

## **Industrial Businesses in Downtown Reno in the 1955-1970 timeframe.**

While not all inclusive, this list is drawn from records at the Reno Public Library.

(I performed this research in late 2020 looking at the records that I found, while not all inclusive)

I have tried to locate most tracks from Record Street north toward the now I-80 Freeway.

From what I have found some may have call this the Freight District which was like a industrial park in the early 50's to late 70's. Most of the area north of East Sixth Street was and is still residential area.

The old NCO Depot still stands and is used as the Depot Craft Brewery Distillery. Several of the old industrial buildings that WP served in the area are long gone and several are now other businesses.

The Western Pacific and the Southern Pacific shared some of the trackage in this area

- 1- Western Pacific Station (325 E. 4th St.). Originally built as the Nevada California & Oregon Railroad Depot, this building became the offices of the Western Pacific when the branch line was built. By 1970 all passenger service had been long gone. Western Pacific Freight Offices were upstairs and Sierra Liquors Wholesalers were down stairs. The two warehouse buildings (at 395 E. 4th St., 1a and 1b) were built later as warehouses.
- 2- Monarch Institutional Foods (420 Evans Ave.). Also known as Reno Grocers Company in the 1940's, was a cold storage warehouse which dealt in wholesale food distribution, there was rail service to this building.
3. Bender Warehouse #1 (315 E. 5th St.). Unknown commodities, but it appears that this building and the next were once different structures.
- 4, Bender Warehouse #2(520 E. 5th St.) Again, I am unsure as to what this building stored, it did have rail service. This whole area (area A) also once belonged to the Red River Lumber Co. Actual milling was apparently performed here to the 1950's (Sanborn Maps). It was known as the Paul Bunyan Lumber Company.
5. Bally Distributing Company (390 E. 6th St.). Rails did save the side of the building; this was a vending machine" warehouse. Bally became big with slot machines.
6. Wells Mfg. Company (P.I.E. in 1948) (410 E. 6th St.). While listed as a auto fuel systems manufacturer. I included this site because it was home to Pacific Intermountain Express (P.I.E.) in 1948 I have seen pictures of its trailers later on WP intermodal trains at later times. It also has doors for rail service on the east side of the building.
7. Undetermined (450 E. 6th St.). I was unable to find out the business that occupied this building. It may have been a furniture wholesale warehouse. There are rail service doors on the west side and shares a common track with 410 F. 6th St.
8. Nevada Food King #11 Super Market (595 Valley Rd.) While not having rail service, I found the structure interesting. It should be noted that this business existed due to the large residential population that was in the area in the 40's-50's-60's.

- 9 Reno Lumber and Hardware (505 Valley Rd.).I was unable to determine if there was rail service to this business, but it would seem highly likely due in the nature of its focus and location. It backs up to the yard and is very likely to have had service.
10. Granny Goose Foods (501 Valley Rd.}. Housing a distributorship, the building was built around tracks serving other businesses and has doors that match heights of rail car floors. I was unable to determine if this business had rail service.
11. Farmers Machinery & Supply Co (495 Valley Rd.). This was once a part of what I call the Sears Yard. Sears operated their warehouse (at #12) and this building into the 1950's (Sanborn). This was their tractor dealership; farming was pretty big in Nevada at that time. Later this operator was in the building and was another dealer in tractors and farming implements. The building did have rail service and the loading dock was at an odd angle to match the tracks serving it.
12. Alber's Ranch & Garden Center (Ex Sears, 475 Valley Rd.). Sears & Roebuck operated their warehouse here at least through 1955. Alber's is listed as the occupant in 1970, and operated their warehouse here. Whether Alber's had rail service or not, I do not know, but there are three doors on the west side of the building and a truck dock on the east.
13. Old NCO Shops. Appliance Center Repair and Retail (401 E. 4th St.). While not a rail served building in 1970, there were a succession of businesses in this building. It is interesting because it is one of the only surviving NCO buildings and it was immediately next to the tracks.
14. Albers - Deming Flour Company (441 E 4th St) Empty lot today. No information found, other than listed as a flour and feed warehouse (1955)
- 15 Nevada Building Materials Wholesale (Zellerbach 1955. Mayflower Moving 1948, 420 Valley Rd). This building did have rail service to the north side. Paper was shipped in boxcars. Whether service remained after Zellerbach left, is unknown.
16. Reno Fuel Inc. (480 Elko Ave) Receiving both fuel oil and coal, this yard had service by the Western Pacific (Sanborn).
17. Nevada Bell, Plant Department (430 Elko Ave / 435 Eureka Ave.). No rail service documented.
18. McKesson & Robbins Wholesale Drugs (445 Eureka Ave.). A wholesale drug supply warehouse, may or may not have had rail service in 1970.
19. Reno Fuel Yard (449 Eureka Ave.). The back half of number 16, there were tanks and coal bins here, the spur ran along side of the Nevada Bell Warehouse.
20. Sierra Pacific Power, Construction Yard (510 Eureka Ave.). A construction yard is listed for Sierra Pacific Power Company, rail service was shown in 1955 (Sanborn). The facility once consisted of Gas storage tanks (to include one holding 300,000 cuft), generators, shops etc. Today it is a parking lot.

