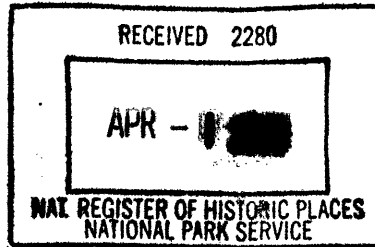


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



416

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: Field Matron's Cottage
other names/site number: The Stone Building

2. Location

street & number 1995 East Second Street not for publication N/A
city or town Reno vicinity N/A
state Nevada code NV county Washoe code 031 zip code 89502

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.)

Ronald M. Jones SHPO 3-18-03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 Edson H. Beall
 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):

5/16/03

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper 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(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling
HEALTH CARE Clinic

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: TRIBAL GOVERNMENT Sub: Police Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Stewart Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Composition shingle
walls Stone
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) 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.)

Property is:

- 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)

SOCIAL WELFARE
ETHNIC HERITAGE/Native American
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1926-
Significant Dates 1926
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
Cultural Affiliation N/A
Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>260600</u>	<u>4378840</u>	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___
	___	See continuation sheet.				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mella Rothwell Harmon
organization State Historic Preservation Office date December 31, 2002
street & number 100 N. Stewart Street telephone 775-684-3447
city or town Carson City state NV zip code 89701

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 Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
street & number 98 Colony Road telephone 775-329-2936
city or town Reno state NV zip code 89502

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

7. Description

The Field Matron's Cottage is located at 1195 East Second Street within the boundaries of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. The 925-square-foot cottage was constructed ca. 1926, although requests for funding started in 1919, just two years following the establishment of the Indian Colony. A modern addition was built at the rear (north end) of the building, comprising 294 square feet.

Stylistically, the Field Matron's Cottage follows a regional type called Stewart Vernacular. The name refers to a style developed by Frederick Snyder, superintendent of the Stewart Indian School in Carson City, which is located roughly 40 miles from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. The style, which is based on a Craftsman Bungalow model, utilized the craftsmanship of local stonemasons, James and John Christopher, with the assistance of Indian apprentices. Frederick Snyder brought the style and the masonry apprenticeship program to the Indian School. Besides a number of buildings on the grounds of the school, the Native American apprentices built a variety of buildings in the region, including private residences.

The Field Matron's Cottage at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony sits on a random rubble foundation. The exterior walls are mortar set rubble, with field layouts of random, coursed, and squared rubble, and rubble quoins characteristic of the Stewart vernacular style. The stones are of the type used at the Stewart Indian School, obtained from the Christopher's quarry along the Carson River, with the addition of volcanic pieces possibly from Diamond Valley near Markleeville, California. The joint work consists of rabbeted, chamfered, and bevel techniques, combined with rustic joint work. Lampblack mortar is employed in several areas, while the majority of the work is in light-colored mortar. A modern addition, covered in T-111 siding was built to the rear north end of the building.

The roof is a jerkin-headed gable covered in composition shingles. The eaves overhang widely and are supported with knee-brace brackets at the front gable end. There are square-cut wood shingles filling in the gable ends. Rising from the west and north walls are two stone chimneys capped in free-ended standing stones somewhat resembling teeth. This technique can be seen on several of the vernacular buildings at the Stewart Indian School and at Lake Tahoe.

The cottage has a shallow porch without railings running the full length of the front elevation. The porch consists of a concrete floor set on a random stone foundation with four concrete steps leading to the entry. The original fenestration consisted of a variety of sizes of casement windows with deep sills. Several of the windows have been replaced by modern aluminum sliders. There is a full basement under the building with access through a ground-level hatch on the building's east side.

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Section 7,8 Page 2

Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

7. Description, continued

Integrity

The building retains a remarkable degree of integrity considering the difficulties faced by the Indian Colony in obtaining adequate funding to maintain its facilities. The main integrity problems involve the modern windows and the addition, but there is also a modern pedestrian over-pass that terminates immediately in front of the building that has a limited effect on integrity of setting. Those conditions notwithstanding, the building retains sufficient integrity to convey significance under both criteria A and C. Under criterion C, the building is identifiable as a product of the Stewart Indian School stonemason apprentice program, with the stylistic hand of Frederick Snyder and the craftsmanship of the Christopher brothers clearly discernible. Also, as the oldest building associated with the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, its significance under criterion A cannot be reduced by the existing conditions. Further, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council has discussed replacing the windows with more appropriate ones and removing the addition in order to honor this important building.

