



Historic Westside School Walking Tour Map

The Historic Westside School is located at
330 W. Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nv 89106

*Parking is accessed via C Street, just south of the
Jefferson/C Street intersection.*

This pamphlet presents a much abbreviated summary of the Historic Westside School and the surrounding community. If you would like to learn more about this beautiful campus and its vibrant community, please join Nevada Preservation for a guided tour.

Originally known as the Branch Number 1, Las Vegas Grammar School, the Historic Westside School is currently the oldest remaining schoolhouse in Las Vegas. The original schoolhouse was constructed in 1923 and the annex building in 1948. It was built for children living on the westside of the railroad tracks, and its students were Paiute, Hispanic, and low-income Caucasian. By the 1940s, it primarily hosted African American students, as segregation starting in the 1930s limited opportunities for African Americans to only "The Westside." The Historic Westside thrived as a black community of homeowners and business owners in what was a captive market, and the Westside School was a community center and landmark for the area's residents during segregation years. By the late 1960s, segregation finally came to an end and many residents began to leave "The Westside" for other opportunities. In the years following desegregation, the Historic Westside community saw much disinvestment. Although the school was closed by 1974, long-time tenants KCEP and the Economic Opportunity Board kept the school from falling into disrepair. In 2005, City of Las Vegas Councilman Ricki Barlow and the Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission began working toward the school's restoration, beginning a \$12.5 million restoration project, the result of which you see today.

Nevada Preservation Foundation
330 W. Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nv 89106
855-968-3973

HISTORIC WESTSIDE SCHOOL

Walking Tour

*Guided tours occur every
second Thursday of the month at 4:00pm.*



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1. Flagpole in Courtyard

Two buildings make up the Historic Westside School campus. The original 1923 building is located to the east. The northern addition was added to the original two-room schoolhouse in 1928. To the west, the U-shaped annex was built in 1948. Both buildings are listed on the National, State, and local Registers of Historic Places. In 2005, the City of Las Vegas began a \$12.5 million preservation project, restoring the school back to its original state. The mint green color, windows, and exterior finishes are restored to look as they would have in the 1920s and 1940s.



3. Flagpole at Washington Ave. Entrance

**PLEASE NOTE: DOOR LEADING TO WASHINGTON AVE. LOCKS AUTOMATICALLY.*

DO NOT EXIT BUILDING IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE GUIDED TOUR.

The southern façade of the schoolhouse would have been the main entrance for students attending school here in the 1920s and 1930s. Here, the Mission Revival style of architecture is particularly noticeable. The symmetrical façade, curvilinear parapet at the top of the building, and projecting eaves with exposed rafter tails are prominent details of Mission Revival architecture. Additionally, the rectangular building footprint and wood sash windows and doors are also common features of Mission Revival. If you look closely, you might catch a glimpse of children running up the front steps of the school!

5. Tile Murals on Patio

These two tile murals were originally installed in the 1977 renovation of the school. They were used to fill in the 1948 building's breezeway onto Washington Avenue as well as an exterior door on the same side of the building. They were designed by students at several Historic Westside schools and are a tribute to the history of the Black community and the leaders who worked to preserve this important school. In the 2015 restoration, this porch – original to the building – was restored and the tile murals relocated here.



2. 1923 Schoolhouse

The 1923 schoolhouse was designed by Allison & Allison of S. California. The building is an example of Mission Revival architecture built using concrete construction. The painted stucco finish is typical of Mission Revival architecture. The two-room school building housed 1st and 2nd graders. After the building expanded, a kindergarten class was added in 1933. The schoolhouse remained the only elementary school on the Westside until 1945.



4. 1948 Annex Building

The annex building located on the west side of the campus was designed by A. Lucy Worswick, a local architect who also served on the City of Las Vegas Planning Commission. He was one of the most prolific architects in early Las Vegas development. The annex housed six additional classrooms as well as administrative offices. It is built in the mid-century Ranch style, but incorporates some elements of Mission Revival as well. Noticeable features include the U-shaped floorplan, the horizontal emphasis created by the long and low building, gabled roofs, large, picture windows, relatively simple construction, and lack of exterior ornamentation and detail. After the annex was completed, the campus became known as the Westside School.

6. Entrance Gates at Parking Lot

The lovely landscaping and large parking area were upgraded to modern standards as part of the renovation process that began in 2005. Take a moment to notice the beautiful entrance gates located at the north east of the parking lot. The gates were designed by local artist Zac Ostrovsky to commemorate the vast history of the Historic Westside School. Images from historic community photos are shadowed into the gates, along with the dates of the original construction and re-opening of the restored campus, 1923 and 2015, respectively. In 2016, the gates received a Mayor's Urban Design Award for Public Art, and the school itself received the same award for Historic Preservation.

