

Nevada State Prison Preservation Society

Thoughts from the President

February 27, 2017

PRISON ACCESS

We have all been troubled by the requirement for a Change of Use Permit for NSP before we can initiate tours or any type of historic experience. The good news is that the first major step in the acquisition of that permit is underway. The Dube' Group of Reno has initiated the Code Analysis that is necessary for the application for change. This analysis will include a review of the building codes as they apply to the Prison, and an engineering survey of the proposed tour route.

Pete Dube' and his associates reviewed the tour route on Wednesday, February 8th, and Loomis Engineering began their survey on Thursday, February 23rd. This survey was supervised by NSPPS member Joe Kinsley. Normally this analysis would take approximately one month to complete, however, the weather has been an issue with delays likely. The next step will be the completion of an application for change of use. This must be completed by the Department of Corrections as they are the agency responsible for the property. The application and the code analysis are then reviewed by the State Public Works Board.

This analysis is costing our organization \$17,000. This is actually relatively inexpensive, given the Dube' Group's work on the Historic Structure Survey last year.

PRESENTATIONS

In January I made a presentation to the local chapter of the "Footprinters". This is an organization which supports law enforcement practitioners in our area. There are active and retired public safety officers and citizens involved in the organization. Their President is Douglas County Sheriff Ron Perini, a former NSP Officer and Investigator. The presentation was a general history of NSP. On February I did a second presentation: "Abe Curry, The First Warden of NSP".

Sheriff Perini has donated his personal collection of NSP artifacts to our organization; you can view these items on our website. The Footprinters are also considering us as the recipient of their annual donation. The donations received at our lectures are helping to pay for the permit process. If you are aware of an organization that would be interested in a speaker, let me know and I will work to extend our outreach and garner more support for our preservation effort.

LEGISLATURE

You are no doubt aware that the Legislature is in session. We have made contact with one Legislator who is interested in our effort and will be attending hearings that can influence our effort. Specifically, we are looking to exclude our application for change of use from fees charged by the Public Works Board. We believe that this would be an appropriate contribution by the State to the preservation. We are spending our money for the code analysis. We are not seeking an expenditure on the part of the State, other than the effort to review an application for what is a very small project.

DONATIONS

There have been significant monetary contributions to NSPPS recently that helped us obtain the necessary \$17,000 for the Code Analysis. Jo Saulisbury, Brain Hutchins, and Glen Whorton, were able to push us over the top with their donations for this project. Since then we have received a generous donation from Bensons Feed Store.

RECENT DONATION OF ARTIFACTS

Last week at our general membership meeting NSPPS was thrilled to receive a donation of important prison objects from Carol Wilding Slansky, the widow of former Deputy Director John Slansky. Many of you knew John as a friend and colleague at the Department of Corrections. His career spanned the period from 1969 through 2001. His collection includes antique locks, keys, brass currency, and much more. We are truly grateful to Carol and her son, Brandon Wilding, for this generous contribution to our effort. We will be cataloging and preparing these items for display on our website.



Glen Whorton
President
Nevada State Prison
Preservation Society