

[StewartIndianSchool.com](http://StewartIndianSchool.com)

**Stewart Indian School Trail Nevada Indian Commission**  
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[NevadaIndianTerritory.com](http://NevadaIndianTerritory.com)

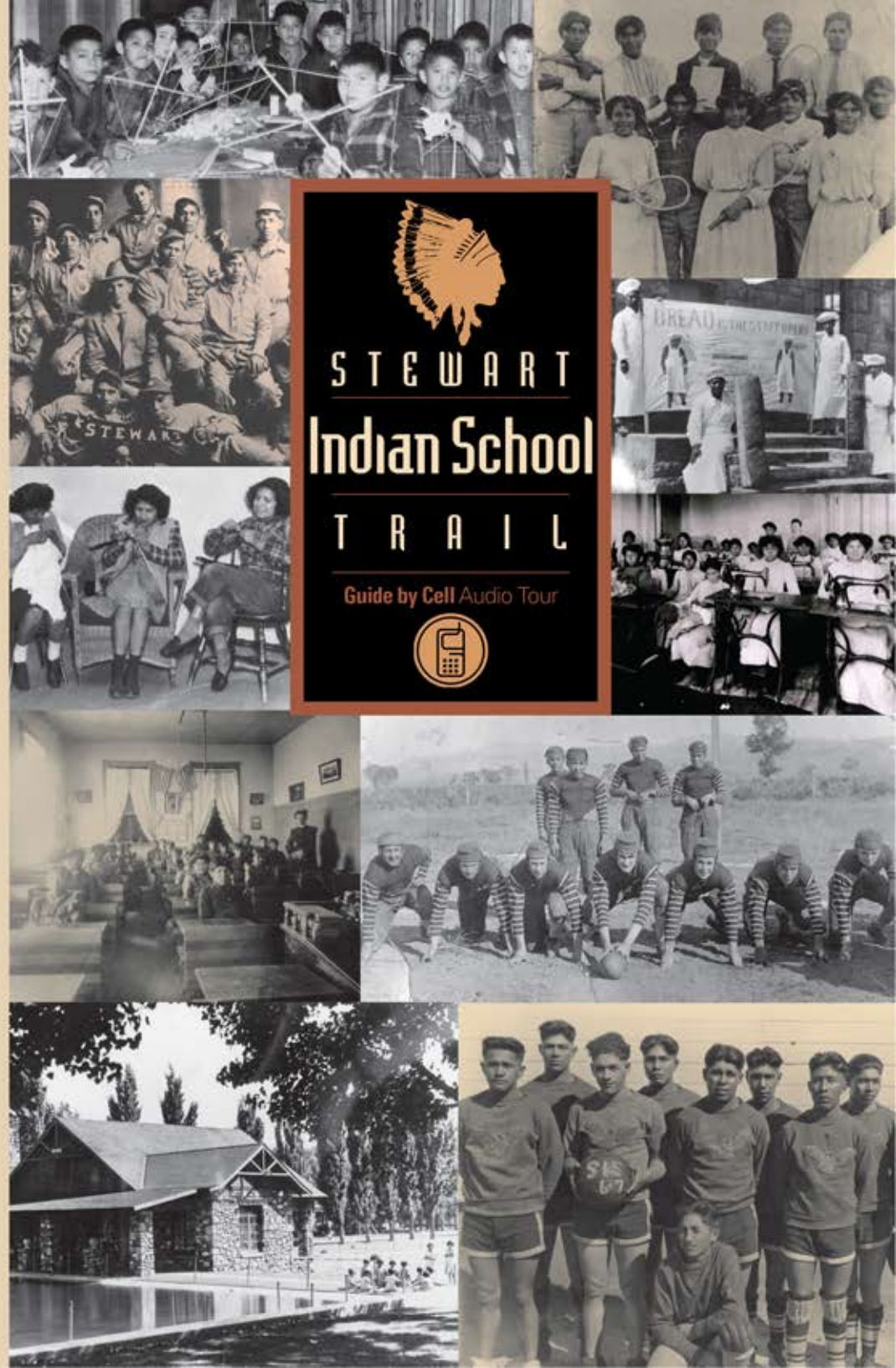


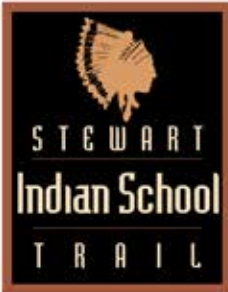
State of Nevada Indian Commission  
[NIC.NV.gov](http://NIC.NV.gov)

**NEVADA**  
A WORLD WITHIN.  
A STATE APART.

[TravelNevada.com](http://TravelNevada.com)

Photos courtesy Nevada State Museum, Carson City.