8. Significance

The Field Matron's Cottage at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with the early history of the colony and the federal programs established to deal with the needs of the Native American population and as the oldest extant building on the colony. The building is also eligible under criterion C as an example of the Stewart Vernacular style of architecture constructed by the Christopher brothers, who with Stewart Indian School superintendent, Frederick Snyder, established the Indian stone-masonry apprenticeship program.

Criterion A

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

A May 18, 1916 Act of Congress authorized the expenditure of \$15,000: "For the purpose of procuring homes, and farm sites, with adequate water rights, and providing agricultural equipment and instruction and other necessary supplies for non-reservation Indians in the State of Nevada." At the time, there were two general groupings of Indians recognized by the federal government, those on reservations, and those who were "landless." Approximately one third of Nevada's Indian population had been located on reservations. About half of the population were considered "scattered" or "homeless," although they no doubt believed themselves to be the owners of the land in an aboriginal sense. One fifth of the native population had either attached themselves to ranches where they had lived aboriginally or moved to the outskirts of towns and cities as they were being pushed out of their homelands by white settlers in the

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Section 8 Page 3

Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

8. Significance, continued

nineteenth century. These Indian settlements developed into colonies in the early twentieth century (Rusco 1987).

The term "colony" for a type of Indian territory is unique to Nevada, but it did not include trust status until 1924. The 1916 Act specifically targeted homeless Washoe and "non-reservation" Indians in the authorization to purchase land where the Indians had lived. C. H. Asbury was the special agent assigned to the Reno office of the U.S. Indian Service, which had been established in 1912. Asbury's job was to evaluate conditions of each Indian settlement and their need for land for their homes. Although the Washoe in the Carson Valley represented the greatest proportion of their population, Asbury found the most urgent need to be among the Paiute and Washoe families ". . . who live in miserable conditions . . ." adjacent to Reno and Sparks. Lorenzo Creel, another Indian agent who specialized in land acquisition, was directed to purchase lands in that area for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (Ford 1989). At the time of the land purchase, the target population was a camp of 89 Washoes and two camps of 123 Paiutes.

A 20-acre section of ranch land, including water rights located south of the Truckee river, between Reno and Sparks, was purchased by the U.S. Indian Service for \$6,000 in April of 1917. In 1926, a contiguous parcel of 8.38 acres was acquired for \$4,300 in an attempt to improve the Colony's water supply (Rusco 1987). Indian colonies were intended to provide adequate living conditions to Indian families, but the federal government was slow to respond to their needs, and the Washoe and Paiutes were forced to build the best homes they could with limited resources. Most of the homes were one-room shacks without electricity or modern conveniences, and the Indians "had to live in squalor for some time." The federal government was also slow in providing the agricultural tools and supplies promised by the 1916 Act. Lorenzo Creel's notes reflect that he purchased "one plow, one harrow, one slip scraper, two iron gates, and fencing materials for both the Washoe and Paiute factions, although the Paiutes were given an additional wheelbarrow, two picks with handles, two shovels not given to the Washoe" (Ford 1989).

A 1920 report by member of the Board of Indian Commissioners, Malcolm McDowell, on developments at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony stated that to date only \$6,905.00 had been spent by the federal government, of which \$6,000 was for the land. The only structures provided to the Colony were 20 outhouses at a cost of \$8 each. Mr. McDowell's report also included a significant admission that by design, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and others like it in Nevada, were never intended to aid self-supporting farmers, but rather to serve "as a village for laborers, who will have comfortable homes to come home to from their work" (Ford 1989, 144).

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Section 8 Page 4

Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

8. Significance, continued

The lack of funds was a constant problem for the administration of the Reno-Sparks Colony, and the others as well. In 1922, Lorenzo Creel lamented, "Not having a cent [of federal funds] to devote to the Nevada colonies, I have paid no attention to them, except the Washoe colony at Gardnerville, the success of which is now assured without any further government aid" (in Ford 1989, 148). To complicate matters at the Reno-Sparks Colony, Indian Agent James Jenkins had taken over C.H. Asbury's job at the Reno Agency. Mr. Jenkins was not sympathetic to the colony movement, and lacked compassion for the Indians in his jurisdiction. He described the Washoe customs as "heathenish," "savage," and "barbarous" (Ford 1989, 149). Recommending action in light of federal inaction, Jenkins proposed, "If possible to carry out the original plans for improvements of various colony sites for which much of this property was purchased, I would advise prompt attention to same; but if the matter is to be delayed, it would be best to dispose of all property as suggested" (in Ford 1989, 149). Jenkins went so far as to recommend that the colonies be abolished altogether, a view that was not supported by his superiors or others in the Indian Service (D'Azevedo 1997). Somewhat ironically, it was under James Jenkins' tenure that funding for the Field Matron's Cottage at the Reno-Sparks Colony finally came through, although the need for such a facility was identified as early as 1919.

