

## **LEGACY TEACHING AND RESEARCH PARK: A CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY FOR NEVADA STATE COLLEGE**

**Summary of proposal.** A portion of the 500+ acre grounds of Nevada State College should be preserved for historical, ecological, educational, and cultural programming aligned with the mission and core values of Nevada State College and the City of Henderson. The Legacy Research Park will be a focal point for the burgeoning campus; reflect the heritage of the City of Henderson and surrounding community and the core education mission of NSC; preserve open space; and provide a prominent location for a permanent monument to commemorate the establishment of the College. This undisturbed area near the center of campus will provide a critical venue for students of ecology and environmental sciences, promote the preserve local history, and promote collaboration with local historical and cultural institutions. The Park will provide a valuable training ground for students in education, history, environmental studies, integrated studies and other disciplines. It is recommended that a portion of the property focused around the center of the large Depression-area historical archaeological site be preserved forever for the benefit of NSC students, faculty, and residents of the City of Henderson and the Las Vegas Valley.



**Context.** A large historic archaeological site (formally known as 26Ck6573) exists on the grounds of Nevada State College. It was recorded in the late 1990s and was subject to more detailed recording in 2003 required by federal law before transferring ownership to the City Of Henderson. This site is shown on the attached map to the east and south of the new Liberal Arts and Sciences building and south of the planned Education Building but north of the retention berm. The site is a significant legacy of the construction of Hoover Dam. It was apparently inhabited by perhaps hundreds of people, including families with small children, during the period 1931-1936 when Hoover Dam was under construction. The people who lived here were likely squatters unable to find work on the dam itself. From the report by Knight and Leavitt, they built temporary homes of wood frame and canvas, operated business (both legal and illegal) such as laundries for dam workers, sold food and beverages, and repaired cars of people traveling the newly paved Boulder Highway. There is also evidence of illegal moonshine production.

**Historic and cultural values.** This is not just historic trash—it tells a story about a very significant time in our local history and provides a great opportunity to engage our students in an important historic event—the Great Depression. By linking these historic artifacts with historical records, community organizations such as the Boulder City Historical Museum, and oral histories of the surviving people who built Hoover Dam, NSC can provide a powerful integrated learning experience for our students. This site, its artifacts, and associated historic records, could provide a central theme to our First Year Experience program, which might well be one the most unique undergraduate programs at NSC. The site also provides a

natural linkage between the School of Education, a proposed K-8 school in the community, and humanities faculty of LAS.

I estimate there are 50,000 artifacts remaining. Attached are a couple of photographs showing some of the artifacts I have on loan from the Nevada State Museum in Carson City a small collection made in 2002—these were exhibited during the LAS Ribbon Cutting on Oct. 2 in the new LAS Building. There are also a number of interesting features such as cleared areas for tent or house platforms, clear areas of retail activity such as soda bottle concentrations (indicating a retail soda shop?), areas of fired brick perhaps indicating a still. There is also a clear track or road, possibly the main route connecting the site to Boulder Highway in the 1930s.

**Environmental and Ecological values.** Community focus groups convened to help NSC redesign our environmental studies program all identified the need for students graduating in environmental studies from NSC to be able to conduct hands-on environmental monitoring activities as part of essential skills needed for local employment by government agencies and private environmental firms. A nearby outdoor laboratory as described above could easily be used to support such training. Furthermore, establishment of long term ecological study plots will provide valuable data to support undergraduate research in Mojave Desert ecology, ground water monitoring, air quality and other environmental sciences. Training in botanical studies (i.e. plant identification) has been requested by local employers and local government representatives.

**Community outreach and community based learning.** This historical site and its artifacts provide an ideal opportunity for community based learning and outreach. The site itself represents an important period in the history of Las Vegas Valley and indeed all of southern Nevada. Indeed, some of the original “31’ers” are still alive and collection of oral histories by NSC studies may provide valuable and interesting insights into the depression-era southern Nevada. Students in education may develop specific curriculum or educational programming such as lesson plans to distribute to area teachers focused especially on this important site and its inhabitants.

