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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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Lemhi Boarding School Girls Dormitory

other names/site number Lemhi Grange

2. Location

street & number Hayden Creek Road, 1/8 mi. SE of junction with US 93 N/A not for publication

city or town Lemhi x vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Lemhi code 059 zip code 83465

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Robert M. Yohe II 10/7/98
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
 ROBERT M. YOHE, II, State Historic Preservation Officer

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 certifying official/Title 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:) _____

Edson H. Beall 11.12.98
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Lemhi Boarding School Girls Dormitory
Name of Property

Lemhi, Lemhi County, Idaho
City, County, and State

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
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: sandstone

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Lemhi Boarding School Girls Dormitory
Name of Property

Lemhi, Lemhi County, Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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 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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: NATIVE AMERICAN

Period of Significance

1903-1907

Significant Dates

1903

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.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the 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:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Lemhi Boarding School Girls Dormitory
Name of Property

Lemhi, Lemhi County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

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

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>2/9/2/2/2/0</u>	<u>4/9/7/0/7/7/0</u>	B	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	D	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Clover Aikens with assistance of IDSHPO Staff
organization Lemhi Community Grange date 2/14/98
street & number P.O. Box 11 telephone 208-756-3433
city or town Lemhi state ID zip code 83465

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/or 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

name Lemhi Community Grange
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town Lemhi state ID zip code 83465

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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County and State Lemhi County, Idaho

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Lemhi Boarding School Girls Dormitory is a two-story, balloon-frame institutional building located approximately one-half mile southeast of the junction of Hayden Creek Road and US93 near the community of Lemhi in Lemhi County, Idaho. The building has an irregular "T"-shaped plan and presents its long axis as the primary elevation. It rests on a rough ashlar sandstone foundation, is clad in narrow clapboard wood siding, and has an intersecting hipped roof covered in asphalt shingles.

The main elevation faces roughly south and is five bays wide. The west end on this facade features a two-bay projection constituting the top of the "T." Windows on this part of the main elevation consist of paired two-over-two double-hung wood sash. On the east end of the main elevation is the recessed "foot" of the "T" which is three bays wide. A single four-panel wood door with transom is located on the first floor nearest the center of the facade. Windows on the east end of the main facade are single two-over-two double-hung wood sash. A hipped-roof one-story porch is inset in the crook of the "T." The porch features plain square posts and does not have a railing. A modern wood access ramp has been attached to the porch. There are two hipped-roof ventilation dormers located on the roof. Decorative trim over the entire building is limited to plain flat corner boards, window and door casings, and a simple molded soffit.

The east elevation of the building constitutes the top of the "T" plan. It is four bays wide and is decoratively similar to the main elevation. Windows are single two-over-two wood sash identical to those found on the principal facade. A window opening at the first-floor rear of this elevation has been replaced with modern aluminum frame sliding sash. The third bay from the front features a second-story door rather than a window. An exterior stair, originally used as a fire exit from the second floor, has been removed. A brick chimney with a flared corbeled brick cornice rises from the roof between the first and second bay (counting from front to rear).

The rear, or north, elevation is similar to the front elevation as it encompasses the long axis of the "T." It is five bays wide; two bays on the eastern end project to form the top of the "T." At the northeast corner of the building there is a rear door reached by a small, modern deck. There are also doors located in the crook of the "T" at both the first and second stories. Both doors opened onto a rear porch which has been removed. Neither door is presently in use. Windows are single two-over-two wood sash identical to those found on the principal facade. One first-floor window on this elevation has been infilled with matching clapboard siding. Another next to the rear door has been replaced with modern aluminum frame sliding sash. Two additional brick chimneys, identical to that on the east elevation, are located on the east and west ends of the rear elevation. There are ventilation dormers similar to those on the main elevation located in similar positions on this side of the hipped roof.

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The west elevation is the shortest, comprising the foot of the "T." It is two bays wide and features single two-over-two wood sash windows identical to those found on the principal facade.

The grounds of this building are essentially unimproved. The only feature of note is a circular driveway which affords access to the front of the building.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lemhi Boarding School Girls Dormitory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. This resource is historically associated with the Lemhi Indian Reservation, created in 1875 and removed from Tribal control in 1907. It is the last known building remaining which is associated with this reservation and the struggles of the Lemhi Indians to remain in their native land.