The Field Matron Program

The Field Matron Program was instituted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1891. The program was intended to provide instruction in sanitation and hygiene, to provide emergency nursing services, and prescribe medicine for minor illnesses (Indian Health Service 2002). Another duty of the field matron was to teach Indian girls housekeeping and other household duties—directly aimed at cultural assimilation, a prominent government policy at the time. In 1922, the Red Cross studied the government's Indian policy and issued a scathing report on a number of Agency programs including the Field Matron Program. As a result of this report, the Bureau of Public Health Nursing was established, and as field matrons retired or were resigned they were replaced with nurses. By 1938, there were no more field matrons (McKellips 2002). It is not known who the field matrons were for the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, but they appear to have been employed to serve the Colony by 1919, at least (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.).

The Field Matron's Cottage

As early as 1919, the Reno Agency was requesting funds to build a cottage for the Reno-Sparks Colony's Field Matron. A July 31, 1919 letter from the Reno Agency's Special Agent in Charge, L.A. Dorrington to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. described the difficult conditions under which

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Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

8. Significance, continued

the field matron worked in order to entice the federal government to provide funding. It was not until 1926, under the administration of James Jenkins that funding for the small building was acquired.

The field matron lived in a small rented house in Reno that was "some distance" from the Colony she served. She would walk to and from the Colony, unless it was raining, and then she would hire a horse and buggy to drive her back and forth. L.A. Dorrington felt that the field matron should be located in the village and become a part of the community in order to be "in close touch with the daily life of the Indians." During a flu epidemic the field matron lived in a tent for several days tending to the sick, until she too became ill. Dorrington felt strongly that the field matron should live among her charges on a full-time basis, thus permitting a "more intimate association with the Indians and a better understanding between the Indian women and the Field Matron; the women can be instructed in home and family matters more satisfactorily, sickness can be given better attention; it will foster in the younger generation a greater love for their homes and home surroundings and defeat the attraction of the down town (*sic*) resorts; it will result in better sanitary conditions at the camp and in every way increase the efficiency and influence of the Matron (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.) .

Early on, there had been a temporary building at the Colony used for religious purposes and other meetings. Built at a cost of \$100, it was inadequate for its use, small, cold in winter, and hot in the summer. In addition to the Field Matron's Cottage, Dorrington was pressing for a community building that would serve as a recreation hall and library. The library was in the field matron's rented house, generally inaccessible to the Indians. The community building, Dorrington pleaded, should also contain bath tubs, showers, or both—and hot water for bathing. There were no bathing facilities at the Colony in 1919. The Indians bathed in the Truckee River during the summer, but in winter "most Indians are inclined to postpone their bathing until such time as the atmosphere and the water become warmer" (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.), which no doubt contributed to the sanitation and health concerns of the Field Matron.

For several years, the letters begging funds for the Field Matron's Cottage were rebuffed with responses of exhausted funds or "unavoidable delays." In March 1920, L.A. Dorrington tried again to convince the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to fund the Field Matron's Cottage. Adding to his justifications of the year before, Dorrington suggested that, "This building, besides containing several rooms for the Matron's own use, should have two or three rooms equipped to accommodate temporarily Indian women and girls seeking employment who are homeless, and for Indian school girls and little boys enroute to or from the Carson School [Stewart Indian School], who, on account of train connections must remain in Reno overnight. These rooms can also be used for a hospital in milder or incipient cases" (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.). He also stated that the Field Matron's Cottage and the community building are "very

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Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

8. Significance, continued

necessary for the efficiency of the Field Matron's work at this place, as they will overcome the handicap under which she is working under conditions as at present" (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.). The response to this letter, signed by assistant commissioner Merett, states simply, "In reply you are advised that heavy demands on the appropriation from which you request allotment for this purpose have completely exhausted it and it will therefore be impossible to consider this construction from the funds for the current year" (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.)—and for several years to come.

In 1921, the correspondence continued under the administration of Philip Lonergan, Superintendent of the Reno Agency. A request from Washington for specific plans and construction costs for the Field Matron's Cottage provided some glimmer of hope, but that was finally doused when assistant commissioner Merett notified Mr. Lonergan, "You are advised that no further action can be taken in this matter at this time, owing to a policy of retrenchment adopted under the new budget system" (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.). Correspondence for the years 1922 to 1924 is unavailable, but a letter from James Jenkins, who had filled the Reno Agency superintendency position, dated May 20, 1925, transmitted to the Indian Office in Washington "a sketch of a cottage to be built on the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony site for field matron's quarters" (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.). Jenkins described the proposed building as "1 ½ story, 30-X-26; with a full basement, stone-walled and cement floor, screened porches," for a grand total of \$4,350.00 (Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, var.). Unfortunately Jenkins' sketch did not survive, so we do not know if the design was executed as recommended, although the completed building was 145 square feet larger than the one he proposed.

