

Nevada Downtown Historical District

Self-Guided Walking Tour



The Downtown Historical District was listed in the National Historical Register on May 9, 2003.

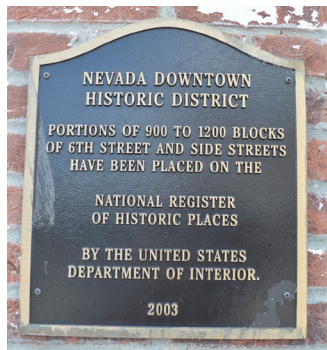
ABOUT THE TOUR

The self-guided walking tour of the Historic Downtown District begins at Nevada's City Hall corner park, located on the northeast corner of 6th Street and L Avenue/Historic Lincoln Highway.

From the corner park the tour proceeds south on the east side of 6th Street. This allows a full view of the buildings located on the "west" side of the street.

When arriving at J Avenue, cross to the west side of 6th Street to view the buildings located on the "east" side and walk north ending back at your starting point, the Nevada City Hall corner park.

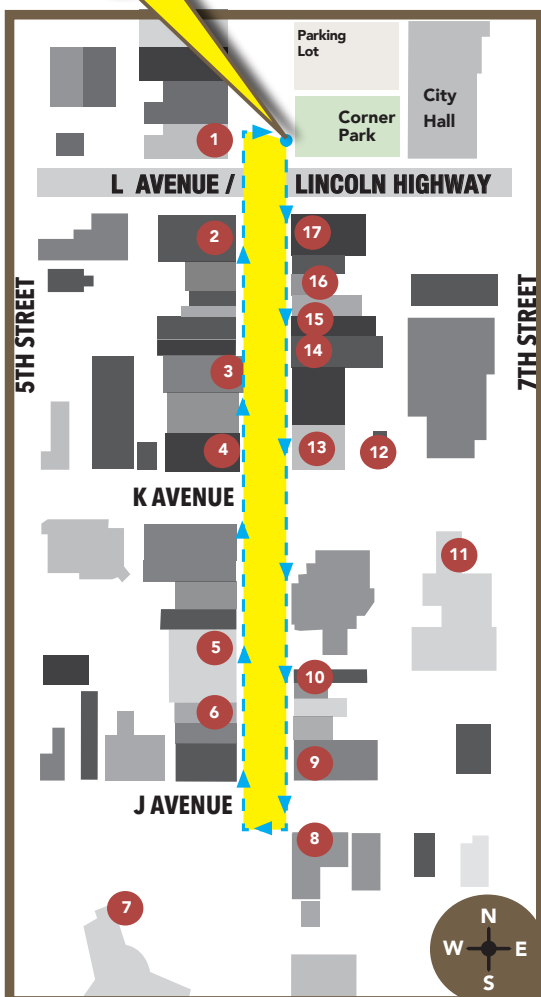
Nevada City Hall corner park



Plaques on the downtown buildings mark their presence on the National Historical Register.

Note: L Avenue is part of the Historic Lincoln Highway which is also on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The walking tour is made possible through the efforts of the Nevada Historical Preservation Commission.



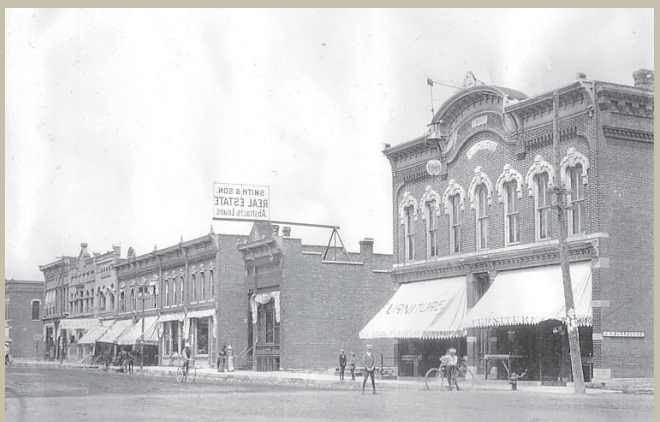
West side of 6th Street, looking north from K Ave.



West side of 6th Street, looking north from J Ave.



East side of 6th Street, looking north from K Ave.



East side of 6th Street, looking north from J Ave.

NEVADA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

1 1202-1210 6th St. Padelford Block. A fine example of Late Victorian Italianate Style, this building was constructed ca. 1893 after FM and IH Padelford acquired the parcel. It was first used as retail shop space for a bakery, restaurant, and grocery with a stairway in the sidewalk outside to reach a basement barbershop. The sheet metal cornice is its most significant feature, with its embossed floral shaped designs set between boxed brackets with a wide crown molding along the upper edge.

2 1136 6th St. Belknap Block. As noted in the carved stone scroll, this double front was built in 1901. An example of Neo-Classical Revival Style, it is constructed of mottled reddish brown brick with a darker brown brick used for the piers that separate its three bays and the window arches. S.A. Belknap operated a furniture and carpet business, as well as an undertaking business. It subsequently housed a restaurant, grocery store, billiards hall, cinema and offices.

3 1114 6th St. Circle Theater. In 1928 this building was constructed in the Classical Revival Style by the Circle Amusement Company with Oscar Strine, a self promoter and showman himself, as co-owner. Operated as both a movie house and legitimate theater it boasted that vaudeville shows would appear along with movies Friday through Monday nights with “photo plays augmented by the pick of the unusual, in short novelties, choice comedies, and news reel flashes, by airmail direct”.

