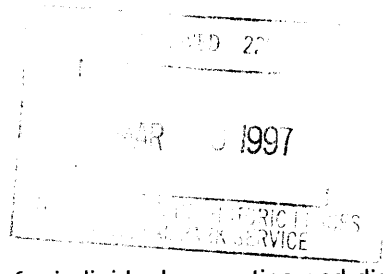


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: **Ellsworth, Abner, House**
other names/site number: **N/A**

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: **260 North 8th Street** not for publication: N/A
city or town: **Show Low** vicinity: N/A
state: **Arizona** code: **AZ** county: **Navajo** code: **017** zip code: **85901**

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Galloway ASAPD
Signature of certifying official

3/20/97
Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register _____
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- removed from the National Register _____
- other (explain): _____

for Betty A. Savage

Signature of Keeper

4/25/97

Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u> 1 </u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC Subcategory: Single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: VACANT/NOT IN USE

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL Subcategory: Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE
roof: OTHER/Composition shingle
walls: BRICK
other: WOOD/Woodframe addition on northwest corner

Narrative Description (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS*)

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914-1946

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gardner, Edward (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS*)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Bibliography (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS*)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: N/A

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 0.43

UTM References (See accompanying USGS map for point references)
Zone 12 589010E 3790340N

Verbal Boundary Description

Tax parcel number 210-19-031F, Navajo County, Arizona; in Section 20, T10N, R22E, Gila & Salt River Meridian

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house and acreage that have historically been part of the Abner Ellsworth property and that maintain historic integrity. Parcels north, west, and south of the boundary that were originally part of the Ellsworth property have been excluded because they have been developed in modern times and have lost integrity.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title: **Pat Stein**
organization: **Arizona Preservation Consultants** date: **August 1996**
street/number: **2124 N. Isabel St., Suite 100** telephone: **(520) 214-0375**
city or town: **Flagstaff** state: **AZ** zip code: **86004**

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: **Kenneth Ellsworth**
street & number: **16239 E. Mesquite.** telephone: **(602) 892-9592**
city or town: **Gilbert** state: **Arizona** zip code: **85296**
=====

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

=====

DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Abner Ellsworth House is a two-story brick Colonial Revival style home with a modified rectangular plan, a complex roof, and symmetrical massing. Its full-height front porch reflects a Greek Revival influence. The roof of the house is cross-hipped with higher cross gables. Architectural details include wooden shingles (still present on the gable ends) and turned balustrades on the front and side porches. The house faces south within Lot 15, an agricultural plot associated with the historic Show Low Townsite as platted by Mormon colonist W. F. Flake and surveyed by W. D. Rencher in 1903. The building has seen little alteration since its construction in 1914 and possesses good integrity.

Location and Setting

The Abner Ellsworth House is located in Show Low, Navajo County, Arizona, on North 8th Street approximately 100 yds south of its intersection with U.S. Highway 60 (State Route 77) (Figure 1). Situated at an altitude of approximately 6350 ft, Show Low lies in the drainage of the Little Colorado, a major river of the Colorado Plateau. A permanent stream, Show Low Creek, flows near the eastern edge of the city. Rich soils along its banks have supported a variety of crops and cultures, including cornfields of ancient farmers, grainfields of pioneer ranchers, and orchards of Mormon colonists. The natural vegetation is mixed ponderosa/pinyon-juniper forest. Immediately south of Show Low, the vegetation changes to dense ponderosa pine forest which historically supported a lumber industry. A short distance north of Show Low, the land gives way to rolling grasslands that have supported ranching.

The Ellsworth house is within Lot 15, an agricultural tract that historically was part of the Mormon townsite of Show Low, platted by W. F. Flake and surveyed by W. D. Rencher in 1903 (Rencher 1903). Lot 15 lay immediately west of the nine-block residential portion of the townsite (Figure 2). Abner Ellsworth was the first owner of Lot 15, which included ten acres. When Ellsworth built his home in 1914, he sited it toward the northern end of his acreage and oriented it facing south so that it would overlook his land holdings, rather than east facing his townsite neighbors. Most of Lot 15 now contains modern commercial and residential buildings. Only the small portion of the lot that retains historic integrity -- an approximately 147 by 127 ft parcel containing the Ellsworth house and 0.43 acres -- is hereby nominated to the National Register (Figure 3).

Description

The Abner Ellsworth House is a two-story Colonial-Revival style brick house constructed for Ellsworth in the summer and fall of 1914 by builder Ed Gardner (*Snowflake Herald* 6/27/1914 and 11/13/1914). Its red bricks were made from clay and sand occurring at the Cluff-Ellsworth homestead, approximately a mile southeast of the building site. Philemon Merrell made the bricks in a kiln which he operated on that homestead for a brief period during the 1910s (Stake History 1993:57). Gardner used an American common bond pattern when laying the walls of the Ellsworth house.

