



# Northeast Reno African American History Project

July 20, 2024



*Made possible by a National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant*

# Why this project and why now?



C I T Y O F  
**RENO**

- Sites related to the African American experience in Nevada are underrepresented on local, state, and national registers of historic places.
- The City of Reno applied for and received an Underrepresented Communities Grant from the National Park Service.
- The City issued a Request for Proposals and selected a consultant to complete the project.

# Project Team

Alicia Barber, PhD, Stories in Place LLC  
HISTORIAN

ZoAnn Campana, M.P.S., Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

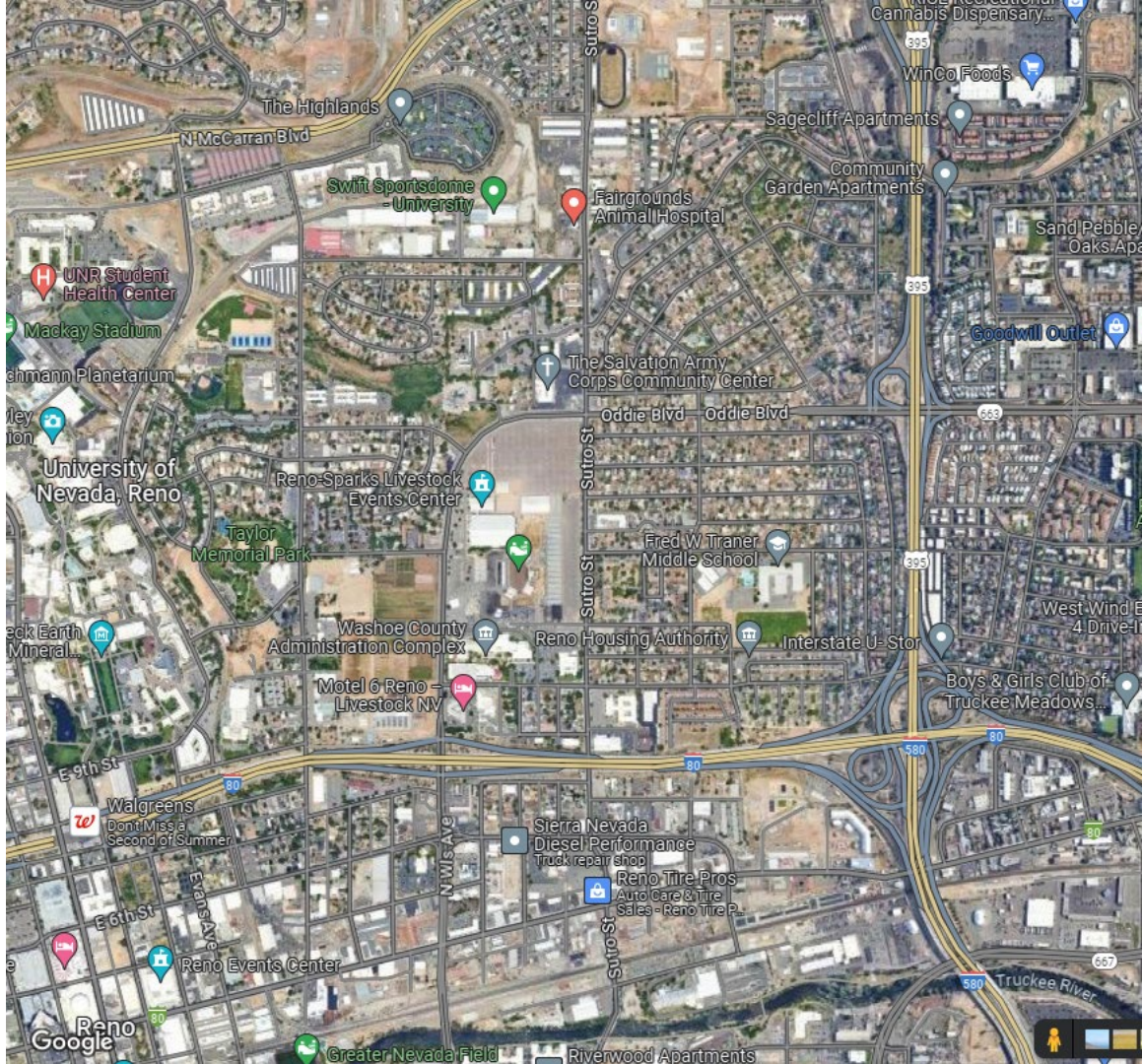
Project Advisory Board

The Reno community

# Goals of the project

- Increase knowledge – the history of African Americans in Reno is largely unwritten, especially in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Increase visibility.
- Remember, honor, and celebrate the experiences of African Americans in Reno.
- Identify themes, trends, and histories important to the city.
- Identify important places for possible historic designation, preservation, and/or interpretation, especially those threatened by encroaching development.