4 1102-1104 6th St. Briggs Block. This prominent corner block is an example of Late Victorian Queen Anne Style. The metal cornice and corner turret are its most significant features. The conical turret roof is shaped with fluted sections terminating in a decorative finial. The corner portion has functioned as a drug store from its inception with Briggs Drugs followed in 1917 by W.L. Tipton and Sons Drug Store, which remained in business until the late 1990’s. The north half contained a hardware and tin shop, Long & Sons Clothing, a newsstand with art sales and Cash Grocery Store. Tipton’s expanded into this section in the early 1970’s.

5 1024-1026 6th St. Boyd and Childs Building. While the storefronts have been extensively remodeled, the second floor and cornice retain most of their Late Victorian Italianate Style. George Boyd and T.P. Child erected this building in 1881, following the fire of 1880 which destroyed a former building on this site. The partners operated a meat market here, with Mrs. W.J. Zahn operating a cigar factory on the second floor producing such brands as “Special Binder”, “Magnolia”, “Nevada Concert Bank” and “Maceo”.

6 1018 6th St. Farmer’s Bank. Est. in the 1870’s by Otis Briggs, the Farmer’s Bank was purchased by Jay G.

Dutton (Otis’s son-in-law) and J.A. Mills in 1897. In 1920 this stone clad building was built to replace an earlier Italianate Style building on this site. Reorganized into the Farmers Trust and Savings Bank in 1928, the year both Dutton and Mills died, the bank closed in the early 1930’s and the building was transferred in 1934 to the newly reorganized Nevada National Bank, the only local full service bank by 1936.

7 6th Street and J Avenue. Story County Courthouse. Erected in 1876 –1877 on the corner of Linn Street (6th St.) and Court Avenue (J Av.) the third Story County Courthouse was designed by prominent Des Moines architect William Foster. The mansard roofed brick and stone structure (non-extant) was built for \$40,000, its construction affirmed by county voters on the first referendum election two years earlier. The original structure stood in front of the current building, which was built while the old building stood and continued in use. On the south half of the block, on 6th Street, stood the Jail and Sheriff’s residence, which was razed.

8 937 6th St. Story Hotel. Built as the result of efforts of the Nevada Community Club, the Story Hotel (also listed as Hotel Story) replaced the Hutchins Hotel that burned on July 15, 1908. The old Presbyterian Church on the south half of the lot was also razed to make room. A combination of Mission Style and Craftsman Style, it is a well preserved example of a commercial building in a style more commonly associated with domestic buildings. The hotel had a full dining room behind the lobby. The short mansard roof is covered with metal tile. The entrance is still covered by the original metal canopy.

9 1001-1003 6th St. Ringheim Block I.A. Ringheim, an immigrant from Norway, arrived in Nevada in 1865 and became a partner with Iver Johnson in a dry goods business (Johnson & Ringheim). The next year Mr. Ringheim was sole proprietor and in 1877 he initiated plans to expand. This included moving the frame building he had to allow him to continue business and build a new structure on the same land. The grand opening was on Nov. 1, 1887 at a cost of \$16,000.

10 1015 6th St. Sanitary Meat Market One of the best preserved examples of the trend of building new brick buildings to replace mid-block wooden structures or on vacant lots is this single storefront. Only 16 feet wide, it was most likely built on speculation by R.S. and Anna Patrick in 1913. While modified slightly through the years, it still retains the three section transom above the display windows. Many businesses were located here, with the best documented being the Sanitary Meat Market in 1927. Because of poor economic times, the building was sold at a sheriff’s sale in 1935.

11 1036 7th St. First Methodist Episcopal Church. The first build-

ing, which was replaced by a brick structure at this location in 1893, was a frame structure located just south of the current church. That brick church burned down in 1930 and was eventually replaced by the current church, whose cornerstone was laid in May 1931 and completed the following October.

12 617 K Av. Nevada Poultry Co. Building. One of the last buildings constructed in the downtown area, this building was constructed next to the Nevada Public Library in 1928. Built in a vernacular Brick Front form, without reference to any specific architectural style, it is constructed of mottled tan and brown brick with an artificial stone coping along the parapet. On the storefront, only the inset signboard and door have been slightly modified.

13 14 1105 thru 1115 6th St. E.B. Patton Buildings. Constructed in 1887, the buildings are most noted for the occupant, Ambrose and Sons, a dry goods and clothing store headed by John Wesley Ambrose. His three sons, Harry, William, and Frank eventually joined the firm that had “The Big Store” as its motto. By 1890, father and sons were selling boots and shoes in the north store and general merchandise in the double front south store. In 1927, millinery goods were sold from 1105, dry goods 1109, men’s furnishings 1111 and shoes at 1115. The store(s) were run by 4 generations of the family until closings in the late 1980’s.

15 1117-1119 6th St. IOOF. On the second floor of this building in 1877 the International Order of the Odd Fellows Lodge #104 built a hall for their fraternal organization.

16 1133 6th St. Nevada Journal. George and Oscar Benjamin, editors and publishers, had the Journal building constructed in 1905. The one-story brick building is a well preserved example of a Classical Revival Style design. It’s light brown brick is trimmed with dressed limestone. Four stone pilasters flank the windows and entrance, supporting a plain entablature above the entrance.

17 1139-1141 6th St. People’s Savings Bank Building. An example of the Prairie School bank style. It was constructed ca. 1905 of rust colored brick on the second floor and grayish brown brick on the lower level, with limestone trim. On the first floor the design of the multi-light display window opening remains relatively intact. The original entrance for the bank is between #1137 and #1141. It retains its original semicircular arched transom hidden behind the fixed canvas awning. A two-story brick addition to the bank was erected at the east end and contained offices. It had a separate entrance on L Avenue, which by that time was the paved route of the Lincoln Highway through Nevada.