The roof of the Ellsworth House is cross-hipped, with higher cross gables. The hipped portion has a box cornice; the gable ends have raking cornices and small cornice returns. The entire roof was originally clad with wooden shingles.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2 Abner Ellsworth House
 Navajo County, Arizona

=====

These still remain, but were sheathed with composition shingles at an unknown date. Wooden shingles still adorn the gable ends. Wall dormers with hipped roofs project from the north, east, and west sides of the roof.

The house plan is rectangular, measuring approximately 47 by 40 ft. The plan became modified when a 24 by 12 ft woodframe shed was added to the rear (northwest) corner of the building early in the building's history. The roof of the addition contains a chute leading from a second-story door on the west side of the house. This appears to have been a laundry chute; the shed was probably a laundry room. The shed cannot be seen from the main elevations of the house and therefore does not detract from the building's integrity.

The main (south) elevation exhibits rigidly symmetrical massing. It is dominated by a full-height porch showing a Greek Revival influence. The porch is supported by four prominent wooden posts that are square in section but beveled in their central portions. The porch is central and recessed. A cross gable of the roof extends over the porch, essentially capping it with a triangular pediment in the Greek Revival style. Other notable details of the porch include its second-story sleeping porch; a second-story, turned balustrade; a concrete deck; and tongue-and-groove ceilings. A circa 1920 photo shows that the porch originally also had a first-story turned balustrade, brackets, and a spindlework frieze, but these elements are now missing.

A second porch occurs at the northeast corner of the building. It is also recessed but only of one story. It has an eave balustrade, the balusters of which repeat the pattern seen on the second story of the front porch. Approximately one-third of the side porch was infilled circa 1950 to create a modern bathroom. The infilled area (measuring 9.6 by 7.8 ft) is framed in wood and sheathed in stucco.

All window and door openings are intact. The windows and doors that remain are original, although many are missing and have been boarded shut (the house has been vacant since the late 1960s). The windows are 2-over-2 with wooden sashes, beveled wooden lintels, and unbeveled wooden sills. The doors are four-panel and of wood, with original hardware and transoms.

The interior contains seven rooms on the first floor and five on the second floor (excluding the modern bathroom on the northeast porch and the shed addition at the northwest corner). Interior walls are plaster-and-lath with a stucco finish. All interior walls appear to have been painted rather than papered. Three rooms of the first floor have intact, pressed metal ceilings. The metal ceilings of the parlor and dining room are notable for their intricate designs, featuring cherubs and floral motifs. Tongue-and-groove ceilings occur on the second floor. Throughout the house are many original doors that still have functional transoms.

Integrity

The Abner Ellsworth House has seen little change since its construction in 1914. Early in its history, a woodframe shed was added to the northwest corner. Circa 1950, a bathroom was added to the first story by infilling approximately one-third of the side porch. In the modern era, the soft red brick of the exterior walls began to exhibit basal erosion, and so a concrete skirt was plastered over the brick from the foundation up to the first-story window sills. The house has been

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

=====

vacant since the late 1960s. As a result, some of its windows and doors are now missing or broken. Children lit a fire in the parlor that burned its floor and that of the kitchen. The foundation shows signs of settling, with mortar cracks apparent in the brickwork.

Although its setting has changed as its surrounding land has become infilled, the Ellsworth building still retains good integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It still retains the appearance of a Mormon home of the early twentieth century. As Section 8 of this nomination indicates, the Ellsworth house is a good example of Mormon domestic architecture in historic Show Low. With the owner's permission, the Show Low Main Street program hopes to restore the building and find an adaptive use for it, perhaps as a museum or restaurant. Restoration plans include returning the original furniture to the building, presently held in storage.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 1 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

=====

SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Abner Ellsworth House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a significant example of Mormon domestic architecture in early twentieth century Show Low. The building was an important visual element of the Mormon landscape of this historic town. It embodied the "City of Zion" directive, developed by church founder Joseph Smith and espoused by church president Brigham Young, to build substantial houses of brick or stone. The Ellsworth home was one of four handsome brick residences built in Show Low during the 1910s. They were the finest examples of Mormon residential architecture ever built in the town. Of the four, only two remain. Of these two, the Ellsworth house retains the higher degree of architectural integrity. Thus it is a good example of an important but now rare property type in Show Low. Its level of significance is local.

Historical Background

Show Low's past extends to prehistoric times. By A.D. 1200, Native Americans lived in a village near what is now the center of Show Low. Called Show Low Ruin and Whipple Ruin by archaeologists, the prehistoric pueblo flourished until its abandonment in the late fourteenth century (Haury and Hargrave 1931). Two centuries later, the Show Low area and rugged country south of it began to be exploited by the Western Apache (Goodwin 1942; Goodwin and Basso 1971). A semi-nomadic people, the Apache practiced a hunting and gathering economy that seasonally took them to the Show Low area in search of ripening plants and wild game.