The lack of specific records leaves us with little information on the Field Matron program or the cottage at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony after the building was finally constructed. A 1927 newspaper article mentions that the teacher at the new school being established in the Baptist church at the colony would "reside with the matron at the camp" (*Nevada State Journal* January 21, 1927). Several of the colony's elders recall that the basement of the cottage served as a temporary morgue. This practice may have been implemented once a public health nurse replaced the field matron, which was BIA practice after 1922. It seems likely that the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, simply because it struggled so for basic services, had the benefit of a field matron rather than a trained nurse until late in the program.

By 1929, the field matron at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony would have had her hands full. An unofficial census was conducted placing the total number of residents of the Colony at 164, consisting of 112 Paiutes, 48 Washoes, six Sioux, four Shoshones, three Mexicans, and one white. Forty-three of the total were children and 38 married couples were represented. The census also identified farm labor as the chief occupation of the men, and housework as the main activity of the women. As for buildings at the Colony, the census described small, roughly-built shacks several "patched with burlap, canvas, willows, and tin

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Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

8. Significance, continued

cans" (*Nevada State Journal* January 2, 1929). Only seven buildings had electric lights, four of which were owned by the government. It is assumed that the Field Matron's Cottage was one of the buildings with the benefit of electricity, as it would have been crucial for the services the field matron provided.

Criterion C

The Field Matron's Cottage at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is a modest, yet significant example of Stewart Vernacular architecture located more than 40 miles from the Stewart Indian School campus. Stylistically, the cottage reflects the principles of the Arts-and-Crafts movement, which fostered a back-to-nature ethos and stressed individual craftsmanship over machine-made products. Stewart Vernacular is a specific and localized style developed by Frederick Snyder, the superintendent of the Stewart Indian School from 1919 to 1934.

The Stewart Vernacular Style

The Stewart Indian School was established in 1887 on 109 acres south of the Nevada State capital, Carson City. The school, which operated from 1890 to 1980, served as Nevada's only off-reservation facility for the education of Native Americans. The 83-building historic district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 18, 1985, recognized for its important role in the history of Native American culture and education and for its distinctive architecture (Seavey 1982). It is especially significant, therefore, that the Field Matron's Cottage at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony can trace its stylistic roots to the important building arts program developed at Stewart.

Until 1919, the buildings at the Stewart Indian School were wood framed and sheathed. The appointment of Frederick Snyder as superintendent resulted in the transformation of the school into an architectural and horticultural showplace. In 1923, Snyder authorized the construction of a new dining hall made of sandstone blocks scavenged from a building in Carson City.¹ Following the completion of the dining hall, Snyder instituted a building program at the school using colored native stone. His inspiration apparently was a chapel he had seen in Arizona. To heighten the effect of the multi-colored stone work, a tuck-pointing mixture of mortar and lampblack was used to outline each rock (Seavey 1982). The technique can be seen in the tooled and beaded mortar joints throughout the Stewart campus—and on the Field Matron's Cottage in Reno.

¹ Sandstone blocks are a ubiquitous building material in Carson City and can be seen on many public buildings.

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Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

8. Significance, continued

Snyder's program combined the building program for the campus with the educational policies of the school by providing hand-on experience in the building trades. His programs also integrated an architectural style that was sensitive to Stewart's western environment, the principles of the Arts-and-Crafts movement popular at the time, and the students' culture. Snyder made a conscious (and successful) effort to establish an architectural identity for the school (Seavey 1982).

Stewart buildings dating from the 1920s and early 1930s were erected using Native American contract labor under the direction of James and John Christopher, brothers and principals of a local contracting firm.² Although the rock used at Stewart (and on other structures) came from sources statewide, much of the facilities' distinctive metamorphic rock came from the Christophers' quarry along the Carson River (Seavey 1982). The hand of Snyder's Native American stonemasons and the Christopher brothers can be discerned in a number of buildings "off campus," particularly at Lake Tahoe. The Stewart Vernacular style fit well in the rustic Alpine setting of the lake, where new summer resorts were being developed. Snyder's own summer cottage at Zephyr Cove was built by his apprentices. The Thunderbird Lodge on the Whittell Estate is probably the largest and most lavish example of work by the Stewart stonemasons. The Whittell Estate was listed in the National Register on October 27, 2000. The Field Matron's Cottage, however, seems to be the only example of Stewart Vernacular architecture in Reno.

