

Assembly Bill No. 381–Assemblymen Hickey,  
Hardy; Hambrick, Kirkpatrick and Stewart

Joint Sponsors: Senators Hardy, Hutchison,  
Denis; Parks and Roberson

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to historic preservation; encouraging the Office of Historic Preservation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to collaborate with Partners in Conservation to identify and develop programs for the preservation and protection of the historical culture of St. Thomas, Nevada; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

This bill recognizes the cultural significance of St. Thomas, Nevada, and encourages the identification and development of programs for the preservation and protection of the historical culture of St. Thomas.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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WHEREAS, The first settlements in Clark County were established in 1865 at St. Thomas, Nevada, and officially vacated in 1938 when the rising waters created from the Hoover Dam flooded the town; and

WHEREAS, St. Thomas contains unique, culturally important resources; and

WHEREAS, The flooding of St. Thomas has alienated the residents of Clark County from their heritage, threatening the protection and preservation of the town’s cultural resources for the enjoyment of future generations; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service requires accommodation for traditionally associated groups whose traditions are closely tied to the resources in a park area; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service has encouraged park managers to be proactive with such traditionally associated groups regarding the protection and preservation of their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Local governments in the communities surrounding Northeast Clark County have publicly expressed their desire to promote the cultural heritage of St. Thomas and the original settlers of Clark County by establishing Traditionally Associated Group status with the National Park Service at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area; and



WHEREAS, Partners in Conservation, a nonprofit corporation, has demonstrated a desire to help identify and develop programs for the preservation and protection of the historical culture of St. Thomas; now, therefore

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

1. St. Thomas contains unique, culturally important resources.
2. To preserve, protect and promote for the benefit of present and future generations the unique, culturally important resources of St. Thomas, the Nevada Legislature hereby encourages the Office of Historic Preservation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to collaborate with Partners in Conservation to identify and develop programs for the preservation and protection of the historical culture of St. Thomas, including, without limitation, programs related to culturally developed waters, natural resource pathways, culturally associated resource sites and living history projects relating to pioneer cultural resources.

**Sec. 2.** The provisions of this act must not be construed to affect or prohibit any planning for or the development or use of any water resource in this State, including, without limitation, the attainment of full capacity for the storage of water in Lake Mead.

**Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