Marion Clark and Corydon Cooley are believed to have been the first non-Indians to settle in Show Low. In 1869, Cooley, a military veteran and Army scout, arrived on the scene in search of the lost Doc Thorn mine, rumored to lie in the wilds of the White Mountains. He never located the mine, but found the Show Low locality so inviting that he decided to return and put down roots. When he returned in the summer of 1873, Cooley found Marion Clark living there. By the end of that year, the two men were partners in a plan to develop water rights and make other improvements to the land. They raised barley, other grains, and some vegetables, selling much of their produce to Fort Apache. At an early date, they introduced cattle to their ranch, employing Mexicans from Springerville (40 miles east of Show Low) as ranch hands (Van Metre 1958; Wharfield 1966).

Show Low is said to have gotten its name from a card game. The best-researched and most widely-accepted account of the game is the following; by Van Metre's estimate, the event occurred in 1875 or 1876:

Cooley and Clark, for some time realizing that there was not room enough for both of them (possibly due to Cooley's expanding family), decided to dissolve their partnership by playing a game of Seven-Up to see which of them should retain the ranch. As the last hand was dealt, all but one of Cooley's counters lay in the pot, indicating that he merely needed one point to win the game. Since in Seven-Up points are counted -- high, low, and game -- and the player counting out first wins, regardless of the total game score; Clark, looking over his hand, which probably contained high cards, saw that if Cooley held a low card he would win. "If you can show low you take the ranch," said Clark. "Show low it is!" cried Cooley, and thus Show Low, Arizona, was named [Van Metre 1958:24].

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

=====

Other historians have recounted significantly different versions of the event. Sharlot Hall (nd) stated that the game occurred in 1869 and that Cooley, A. F. Banta, and Henry Wood Dodd were its players. Joseph Fish (nd) and Thomas Farish (1915) both related that Dodd played Cooley in 1872, with the latter emerging as the winner. Jesse Benton (1943) wrote that Cooley played Henry Huning and that Cooley won. Local lore became further embellished when the *Arizona Republic* published a story stating that Cooley won by "a deuce of clubs" (Myers 1956:18). Despite the fact that there was no historical evidence indicating exactly what the winning card had been, the Chamber of Commerce seized the notion and renamed Show Low's main street the "Deuce of Clubs."

Cooley's ranch continued to develop following the card game and Clark's departure. Visitors described it as primitive but hospitable (*Arizona Citizen* 11/11/1876; Summerhayes 1979). Cattle and crops raised at the ranch fetched healthy prices at Fort Apache (Wild 1964).

The first members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) to reach Show Low came not as colonists but as farm laborers. In 1876, Mormons Alfred Cluff and David Adams found employment with Cooley (Wharfield 1966). When they suggested that Cooley's soils might become depleted from all the barley he was growing, the rancher financed their journey to Utah to secure a replacement crop, corn. Cluff and Adams returned with a thousand pounds of white flint that soon yielded a good crop. The following summer, Cluff rented land from Cooley and began raising his own crops (Peterson 1973). A short time later, Cluff and a few other Mormons settled on Show Low Creek about a mile above Cooley's ranch. Circa 1880, Cluff sold his ranch to fellow church member Frank Ellsworth.

Despite occasional disputes with the newcomers (Wharfield 1966), Cooley lived mostly amicably with them as he expanded his own operation. In 1880 or 1881, Cooley entered into a partnership with Henry Huning, a successful rancher from Los Lunas, New Mexico. Huning's capital stimulated a period of new development at the ranch; among the new buildings were barns, a blacksmith shop, a house for Huning, and a new home for Cooley (Wharfield 1966).

In 1883, the General Land Office (GLO) surveyed the township in which Show Low occurs (Township 10 North, Range 22 East), thereby officially opening the area for homesteading (GLO 1884). Cooley applied for and received in 1888 a homestead patent for 160 acres. In October of the following year, he sold all his Show Low holdings to Huning for \$10,000 (*Saint Johns Herald* 10/31/1889) and moved to his other residence near Fort Apache reservation (Wharfield 1966).

Huning continued to expand his holdings after buying out Cooley. Circa 1889, the ranch totaled 66,000 acres; by 1903, Huning increased it to more than a half million acres (Eberhart 1964). Judge Richard E. Sloan, who often visited the ranch, described Huning as aristocratic and his estate as baronial, with a wine cellar, Chinese cook, and "a very fine library, made up largely of German classics" (Sloan 1932:179).

Despite such trappings of success, Huning was generally unsuccessful in his attempts to obtain government supply contracts (Wharfield 1966). In large measure this was because military contracts diminished greatly in number at the end of the Indian Wars. Huning also experienced problems when he became embroiled in the 1890s in a series of legal controversies affecting his land and ability to run the ranch successfully. In 1891, he was indicted for falsely filing a homestead claim. The case dragged on for three years before Huning was finally acquitted. In the mid to late 1890s, he was accused by the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company and the federal government of illegally fencing railroad and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

=====

public lands (Jennings 1969). Creation of the Forest Reserve system (precursor of the USDA Forest Service) around the turn of the century spelled additional trouble; Huning and other large-scale ranchers found themselves facing a litany of grazing regulations to which they were unaccustomed. The beleaguered rancher therefore responded favorably when he was approached by parties willing to buy his holdings. In 1903, Huning sold his Show Low assets -- including land, improvements, and ranch machinery -- for \$13,500.

