

Locations of Historic Markers



California Building, 75 Cowan Drive

Erected in 1927, the California Building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 and the local register of historic places in 1998. Built by the State of California to house the state's displays for the 1927 Transcontinental Highways Exposition, the building was later donated to the City of Reno. Today, the California Building serves as a public events venue available for reservation by the public.

Interpretive signage will describe the history of the building, the Transcontinental Highway Exposition, and the surrounding Idlewild Park.



City Hall, 1 E. 1st Street

Built in 1963, this mid-century modern office building is the third home of Reno City Hall. Interpretive signage will describe the previous two locations of City Hall including the 1907 building that was located where the current City Hall parking garage is now located. Signage will also include information about mid-century architecture in Reno and other nearby examples within view from the City Hall entrance.



Douglas Alley

Douglas Alley in Downtown Reno was once referred to as the “busiest little street in the biggest little city.” It had an infamous reputation during the twentieth century as a bustling microcosm of all Reno had to offer. There were casino rear entrances, shopping, and cafes but also violence and prostitution.

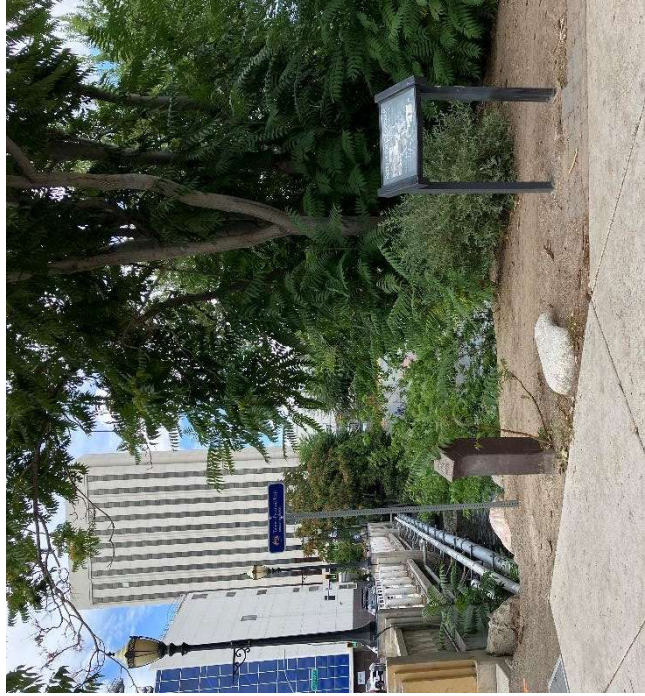
Interpretive signage will display images of Douglas Alley from its heyday and describe the variety of businesses that were accessed through the alley including the Harlem Club, a club owned by African American Bill Bailey who welcomed an integrated clientele and attracted celebrities such as Sammy Davis, Jr., Louis Armstrong, and BB King.



Lear Theater, 528 W 1st Street

This building was originally built to serve the congregation of the First Church of Christ, Scientist and has been a beloved and iconic landmark in Downtown Reno since its completion in 1939. The church was designed by famed African American architect, Paul Revere Williams, sometimes referred to as the “architect to the stars” because of his impressive list of Hollywood clients. The building is now owned by the City of Reno which is considering options for the building’s future.

Interpretive signage will describe the history of the building and will focus on Paul Revere Williams’s extraordinary life and other recognizable buildings he designed in Reno.



Lake Street Bridge (Site of Reno's Chinatown)

Reno lies on the route of the Transcontinental Railroad and was originally laid out by the Central Pacific Railroad whose tracks were laid primarily by Chinese laborers who risked their lives to lay track over the Sierra Nevada Mountains. When the railroad was completed in 1868, Chinese laborers settled in Reno between Front (1st) Street and the Truckee River. Despite facing discrimination and periodic episodes of violence, Reno's Chinatown endured until it was razed by the City in 1908. From the south side of the Lake Street bridge, one can look north on what is the former site of Reno's Chinatown. Interpretive signage will recognize the contribution of Chinese laborers to Reno's history, acknowledge the discrimination they faced, and display images of the site as it was in the early 1900s.

Note: There is a marker already located near the site but it is badly damaged and does not mention Chinatown. This project would replace the existing marker.



McKinley Park School, 925 Riverside Drive

The McKinley Park School was one of four Mission Revival style public schools known as the "Spanish Quartet" built between 1909 and 1912. The school was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985 and the local historic register in 2000. It is open to the public and available for reservations. There are two city-operated free public art galleries in the building and a weekly food truck event is held on the grounds during the summer months.

Interpretive signage will describe the history of the building as a school, the locations of the original Spanish Quartet (two of these schools have been demolished), and will show images of students and scenes from the school's early days.



Old Washoe County Courthouse, 75 Court Street

The Washoe County Courthouse at the corner of Court Street and South Virginia has played a central role in Reno's economy and reputation at least since Frederic DeLongchamps won a design competition to expand the building in 1909. Both divorce decrees and marriage licenses were obtained at this building and Nevada led the nation for over 50 years as the most liberal state for either action. Not only did the state have the shortest residency requirements, it also allowed for divorce on more liberal grounds than other states. Interpretive signage will tell this story from the perspective of the tens of thousands of women who gained freedom from unsuccessful marriages at the Washoe County Courthouse.

Note: Nevada State Historic Marker No. 30 is on the Washoe County Courthouse grounds and briefly mentions the divorce trade, "the community's reputation as a divorce center began in 1906." A new marker will incorporate images from the divorce trade era and provide much needed additional context.



Example #1 of Historical Marker and pedestal from Pannier Graphics - estimated materials cost \$1,489.00



Example #2 of Historical Marker and pedestal from Envirosigns - estimated materials cost \$1,835.00