For ninety years, Stewart Indian School fulfilled a federal commitment to pursue American Indian education in Nevada. Located three miles southeast of Carson City, the school grounds encompassed 240 acres. The school opened on December 17, 1890 with 37 students from local Washoe, Paiute and Western Shoshone tribes and three teachers.

In 1888, the Nevada Legislature passed a bill that authorized the sale of bonds to purchase land for an Indian boarding school. Once purchased, the land was conveyed to the Bureau of

Indian Affairs who established the boarding school to train and educate Indian children with the ultimate goal of assimilation. The campus opened with a capacity for 100 students and included a Victorian-style wood framed dormitory and school house. As enrollment increased, new buildings included shops for training, a



hospital, and a recreation room. A Virginia and Truckee Railroad stop was established by 1906 to deliver supplies and facilitate transporting students to and from the school. By 1919, 400 students attended the school. During the next 16 years, students learning stone masonry from their teachers, including Hopi stone masons, constructed over 60 native stone buildings.

Student curriculum included classes in reading, writing, and arithmetic but focused on vocational training in various trades, agriculture,



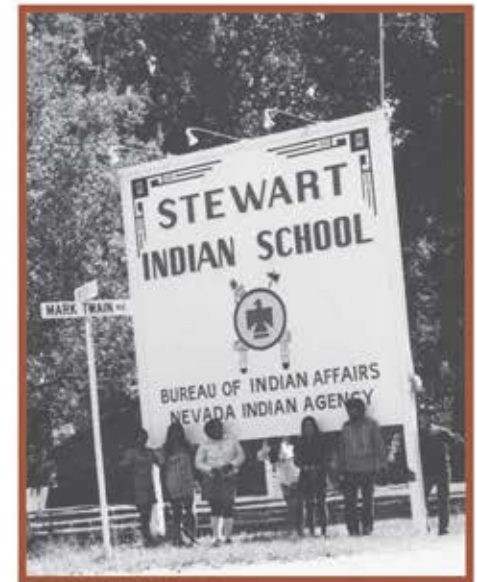
and the service industry. Classes offered for boys included ranching and farming, mechanics, wood-working, painting, and carpentry, while girls attended classes in baking, cooking, sewing, laundry, and practical nursing. Much of the school's basic needs were supplied by students' products or fulfilled by their newly acquired skills. Vocational training remained the school's principal focus until a shift to academics occurred in the late 1960's. The school closed in 1980 due to federal budget cuts and earthquake safety issues with the masonry buildings.



The State of Nevada acquired the campus through several transactions during the 1990's and is now used by the State for classes, training, and agency offices, including the Nevada Indian Commission located in the former Superintendent's home. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California established the Stewart Community on much of the former school's land.



Today, the Stewart Indian School is listed in the National Registrar of Historic Places as a Historic District. The Nevada Indian Commission is working to develop a cultural heritage destination, which includes establishment of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Welcome Center.





**Guide by Cell Audio Tour**

**How it works:**

1. Call 775.546.1460 on your cell phone.
2. When you see the on the tour signs, enter the **audio stop number** followed by the **# key**.

Signs with audio stop numbers are located near each building indicated on the map. You may remain connected throughout your visit or hang up and call back as desired. You can listen to the stories in any order. We welcome your feedback to improve our tour, so please press **0#** to leave a comment on this tour.



**Note:** This audio tour is free, but you will use your cell phone minutes while you are connected. The tour will last approximately 45 minutes.



Auditorium

**5 #**

**Auditorium**

Daisy Smith, six years old when she arrived at Stewart, shares her memories of the Auditorium and her first Christmas pageant.

**6 #**

**Steam Tunnels**

The entire Stewart Campus was heated by steam from underground tunnels which was supplied with coal and wood chips delivered by train on a V&T rail spur. Larry Hale, former Stewart Buildings & Grounds Supervisor explains.

**9 #**

**Agriculture**

Though his primary interest at the Stewart Indian School was electricity, Andy Allen recalls his memories of working in the campus butcher shop and dairy.

**10 #**

**The Quad**

A third generation employee of Stewart, William Oliver remembers his life at Stewart as a Guidance Counselor at the Quad and one student who came all the way from Japan just to attend the Stewart Indian School.