The purchasers were a group of six Mormon colonists headed by William J. Flake of Snowflake. The transaction continued a process of colonization from Utah into the Little Colorado River Valley that had begun in the 1870s (McClintock 1965; Peterson 1973). The earliest colonists squatted on land or purchased claims outright from established ranchers. As decades passed, the colonists bought more of their land through agents, of whom the most prominent was Flake. Flake had been called to this role by church president Brigham Young in a dream, and regarded it as his divine province to arrange land transactions for his brethren. He found, assessed, and purchased worthy ranches, then resold them, usually at cost, to interested colonists. His 1903 purchase of Show Low was one of the last for the 64-year old agent. It was said of Flake, "He bought ranches; he made towns" (Peterson 1973:163). Certainly this was true in the case of Show Low.

Flake's partners in the Huning purchase were James C. Owens, John Henry Willis, Abner and Frank Ellsworth, and Neils Hansen (Eberhart 1964). Other Mormons soon moved to Show Low and became shareholders: Charles H. Frost, Jesse J. Brady, Daniel Mills, Edward Stock, Calvin Stratton, Oscar Reidhead, Charles T. Savage, Edmund Ellsworth, Alonzo Clark Merrell, Rebecca Hall, William H. Oliver, Mary Ann McNeil, George M. Adams, and Hans Hansen (Ward History nd).

The Mormons lost no time in town-building (Stake History 1993). In 1903 they commissioned surveyor W. D. Rencher to lay out a formal townsite (Rencher 1903; Figure 2). The survey, based on a plat by Flake -- with wide streets, ample building lots, and large agricultural parcels -- embodied the "City of Zion" precepts of Mormon community life. The block containing "the White House" (Cooley's old home) was dedicated to the church. Fields were divided into plots and ranked in terms of their agricultural value. The shareholders drew numbers from each class of land, and then traded among themselves so that each owner's lands could be fenced within one enclosure. The settlers quickly formed the Joint Stock Company for the purpose of upgrading and replacing the antiquated irrigation system built by Cooley and Huning. In 1904-1905, they also opened a branch of the Arizona Cooperative Mercantile Association (ACMI) to facilitate their economic needs (Peterson 1973). Across the street from the ACMI building, they established a tithing lot, and in 1906 they began to build a community house that would double as a church and school. Mrs. George Adams became their first postmistress (Theobald and Theobald 1961).

Show Low continued to grow as a Mormon agricultural community in the second decade of the twentieth century. The 1910 census indicated that it had a population of 201 residents; adult males worked mostly in ranching or farming (U.S. Census Bureau 1910). A local lumber industry also became established around this time, providing seasonal employment. Virtually all of Show Low's residents circa 1910 were Mormons (Stake History 1993). Shortly before construction of the Abner Ellsworth House in 1914, a church member conducted a special census of the community (Greer 1913). He found that its 235 residents lived in 39 houses; 11 families had comfortable homes, 18 families needed better homes, and the houses of 9 families needed repairs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 Abner Ellsworth House
 Navajo County, Arizona

=====

Criterion C: The Architectural Significance of the Abner Ellsworth House

As members of Show Low began to enjoy the fruits of their labors, their prosperity was translated into the homes they built. They heeded Brigham Young's dictum to "Build good houses, make fine farms...and build up and adorn a beautiful city..." (Brigham Young cited by Maddex 1985:146). Brick or stone houses were particularly prescribed in the City of Zion plan for Mormon colonization (Francaviglia 1970; Comeaux 1981). Historic resource surveys confirm that some of the finest Mormon domestic architecture of northern Arizona was constructed of these materials (Ryden 1991 and 1993; Johns and Strittmatter 1996).

Show Low was not rich in construction-grade stone. Its soft, buff-colored sandstone was used prehistorically in Show Low Ruin and historically in one building, the Show Low Jail, erected in 1935. Its only other building-quality stone -- malpais, a dark-colored rock of volcanic origin -- was never favored in Show Low, perhaps because of its coarse appearance; the only historic building of this material was the Hale Brimhall House, constructed in 1935 (Stein 1994).

Show Low *did* have the materials for brick manufacture, an activity conducted by Philemon Merrell for a brief period in the early 1910s. Merrell found suitable clay and sand at the Cluff-Ellsworth homestead. He solicited customers in advance, then built a kiln on the homestead and fired bricks. His enterprise found four ready customers, all Mormons who had achieved some measure of success by local standards: Charles Savage, a merchant; Charles Reidhead, a rancher; James C. Owens, a rancher and bishop of the Show Low LDS Ward; and Abner Ellsworth, a farmer (U.S. Census Bureau 1910; Peplow 1958).