# Why northeast Reno? And how much of it?



# Project Time Period: 1900-1979



- Properties generally have to be at least 50 years old to be eligible for the National Register (unless of exceptional significance).
- Reno's African American population was very small prior to 1900 (33 listed in entire Washoe County in the 1900 U.S. Census).
- Most of northeast Reno was developed post-1900.

# U.S. Census figures for Nevada, 1900-1940

**Table 3. Population of Nevada by Race, 1900–1940**

Year	African American Population	Total Population	Percentage of Total Population African American
1900	134	42,335	0.3
1910	513	81,875	0.6
1920	346	77,407	0.4
1930	516	91,058	0.6
1940	664	110,247	0.6

# Product #1: Historic Context

## *A BROAD HISTORICAL OVERVIEW*

- Identifies history, historic themes, time frames, geographic areas, associated property types, and thresholds for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Advisory Board and community will help identify important themes and stories.
- *Not* an attempt to capture the entire history.
- *Not* an attempt for us to dictate or impose history on the community.

NEVADA **CURRENT**


WORKING + THE ECONOMY JUSTICE SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION HOUSING POLITICS + GOVERNMENT

CIVIL RIGHTS EQUALITY HOUSING LEGISLATURE

### Lawmakers propose solution to address racist covenants in legal property documents

BY: MICHAEL LYLE - MAY 12, 2023 2:15 PM

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Original documents will be archived "so we are not erasing the history of the existence of this language," said state Sen. Dallas Harris, who is sponsoring legislation to ease redaction of racist covenants in legal documents. (Photo: Trevor Bexon / Nevada Current)



# A Planning Tool



## THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS EXPERIENCE IN NEVADA, 1900 - 1979

### PREPARED FOR

Nevada State Historic Preservation Office  
901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5004  
Carson City, NV 89701

August 2020

### PREPARED BY

SWCA Environmental Consultants  
257 East 200 Suite 200  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
[www.swca.com](http://www.swca.com)

- Assists the community in identifying future survey and research priorities.
- Assists the community in identifying historic resources and nominating them to the National Register of Historic Places.

*The African American Civil Rights Experience in Nevada, 1900-1979.* Statewide historic context completed in 2020.

# Product #2: Historic Resources Survey

- A systematic method of documenting historic resources through fieldwork and research. What is there? What do we have?
- Documents the integrity and history of each resource
- Evaluates the resources under the historic context and identifies buildings worthy of designation
- Recommends potential historic district boundaries

## Architectural Resource Assessment (ARA) Form

For SHPO Use Only	SHPO Concurrence?: Y / N	Date:	
Survey Date	3/13/2024	Recorded By	ZoAnn Campana and Audrey Andrews
		Agency Report #	

### 1. Property Type

Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape (non-archaeological site) <input type="checkbox"/>
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### 2. Property Overview and Location

Street Address	301 E 4 <sup>th</sup> St.		
City, Zip	Reno 89512		
County	Washoe		
Assessor's Parcel #	007-316-01	Subdivision Name	Reno Townsite
UTM Location (NAD 83, UTM Zone 11 North)	Easting: 258489		Northing: 4379465
USGS Info	Township: 19	Range: 19	Section: 11
USGS 7.5' Quad & Date: Reno, Nev. (1982)			
Ownership	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State <input type="checkbox"/>
		Public-Federal <input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple <input type="checkbox"/>
Should the property's location be kept confidential?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 3. Architectural Information

(Insert primary photograph below.)

Construction Date	1907
Architectural Style	Classical revival
Architectural Type	Two-part block
Roof Form	Flat roof
Roof Materials	Asphalt composition
Exterior Wall Materials	Brick
Foundation Materials	Not visible
Window Materials	Wood
Window Type	Sash
Accessory Resources?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Number?:

Condition of Resource(s)?	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Poor <input type="checkbox"/>
Explanation: Resource is maintained and shows little deterioration.			