**11 #**

**Old Gym & Athletic Fields**

Judge Robey Willis shares fond memories of being the boxing coach and the assistant football coach for Stewart. He vividly describes some of his favorite moments in both the old gym and on the football field.

**15 #**

**Band Room**

Earl T. Laird, Jr. tells the story of his father, Earl Laird, the beloved Band Director of the Stewart Indian School Band, who arrived from Pennsylvania in 1930 and dedicated 39 years of service to the students of Stewart.



Wa Pai Shone

**16 #**

**Wa Pai Shone**

Terri McBride, local anthropologist, shares how the first Wa Pai Shone Trading Post was established at the Stewart Indian School. She explains how the Great Basin Native Americans sold their art and how progressive the cooperative was in its early days.



**1 #**

**Welcome Message**

Executive Director of the State of Nevada Indian Commission, Sherry L. Rupert, gives a welcome and brief history of the boarding school era and the Stewart Indian School.



Administration Bldg.

**2 #**

**Administration Bldg.**

The former Administration building, built in 1923, had many uses in its long history. Hear details for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center to be established in the building and how you can help.

**3 #**

**Small Girls Dorm**

Hear how Aletha Torn, alumna of Stewart, came to the school on a bus from the Moapa Indian Reservation in Southern Nevada when she was 12 years old. The first time away from her mother and the reservation, she tells of her life in the Small Girls Dorm and the strict rules she had to follow.



Small Boys Dorm

**4 #**

**Small Boys Dorm**

Everette Williams shares his memories of working at Stewart in the Boys Department as the Boys Dorm Attendant and the Dorm Supervisor. Hear him describe in detail the strict daily routine of the boys and the duties they were assigned if they didn't comply.



New Gym

**7 #**

**New Gym & Classroom Bldg.**

Buck Sampson, Stewart alumnus, describes how the new gym was the center for boxing in the Western United States. Buck states, "...Just like New York had Madison Square Garden, we have Moccasin Square Garden!" Buck also describes his controversial American Indian History class that was taught in the two-story classroom building.



Infirmary

**8 #**

**Infirmary**

Only 12 years old, and the first time away from the reservation and her family, Florence Millett shares her vivid memories of work at the infirmary and her personal struggle against loneliness.

**12 #**

**Shops (Carpentry)**

Students in the carpentry shop learned how to build various items such as dressers, fences and coffins. Hear Hilman Tobey describe his experiences in the early years (1926-1937) of the Stewart Indian School.



Post Office

**13 #**

**Bakery/Post Office**

The Stewart facility was in many ways a community to itself, it even had its own Post Office. Former Postal Clerk, Daryl Haines shares interesting facts about the Post Office and the campus and surrounding community it served.



Dining Hall

**14 #**

**Dining Hall**

Bernice Gorham, the first woman cook at the Stewart Dining Hall, shares how she overcame adversity and the difficulty of preparing three meals a day for 600 students - and the little secret that helped her.

**17 #**

**Older Girls Dorm**

Thelma DeLorme, alumna of Stewart, arrived at the Stewart Indian School from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony when she was 15 years old. Thelma recounts her shared life experiences in the Older Girls Dorm.

**18 #**

**Employee Cottages**

Born at Stewart in 1934, Earl T. Laird, Jr. shares his special memories of growing up in the employee cottages at Stewart. Hear Earl's emotional account of caring for one orphan American Indian boy.

**19 #**

**Superintendent's Home**

Alumna Marion Christensen recalls a Christmas memory from years ago spent at the Superintendent's home.

**20 #**

**Stone Buildings**

Who were the artisans that built the stone buildings on the campus and where were they from? Bernice Wungnema Gorham answers these questions and more.

**Stewart Indian School Trail podcasts can be downloaded at StewartIndianSchool.com to computers or smart devices.**

**Stewart Indian School Trail Assessment**

About half the trail is concrete and half asphalt, all paved. The total distance is 0.6 miles. The average grade is 1.4%. The maximum grade of the trail is 10.8% for only 2 feet. There is 27 feet of the trail between 8.0% and 10.8%. The average cross slope is 1.9%. The maximum cross slope of the trail is 7.6% for only 22 feet. There is 26 feet of the trail between 5.0% and 7.6%. The typical tread width is 78" inches. The narrowest part of the trail is 40". There are several 1" cracks on the sidewalks, but nothing of significant obstructions. There are 7 steps, 30" deep and 5.5" tall. Trail assessment provided by Beneficial Designs