Abner Ellsworth was 56 years old when he had his brick home built; his wife, Betsy Ann Merrell, was 47. By 1910, the couple felt the pinch of living in cramped quarters. All of their eight children, including three adult sons, still lived at home. Their grown offspring -- Arthur, Wifford, and Whittie -- not yet married, worked as laborers on their father's farm (U.S. Census Bureau 1910). Abner Ellsworth would continue to live in the house until his death in 1936 (*Snowflake Herald* 12/25/1936). Following his death, Betsy continued to live in the family home with son Abner and his wife, Ina, through the rest of the historic period. The home remains in Ellsworth family ownership today, but has been vacant since the late 1960s.

Each of the four homes constructed in Show Low with brick from Merrell's kiln was handsome and distinctive. The 1911 Reidhead house was built in the Colonial Revival style, with a square plan, hipped roof, symmetrical massing, and hipped dormers; it stood northwest of the residential portion of the townsite, in Agricultural Lot 4. The Owens home, constructed circa 1913, stood at the corner of 9th Street and Huning. It was an "I" house, a vernacular form of architecture common in Mormon settlements in Utah and northern Arizona (Francaviglia 1970; Comeaux 1981). The 1914 Ellsworth home was in the Colonial Revival style but had a full-height, Greek Revival porch; these revival style elements were popular among the Mormons of Arizona and Utah in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Constructed by Ed Gardner, the Ellsworth house stood on Agricultural Lot 15, immediately west of the residential portion of the townsite. The Savage home was erected just north of the LDS Church in late 1915. It was a two-story, Queen Anne style home with large bay windows and exuberant millwork detailing.

These four homes marked the apex of Mormon residential architecture in Show Low. Local historians and knowledgeable members of the public agree that they were the grandest homes constructed in the community during

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

=====

historic times. The Ellsworth home in particular was referred to as a "mansion" in the local newspaper (*Snowflake Herald* 10/30/1914).

Sadly, only the Reidhead and Ellsworth homes remain. The Savage home was razed around 1950, and the Owens house was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1954-1955 (Stake History 1993). Of the Reidhead and Ellsworth properties, the Reidhead house (still occupied) is in better condition; the Ellsworth place (vacant) retains a higher degree of architectural integrity. The Ellsworth house is thus significant locally as an important but now rare property type in Show Low: a solidly-constructed Mormon house of the early twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

=====

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arizona Citizen

1876 *Arizona Citizen*, 11/11/1876. Microfilm copy on file, Department of Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

Benton, Jesse James

1943 *Cow by the Tail*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Comeaux, Malcolm

1981 *Arizona: A Geography*. Westview Press, Boulder.

Eberhart, Fred

1964 Pioneer Village Planned: Show Low Residents to Restore Historic Buildings. *Arizona Republic*, 12/6/1964. Copy on file, State Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

Farish, Thomas E.

1915 *History of Arizona*. Thomas E. Farish, Phoenix.

Fish, Joseph

nd History of Arizona. Ms. on file, Arizona Historical Society, Tucson.

Francaviglia, R. V.

1970 The Mormon Landscape. *Proceedings of the Association of American Geographers* 2:59-61.

General Land Office (GLO)

1884 Plat of Township 10 North, Range 22 East, Gila and Salt River Meridian. Microfiche copy on file, State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix.

Goodwin, Grenville

1942 *The Social Organization of the Western Apache*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Goodwin, Grenville, and Keith H. Basso

1971 *Western Apache Raiding and Warfare*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Greer, Thomas R.

1913 A Community Survey. Ms. on file, Family History Center, Show Low.

Hall, Sharlot

nd Notes. Ms on file, Sharlot Hall Museum, Prescott.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

=====

Haury, Emil W., and Lyndon L. Hargrave
1931 *Recently Dated Pueblo Ruins in Arizona*. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections 82(11).

Jennings, James R.
1969 *The Freight Rolled*. Naylor Company, San Antonio.

Johns & Strittmatter
1996 *Historic Resource Survey of Pine, Arizona*. Johns & Strittmatter, Tucson. Report on file, State Historic Preservation Office, Phoenix.

Maddex, Diane
1985 *All About Old Buildings: The Whole Preservation Catalog*. Preservation Press, Washington, DC.

McClintock, James H.
1985 *Mormon Settlement in Arizona*. (Originally published in 1921.) University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Myers, John
1956 *The White Mountains West*. *Arizona Republic Magazine*, 7/1/1956.

Peplow, Edward H.
1958 *History of Arizona. Volume III: Family and Personal History*. Lewis Historical Publishing Company, New York.

Peterson, Charles S.
1973 *Take Up Your Mission: Mormon Colonizing along the Little Colorado River 1870-1900*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Rencher, W. D.
1903 *Showlow Townsite*. Copy on file, Navajo County Recorder, Holbrook.

Ryden, Don W.
1991 *A Historic Resource Survey of Eagar, Arizona*. Don W. Ryden, AIA/Architects. Report on file, State Historic Preservation Office, Phoenix.

