



THE PRESERVATION PULSE

Issue 5, January 2025



From NPF's Executive Director Dr. Figanbaum

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, NPF is focused on new preservation efforts across Nevada. This month, we spotlight the historic **Elko County Public Defender's Office**, now at risk of demolition. Its listing on **Preserve Nevada's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places** highlights the urgent need for advocacy.

We're also highlighting NPF's role in creating the **Historic Resource Catalog**, a valuable tool developed for the City of Las Vegas to support preservation efforts. Don't miss our **Volunteer Spotlight** on Tiffany, whose love for Las Vegas history makes her an invaluable part of our team!

Looking ahead, **Home + History tickets are live!** Join us for some events, including the **Historic Henderson Bus Tour** and our **Zick and Sharp** monthly program.

Let's make 2025 a year for preservation!



PRESERVATION SPOTLIGHT

The Historic Elko County Public Defender's Office

Located at 569 Court Street in Elko, a piece of Nevada's history stands on uncertain ground. Built in 1896 as Nevada's first publicly funded high school, this architectural landmark has played many roles over the decades—serving as a library, the Elko County Manager's office, and now the Elko County Public Defender's Office. Though originally a two-story brick structure, a devastating fire during World War II led to its reduction to a single story. Yet, despite its changes, the building has remained an important part of Elko's history.

Now at risk of demolition for a parking lot, the site was listed on Preserve Nevada's "11 Most Endangered Historic Places." "If community members don't take action, we may lose these places," said Michael Green, Preserve Nevada's Executive Director. Preservationists and community members are working to save this important piece of Elko's history—but its future remains uncertain."



Old Mormon Fort

Preserve Nevada's Mission to Save Endangered Historic Places

Preserve Nevada, a statewide historic preservation organization, works to protect the Silver State's most endangered historic sites through its annual 11 Endangered Sites List. For two decades, Preserve Nevada has identified places at risk—whether facing imminent danger or long-term threats—and advocates for their preservation. Protecting these sites depends on community awareness and action. Read more about this year's endangered sites: [UNLV News Article](#).

NPF'S LEGACY: PAST PROJECTS

In 2021, NPF, in partnership with the City of Las Vegas, developed the Historic Resource Catalog, a tool for preservation planning and research. This database compiles historic surveys, Section 106 reviews, archaeological studies, historic structures reports, and register nominations at the national, state, and local levels, ensuring that Las Vegas' rich architectural heritage is documented and accessible.

Between February and May 2021, NPF gathered 129 reports from institutions such as the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, Nevada Historical Society, and UNLV & UNR Special Collections

Libraries. Indexed by City Ward, the catalog provides easy access to study details, findings, and downloadable PDFs for unrestricted reports.

One site in the catalog is the Wengert House, now listed on the Las Vegas Historic Register. Once home to Cyril S. Wengert, a key figure in the city's development and an incorporator of NV Energy, this residence remains an important piece of Las Vegas history.

NPF's role in developing this catalog helps preserve the city's history and guides future preservation efforts.



By making these records easily accessible, we help protect Las Vegas' historic sites and provide a valuable resource for researchers, city officials, and advocates working to preserve our shared heritage.

Explore the City of Las Vegas Historic Resource Catalog here: [View Catalog](#)

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

Zick and Sharp: Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

Tuesday, January 28th 6:30pm
\$5

Join the Nevada Preservation Foundation for our monthly program celebrating Walter Zick and Harris Sharp, two visionary architects who shaped mid-20th century Las Vegas. From iconic "circle" schools to stunning banks, hotels, and homes, their designs reflected the influential styles of the era, yet they are often underappreciated compared to other well-known architects of the city.

Dive into their inspiring story, explore their enduring impact on the city, and experience an opportunity to walk through an extraordinary circle school—an architectural marvel that brings their legacy to life.

Tickets at nevadapreservation.org



Photo: Clark County School District Archives



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

Tiffany's love for Las Vegas history runs deep. "My parents met in Paris—my mother was an acrobatic dancer at the Lido, and my father was a Marine at the embassy. With family performing at the Folies Bergère, Tropicana, and Dunes, they visited Las Vegas and never left. I grew up here in the '70s and '80s, and my father, who worked security and as a dealer at the Desert Inn and Horseshoe, had incredible stories—ones I only truly appreciated later, especially when watching Casino or mob films."

Tiffany's journey with NPF began with



the Woodlawn Cemetery Tour, where she first heard about volunteering.

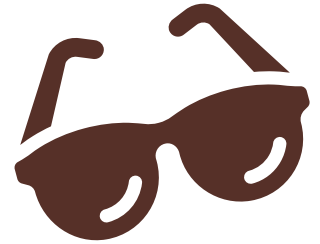
"I was retiring and thought, this is perfect! Since then, I've done it all—walking tours, bus tours, bike tours, open houses—you name it."

Her favorite part? "The open houses take me back to my childhood. Every tour teaches me something new, and I love hearing personal stories from attendees. This Vegas native finds Vegas history so exciting!"

Join us as a volunteer and experience the magic of Las Vegas history firsthand!



A LOOK AHEAD



Coming Soon: More Home + History Fun!

The next round of Home + History tickets is here! Get ready to explore Las Vegas and Henderson's rich history with an exciting lineup of walking tours, educational programs, and bus tours.

Don't miss the Historic Henderson Bus Tour! This one-of-a-kind experience takes you through historic sites and beautiful architecture, plus an exclusive, up-close look at the Basic Magnesium Plant—a rare opportunity you won't want to miss!

Grab your tickets now on NPF's website before they're gone! See you on the tour!