The Field Matron's Cottage

Although no documentary evidence has been located that ties the Reno Field Matron's Cottage to the Stewart Indian School building program, there are too many similarities in timing, style, and construction methods to be a mere coincidence. First, a relationship already existed between the colony and the Stewart Indian School in so far as a number of colony children were students at the Stewart facility. The Reno students would travel back and forth between the colony and the school on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad that ran between Reno and Minden, south of Carson City. Secondly, the Reno Indian Agency, which managed the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, also had an administrative connection to the school, suggesting the opportunity and ability to use the skills available at one facility at the other. This relationship also suggests a budgetary connection, as well, making it more cost effective to employ Indian school workers within the administrative boundaries of the local Indian Agency.

²In the mid-1930s, the Construction Division of the Department of the Interior assumed an active role in the design of the Stewart Complex (Seavey 1982).

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Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

8. Significance, continued

In terms of style, materials, and construction methods, the hand of Frederick Snyder and the Christopher brothers in the construction of the Field Matron's Cottage is unmistakable and undeniable. A particular rubble style of quoin employed on the Field Matron's Cottage, can be seen on several Stewart buildings, as can the unusual long-and-short work on the chimney just before the mortar chimney cap (Caterino 2002). This chimney treatment can be seen on Buildings 1, 2, and 11 at Stewart, and on the Harvey House built at Zephyr Cove on Lake Tahoe by Snyder's apprentices under the direction of the Christopher brothers.³ These four buildings were built between 1923 and 1927. Also, the nature of the stone and the use of lampblack in the tuck-point mortar further connect the Field Matron's Cottage with other buildings of the Stewart Vernacular style.

Stylistically, the three Stewart buildings mentioned above clearly reflect Arts-and-Crafts design elements. Building 11, the Principal's Cottage is most similar to the Field Matron's Cottage. The building was constructed in 1925, and although the floor plan is not identical, the porch, knee-brace brackets, lamp-black mortar, jerkinhead gables, denticulated chimney caps, the deep window openings, and rubble quoins are strongly reminiscent of the Field Matron's Cottage. The National Register nomination description of Building 11 suggests a further connection: "In his annual report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1925, Superintendent Snyder noted, 'A stone cottage was also erected at the school during that year. This was a five room cottage with bath, and was much needed by the consolidation of the Reno Indian Agency with this jurisdiction. The Chief Clerk and his family was assigned to the cottage'" (Seavey 1982). The chief clerk reported to the Indian Agent in Reno, at the time James Jenkins, and the nature of the cottage would have been known by the chief agent when he finally got the go-ahead to build the long-sought-after Field Matron's Cottage the following year.

Summary

The Field Matron's Cottage at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is significant on several levels. It is the oldest remaining building at the colony. It is representative of a Bureau of Indian Affairs program that was originally instituted to acculturate Native American groups and to teach Indian women "proper" homemaking techniques. The building is also a rare (and may be the only) Reno example of the Stewart Vernacular architectural style tied to the building and apprentice program established by Frederick Snyder, superintendent of the Stewart Indian school in conjunction with the Christopher brothers. Buildings in

³ The Harvey House is located next door to Frederick Snyder's summer home at Zephyr Cove.

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Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

8. Significance, continued

this style possess certain stylistic elements that reflect Snyder's program and the building techniques taught by the Christopher brothers.

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9. Bibliography, continued

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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description

The National Register boundaries of the Field Matron's Cottage includes the footprint of the building, situated at 1995 E. Second Street, Reno, Washoe County, within the greater boundaries of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Boundary Justification

Resource boundaries includes the footprint of the Field Matron's Cottage located at 1995 E. Second Street, Reno, Washoe County, which is within the greater boundaries of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

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Field Matron's Cottage, Reno, Washoe County

Photographs

Photograph 1

Property Name: Field Matron's Cottage
Property Location: Reno, Washoe County, Nevada
Photographer: Mella Rothwell Harmon
Date: February 16, 2003
Location of Negative: State Historic Preservation Office
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada
Description: South and east elevations, facing northwest

Photograph 2

Property Name: Field Matron's Cottage
Property Location: Reno, Washoe County, Nevada
Photographer: Mella Rothwell Harmon
Date: February 16, 2003
Location of Negative: State Historic Preservation Office
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada
Description: Chimney detail, facing northwest