1993 *A Historic Resource Survey of the Towns of Snowflake and Taylor, Arizona*. Don W. Ryden, AIA/Architects. Report on file, State Historic Preservation Office, Phoenix.

Saint Johns Herald
1889 *Saint Johns Herald*, 10/31/1889. Microfilm copy on file, Department of Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

Sloan, Richard E.
1932 *Memories of an Arizona Judge*. Stanford University Press, Palo Alto.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 3 Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

Snowflake Herald

var *Snowflake Herald*. Microfilm copy on file, Department of Library, Archives, and Public Records, Phoenix.

Stake History

1993 *Firm as the Mountains: A History of the Show Low Arizona Stake*. XACT Graphics/Petersen Publishing, Pinedale.

Stein, Pat H.

1994 *Historic Resource Survey of Show Low, Arizona*. SWCA, Inc., Environmental Consultants, Flagstaff. Report on file, State Historic Preservation Office, Phoenix.

Summerhayes, Martha J.

1979 *Vanished Arizona: Recollections of the Army Life of a New England Woman*. (Originally published in 1908). University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln.

Theobald, John, and Lillian Theobald

1961 *Arizona Territory: Post Offices & Postmasters*. Arizona Historical Foundation, Phoenix.

United States (U.S.) Census Bureau

1910 *Thirteenth Census of the United States*. U.S. Census Bureau. Microfilm copy on file, Special Collections and Archives, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff.

Van Metre, Edward

1958 *The Early History of Show Low, Arizona*. M.A. thesis, Department of History, University of Arizona, Tucson.

Ward History

nd Show Low Ward. Ms on file, Family History Center, Show Low.

Wharfield, H. B.

1966 *Cooley: Army Scout, Arizona Pioneer, Wayside Host, Apache Friend*. Colonel H. B. Wharfield, El Cajon.

Wild, Jennie A.

1964 *David Adams and His Descendants*. Lynn G. Hale Printers, Alpine, Utah. Copy on file, Family History Center, Show Low.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photos Page _1_ Abner Ellsworth House
Navajo County, Arizona

Photograph Identification Information

The following information applies to Photos 1 through 3:

- 1) Abner Ellsworth House
 - 2) Navajo County, Arizona
 - 3) Pat Stein
 - 4) August 1996
 - 5) Arizona State Historic Preservation office, Phoenix
-

- 6) View northwest, showing main (south) and side (east) elevations
- 7) Photo 1

- 6) View west/southwest, showing porch at rear northeast corner with partially infilled porch
- 7) Photo 2

- 6) View east/northeast, showing main (south) and side (west) elevations
- 7) Photo 3