21. Bissinger & Co. Hides (454 Eureka Ave.). As late as 1963 Bissinger & Company shipped hides for tanning out of this location. A nasty lading, only the worst of cans were used for shipment, as the cars could not be used for anything else afterwards.
  22. Luce & Sons Inc. (750 E. 5th St.). A liquor warehouse this facility also served as a Miller Beer Distributorship in 1970. Prior to that it is listed as a paint factory or warehouse called Gardner Supply and was served by the Western Pacific.
  23. Lute & Sons Inc. (670 E. 6th St.). The liquor business was big in Reno, there were many beer warehouses listed in the 1955 Sanborn map. Luce and Son moved into this building with multiple rail leads. One is on the south side, one enters the building from the west, the other curves to serve the west side of the building along side of the Sierra Pacific Power yard.
  24. Flanigan Warehouse, Building Materials (408 Eureka Ave.). They advertised building supplies and janitorial supplies. They were originally served by the NCO on the south (E. 4th St.) side of the building, but 'modern' rail service was to the east side between the building and the motel.
  25. Farmers Exchange, Frozen Food Distributors (Poultry and Produce 1955). Originally a poultry (eggs) and produce packing plant, it became a frozen food distributorship. It appears to have had rail service to the rear, but this is unconfirmed.
  26. Sierra Fuel (550 Elko Ave.). Advertising coal and fuel oil, I found this business was listed as early as 1948, how late they were operating was not determined, they had rail service. As late as 1999 the lot was being used, but for what I was unable to determine.
- Sierra Recycling (455 Elko Ave.), A produce packing plant and a motor freight company west listed in 1955 as being rail served industries, the names I did not find in record. Today, Sierra Recycling occupies the site. Rails once ran into the facility, today metal is cut and ground up and then taken by truck to gondolas set out on the new Union Pacific team track in the old Reno Yard.
28. Ramp (no address, in the yard). There a loading ramp located here. Trailers or items could be loaded circus style onto flat cars. I was not able to determine whether this was used for general loading by the rail road, prior to Parr Yard or by the tractor dealer located next door, or both.
  29. Washoe Fuel Inc. (originally located on or near 390 E. 6th St., in 1970 was listed as 321 E. 5th St.). This was a Wood and Coal Yard" I understood wood" to mean lumber yard and it was located directly next door to the Paul Bunyan Lumber Mill (the planning mill for the company was located directly behind Washoe on E. 5th St.) with a number of coal bins pictured on the 1955 Sanborn map. Entrance by 1970 was off the end of E. 5th St where the planning mill had sat.
  30. Beer Warehouse no name found (423 Eureka Ave.). I do not have any other information on this other than it was listed on the 1955 Sanborn.