly by Harvey "Red" Bynum, a notorious gaming figure, and Davey Berman, Bugs Siegel's partner.

725 South 6th *

Ranch Style, 1942. This house was owned and lived in for forty-five years by Walter Hunsaker, who was the agent for developer Leigh Hunt, for whom the Huntridge tract was named.



801 South 6th

Spanish, est. 1930. Famed photographer L. J. Oakes lived here with his wife Nellie, who ran the studio after his death. She sold it to Mrs. Mabel Ullom.

3. LEFT ON GASS. LEFT ON 7TH.

731 South 7th *

Tudor Revival, 1936. This house was built for businessman Ralph Purdy at a cost of \$3,600. He owned the Texaco station.

714 South 7th

Tudor Revival, 1940. Walter Bracken, the UP Railroad's agent in Las Vegas for many years and a powerful man in Las Vegas history, purchased this house in 1942 after moving from 4th and Fremont. He lived here until he died in 1950.

701 South 7th

Spanish, 1928. The late Lamar and Effie Foremaster lived in this house since 1934. The Foremasters are an important pioneer Las Vegas family who were involved in dairy farming and ranching.

630 South 7th

Tudor Revival, 1938. The Reverend Al Melton, Baptist minister and real estate investor, lived here until the 80s.

618 South 7th *

Mission Revival, 1930. Harry Allen, pioneer Las Vegan, banker, civic leader and later president of Nevada Power, lived here until the 1950s.

615 South 7th

Tudor-Eclectic, 1939. Popular coach Pat Diskin, for whom the elementary school is named, lived in this house, which cost \$4,800.

610 South 7th

Tudor, 1939. This home was owned by Roscoe Hampton, of Hampton Bros. Construction. He sold it to Dr. Gerald Sylvain, who was the County Health Officer briefly. It was sold to Bob Baskin, restaurant owner and City Council member, for whom a city park is named.