### 4. NRHP Eligibility - Existing Listings, Districts, & Potential Districts

Is the property listed in the National Register?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, provide:	Date Listed:
			NRIS #:	
Contributing to a listed historic district?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, provide:	Name:
			Date listed:	NRIS #:
If no, is there a potential district?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	If so, is the potential district eligible for the NRHP?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				No <input type="checkbox"/>
			If so, is this resource contributing?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				No <input type="checkbox"/>
District Name: East 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Historic District				SHPO #:

Note: A resource that is contributing to a National Register-eligible district is considered eligible for the National Register for the purposes of project review, even though the resource itself may not be individually eligible.



THE FIRE HOUSE

# Product #3: National Register nomination

NPS Form 10-900

OMB Control No. 1024-0018  
expiration date 03/31/2026

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: Black Springs Volunteer Fire House

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:

Fire Stations of Nevada

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: West termination of Coretta Way at Kennedy Drive

City or town: Reno State: NV County: Washoe

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 \_\_\_statewide \_\_\_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

\_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D

- Property to be identified by October.
- First draft of nomination to be submitted to City of Reno by March of 2025.
- Final draft to be submitted to the Board of Museums and History by August 2025.
- Final nomination to be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register by January 2026.

# National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)



- The nation's official list of places worthy of preservation.
- Recognizes important places.
- Properties can be listed in the National Register at a local, state, or national level of significance.
- Can be a building, structure, site, object, landscape, or district.

*Bethel AME Church, Reno (listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2001)*

# National Register of Historic Places - criteria

A – Historical significance

B – Important Person(s)

C - Architecture

D – Archaeology/Data Potential

Must have physical integrity to its period of significance.

Buildings in a *district* can be “contributing” or not - if contributing, they are considered listed in the NRHP.



*First Church of Christ, Scientist, Reno (listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1999)*

# Benefits of NRHP Listing

- Public awareness and community pride
- Education, interpretation, and heritage tourism
- Thorough documentation
- Can qualify a building for certain grants and federal tax credits for historic preservation
- Listed properties are identified early in the planning process for federally-funded and permitted projects.



*Field Matron's Cottage, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003)*

# What happens next?



*Debra Armstrong and Jean Bufkin,  
interviewed by Alicia Barber and  
Demetrice Dalton for Our Story, Inc.*

- Historic survey of project area
- Conversations and oral histories
- Archival research – historic newspapers, maps, property deeds, city directories, U.S. Census records and more
- Online survey to get more input, suggestions, possible contacts and sources of information
- Another public meeting in the fall





## SURVEY: What historic places in northeast Reno tell the story of the African American community?

### Do you have information to share?

The City of Reno has secured a grant from the National Park Service to learn more about the experience of the Black and African American communities in northeast Reno (defined approximately as Lake Street eastward to the Reno city limits, and from the Truckee River northward to McCarran Boulevard) from 1900-1979.

You can learn more about this project [here](#).

**The primary goal of this project is to identify significant historic places associated with the African American community in northeast Reno to support their listing in local, state, and national historic registers.** These places and properties might include private residences, churches and other meeting places, schools, public and government buildings, parks and other gathering places, sites of protest and activism, commercial businesses, and more.

To aid our research, we are seeking photographs, stories, and memories of this area. If you have suggestions of buildings and sites for us to research, **particularly if they were in active use before 1980**, please share their names, approximate locations, and as much explanation or description as you like.

What neighborhoods and streets in northeast Reno would you consider to be deeply associated with the African American community and why?

Your answer

---

What private residences in northeast Reno do you believe might be eligible for historic designation, perhaps through their association with a particular community member or family, or because they served as a meeting or gathering place for social, political, or religious activities?

Your answer

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What businesses do you recall operating in northeast Reno prior to 1980, particularly any that are/were owned or patronized by members of the African American community? Can you give a sense of where they were located and if the buildings are still there?

Your answer

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If you have attended any churches in northeast Reno, which one(s) and when? Can you recall if any meetings or activities that were not church-related are or were regularly held there, and if so, what kinds?

Your answer



- Arts & Culture

Artist Resources

Reno Arts and Culture Factsheet

Call for Artists

+ City Art Galleries

Arts & Culture Commission

+ Grants

- Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Awards

Historical Resources Commission

Historic Markers

FAQ

East 4th Street Historic Survey and Inventory

Reno Register of Historic Places

[Community](#) » [Arts & Culture](#) » [Historic Preservation](#) »

## Underrepresented Communities Grant Project

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