

# Clark County Museum Fact Sheet



**1830 S. Boulder Highway  
(702) 455-7955  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily  
\$2 Adults, \$1 Children**

## **Railroad Cottage**

- The cottage at the Clark County Museum is one of 64 houses built between 1909 and 1911 in downtown Las Vegas on four blocks between Casino Center and Fourth Street and Garces and Clark avenues. The neighborhood represents the first large housing division in Las Vegas.
- The Las Vegas Land and Water Company, a subsidiary of the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad, built the cottages to house workers, mainly long-term employees such as conductors, engineers, clerks and brakemen. Employees paid a monthly rent of \$18 to \$20 with a future option to buy. Some cottages were purchased immediately for cash.
- The cottages had either four or five rooms. They were constructed of cement block with an open front porch and a rear screen porch.
- The cottage located at the County Museum was moved there in 2002. Its original address was 521 S. 3rd St. It was donated by the Cram family and relocated to the museum by moving company owner Lee Sorenson.
- The museum cottage is the first to be renovated to historic condition and opened for public viewing. It also is one of the most intact examples of the handful of railroad houses that remain. It has its original porch and concrete balustrade. There are four cottages located on the grounds of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. Five cottages in varying condition and use still exist downtown where the original housing division was located.
- Restoration of the cottage was funded by Clark County, the Commission for the Las Vegas Centennial, the Clark County Museum Guild and the state of Nevada Commission on Cultural Affairs.

## **Bishop Ranch Root Cellar**

- The cellar was originally part of Bishop Ranch, a horse and cattle ranch that operated from 1905 until approximately 1917 along the Las Vegas Wash in an area that is now part of Clark County Wetlands Park.
- The cellar was discovered in 2008 when archaeological work was being done at Wetlands Park to build a weir. It was relocated to the museum that year.
- The cellar was used during the active years of Bishop Ranch. It tells the story of the ranch and the value of historic archaeology, which can help piece together the lives of people of the past through objects left behind, including old toys or broken parts of pottery, jewelry or other items.
- During excavation, stones from the rock stairway and cellar were carefully removed, numbered and moved to the museum. A hole was dug on a hilltop overlooking museum property and the cellar and staircase were rebuilt. A roof with windows was added so the public can see the interior of the cellar.
- Some bottles and a flour sack were found in the original cellar during excavation and are now on display as part of the exhibit. The flour sack, now a stone, weighs about 300 pounds.
- Preservation was a joint effort by Clark County, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Las Vegas Valley Water District, the U.S. Bureau of Water Reclamation and HRA Archaeology.