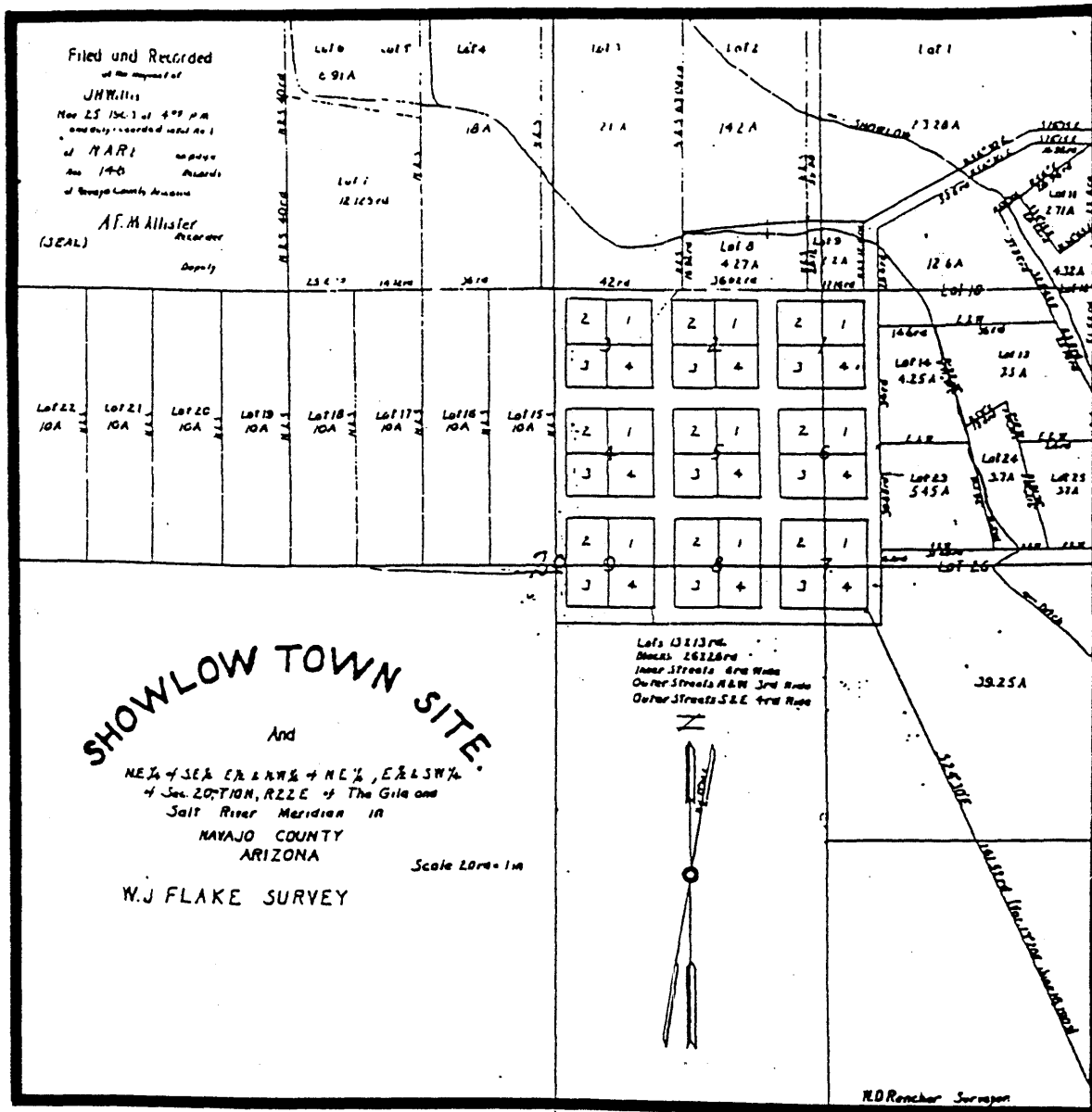


Figure 2: Show Low Townsite (W. D. Rencher 1903), based on a survey by W. J. Flake.