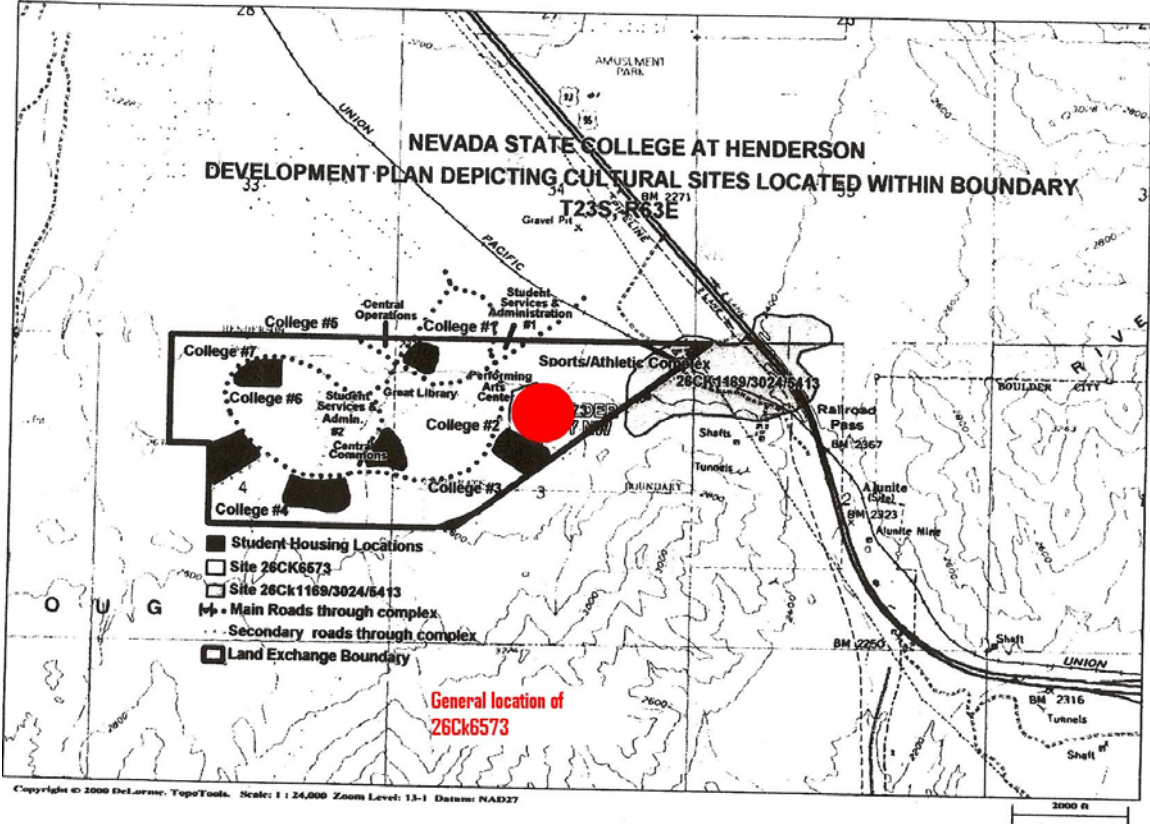
**Anthropology and Archaeology.** Although NSC does not currently have an anthropology or archaeology degree program, when NSC grows to a campus of 10,000 students it is likely that a major in anthropology will be created. Our proximity to a nearby archaeological site provides a readily available location within easy reach to conduct weekend field classes during the academic semester as is typical for many urban college campuses.

**Location.** A detailed map was made in 2002 by the City of Henderson Division of Real Property & Environmental Services by their Survey Section. I attach a scan of that map here. The more significant areas of this site I wish to preserve is indicated by a red boundary line. The corners as indicated on the map (1, 2, 3, 4) have the following coordinates (in the UTM grid, 1927 North American datum, the same datum used by the City in their map)

Corner 1 E686333 N3983500  
Corner 2 E686617 N 3983350  
Corner 3 E 686551 N 3983623  
Corner 4 E686407 N 3983686

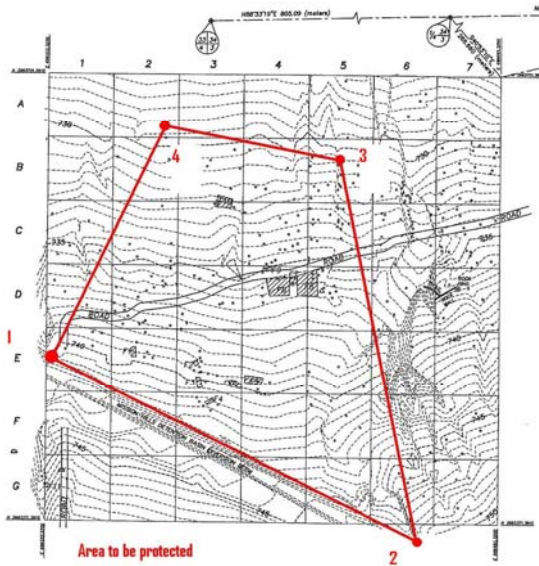
These coordinates were taken with a hand held GPS with an accuracy of +/- 5 m.

To preserve and protect this site from disturbance or development, I recommend that surveyor record the corners as indicated on the map and this are be placed off limits for development. No utility liens or corridor should be allowed to cross, and contractors should be prohibited from crossing the area in motor vehicles. I do not recommend that a fence be constructed since this might serve to draw attention to the site.



# Archeology Site 26CK6573

LYING WITHIN SECTION 3,  
TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 63 EAST, M.D.M  
CITY OF HENDERSON  
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

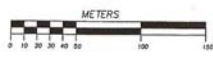


**NOTES**  
1. THIS MAP IS THE RESULT OF A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CITY OF HENDERSON SURVEY DIVISION ON MAY 3, 2003  
2. PROJECT DATUM: UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR (UTM) NORTH AMERICAN DATUM 1983 (NAD 83)

- LEGEND**
- ▲ CANYON
  - INDEX CONTOUR INTERVAL (1/2 METERS)
  - 000- INDEX CONTOUR INTERVAL (5 METERS)
  - F1 FEATURES
  - DATA COLLECTION AREA
  - ⊙ ROCK RING
  - △ TEST UNIT
  - MOUND
  - E GRID IDENTIFIER
  - 6 GRID IDENTIFIER

BLM Permit Number: 5-2460

City of Henderson, Nevada Division of Real Property & Environmental Services Survey Section		
SCALE: 1 CM = 10 METERS	DATE: MAY 3, 2003	DRAWN BY: [Name]
Archeology Site 26CK6573 <b>MAP 8</b>		



View from site 26CK6573 showing Dawson Building (in red circle)



Above: A wooden folding cot frame. Below: Lots of broken bottles—many from alcohol.