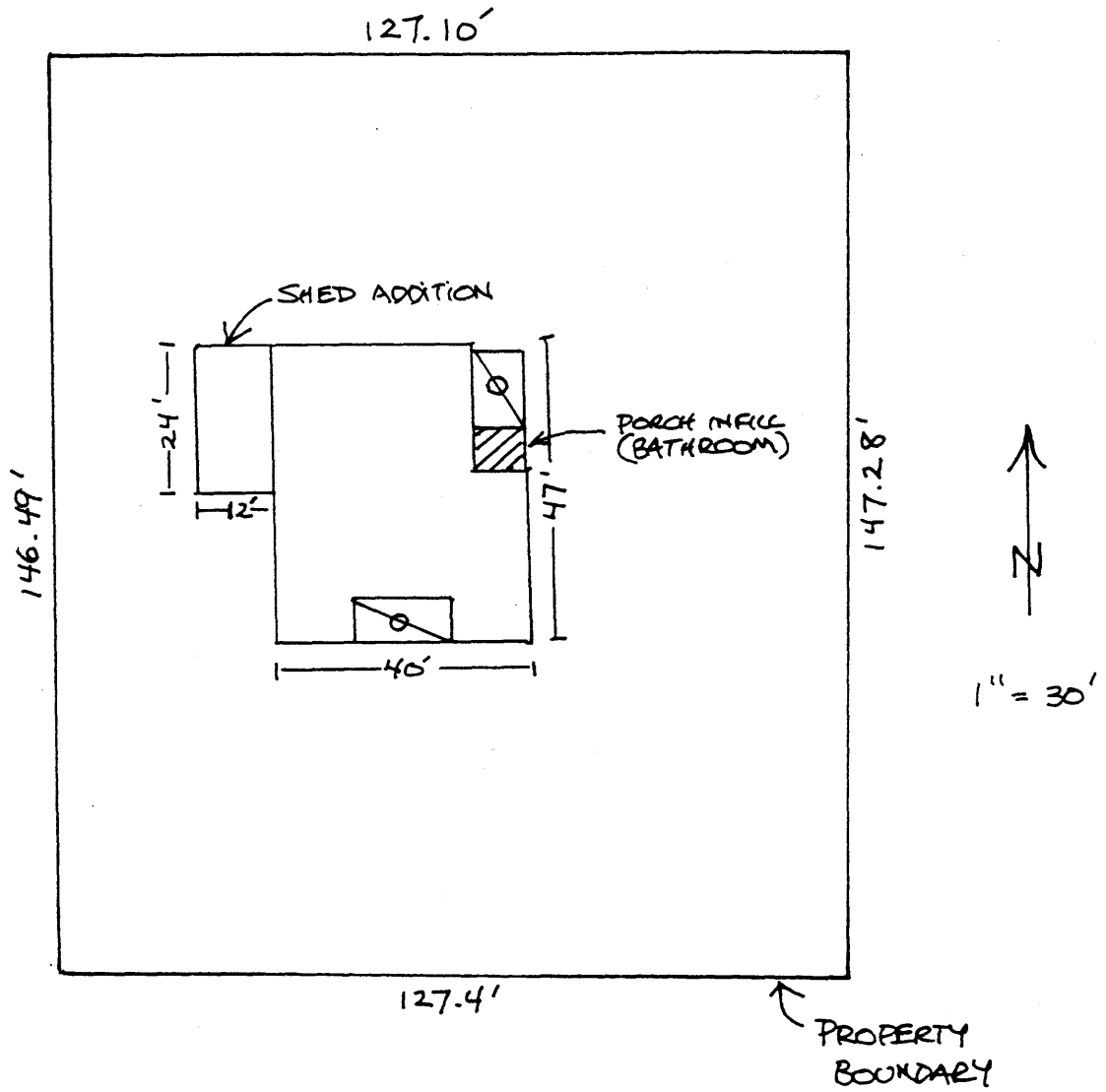
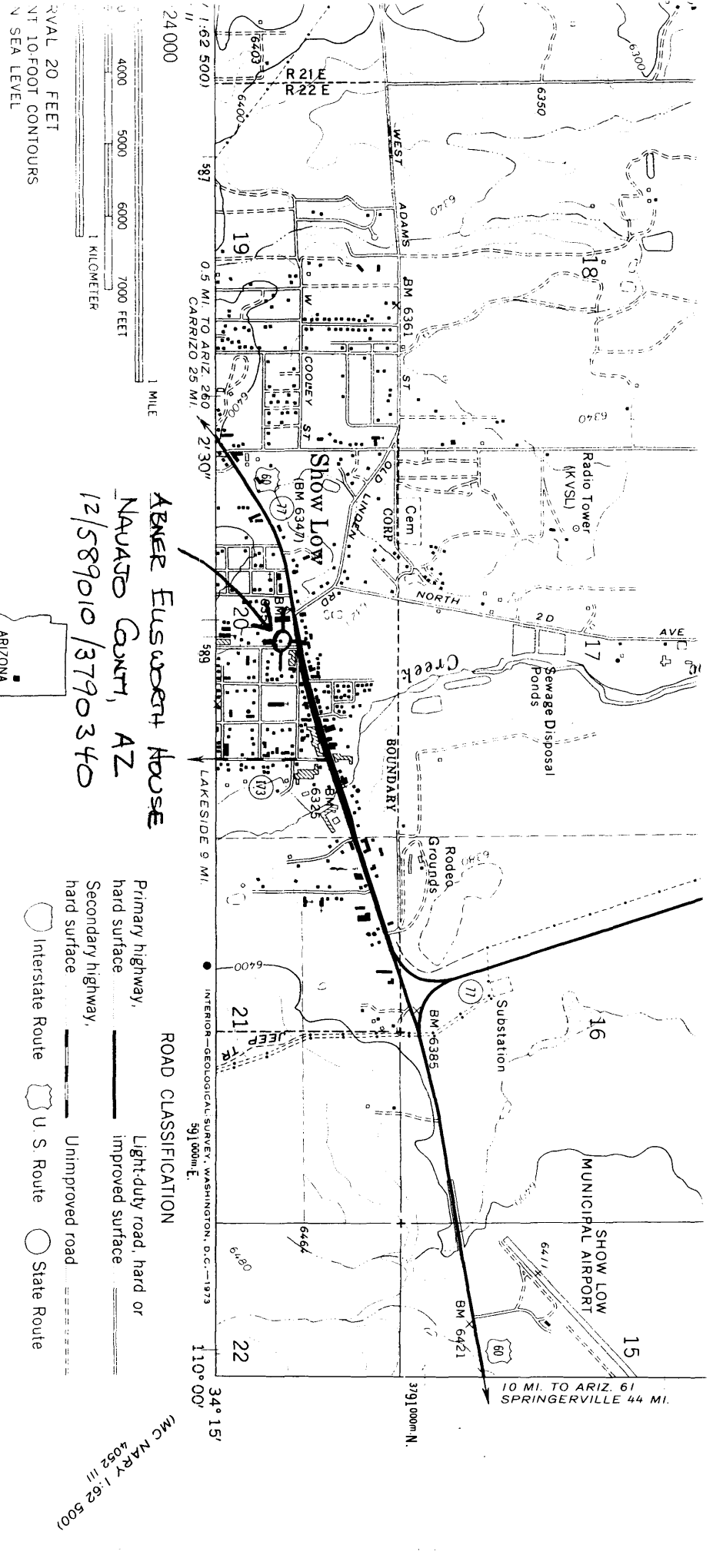


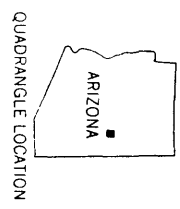
Figure 3: The Abner Ellsworth House, Tax Parcel 210-19-031F, Navajo County, Arizona.



ABNER EUSWERT ABUSE
 NAVAJO COUNTY, AZ
 12/589010/3790340

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard or improved surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



SHOW LOW NORTH, ARIZ.

N3415-W11000/7.5

1970

AMS 3952 I SE-SERIES V898

LOCAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 , COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

EQUAL 20 FEET
 10-FOOT CONTOURS
 TO SEA LEVEL

IMC MARY 1:62 500
 4052 III

10 MI. TO ARIZ. 61
 SPRINGVILLE 44 MI.