The Lemhi Tribe traditionally lived in the Lemhi Valley of central Idaho. They had extensive contacts with surrounding tribes including the Southern Shoshoni, Nez Perce, and Flathead tribes. Their first encounter with Euro-Americans occurred in 1805 when Sacajawea, a member of the Lemhi Tribe, guided the Lewis and Clark expedition into the Lemhi Valley during their trip to the mouth of the Columbia River.¹

Due to the remote nature of their home, the Indians of the Lemhi Valley lived in virtual isolation from Euro-Americans until the 1850s. In 1855 the Mormon Church established a mission and settlement in the valley which they named Fort Lemhi, after an Indian chief mentioned in the Book of Mormon. For a time the mission prospered and relations with the Tribe were good. In 1857, however, the Indians attacked the fort, killing three missionaries and stealing much livestock. It is likely that this attack was spurred by anti-Mormon elements seeking to exploit the general turmoil caused by the so-called Mormon War of 1857. The attack did succeed in removing the mission, as the Mormons abandoned Fort Lemhi in 1858.²

Following an influx of miners and settlers to the valley in the late 1860s, the Tribe began to advocate for a reservation of their own. This effort intensified following the establishment of the Fort Hall Reservation in southeastern Idaho Territory in 1869. At this time it was proposed that given the small number of Indians in the Lemhi Valley, that they be consolidated with the Southern Shoshoni and Bannock and removed to Fort Hall. This met stiff opposition among tribal members. After a long debate, President Ulysses S. Grant finally established the Lemhi Reservation, encompassing 100 square miles of land, in February 1875.³

Over the next 32 years Lemhi Reservation residents struggled to make a life for themselves. Of the 100 square miles set aside, only a small portion along the Lemhi River was arable. The dry, high mountain climate further hampered the establishment of a sustainable agricultural community. As late as 1905 tribal members were forced to go on extended hunts to supplement meager government rations and small harvests.⁴

Government agents at Lemhi placed a high priority on the establishment of a school. It was felt that Euro-American education would aid in the assimilation of Indian children into the dominant culture. A day school was established in 1881. Despite the purported importance of education on the

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reservation, both school facilities and attendance remained minimal. Indeed, school was held for only 25 days out of a scheduled seven months during the 1882 school year.⁵ Both children and their parents objected to much of the school curriculum and to the treatment of the children by teachers and staff. Students were forbidden to speak their native tongue and to indulge in any traditional activities, and were subject to severe punishments for doing so. Many tribal members, including Chief Tendoy, purposely kept their children away from school to avoid abuse and the loss of their traditional language and culture.⁶

School facilities were also atrocious. In his June, 1901 report to the Indian Affairs Commissioner, newly appointed Lemhi Boarding School teacher John Mackey states "as shelter the school building is hardly more serviceable than a tent."⁷ Boarding facilities had been instituted in 1900. Mackey further states that the girls dormitory, designed to house 12 students, was being occupied by 26 girls. He contends that but for keeping the windows open year round, the building would be "as deadly in its atmospheric conditions as the Black Hole of Calcutta."⁸

In response to these dire statements, an appropriation was made during the 1901-02 legislative year for the construction of a new girls dormitory building for the Boarding School. Construction was begun in the spring of 1903 and completed in time for the 1903-04 school year.⁹ The new building provided vastly improved conditions including adequate heating and ventilation and much more space. Its design was plain but functional and of excellent quality--far above any previous Agency construction. The Reservation Superintendent credited the new dormitory with a significant reduction in illness at the school.¹⁰

Unfortunately, this new structure was to serve the Lemhi Reservation for only five years. From the time of its establishment in 1875 the fate of the Lemhi Reservation remained in question. The Reservation was isolated and had a very low population. This meant minimal support from the Office of Indian Affairs and from Congress. The isolated nature of Lemhi also often resulted in the retention of less than admirable individuals as the Reservation Superintendent. Moreover, the land set aside for the reservation was harsh and mountainous--not conducive to subsistence farming. This forced tribal members to roam far afield to hunt and fish, causing tension with an expanding non-Indian population.¹¹

During the 32 years the Lemhi Reservation was in existence, government officials and local settlers continued to lobby for the removal of the Lemhi people to Fort Hall--as had been originally proposed in the 1870s. By 1905 conditions on the Reservation had deteriorated to the point that many tribal leaders saw no point in resisting removal. Neither hunting nor farming were tenable. Recent changes in subsidy policy had eliminated issue rations to all but the needy. In December of that year an agreement for removal was struck. Lemhi lands would be traded for irrigable land on the Snake River plain at Fort Hall--accompanied by a cash subsidy to each male tribal member. By

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the end of 1907 the Reservation had been dissolved and most of the tribal members moved to their new lands in southeastern Idaho.¹²

Most of the agency buildings associated with the Lemhi Reservation were destroyed or sold. Only five years old in 1907, the Girls Dormitory was turned over to the non-Indian community. It has functioned as the home for the Lemhi Community Grange and Senior Citizens Center for many years. It is the only structure associated with the Lemhi Indian Reservation known to have survived and, as such, is an important link to this half-forgotten and tragic story of the interaction between Indian peoples and the Federal Indian policy. Thus, it is a worthy addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

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ENDNOTES

1. Stephens, Shirley Ann. "The Lemhi Indian People of Idaho: Removal From the Salmon River Country to Fort Hall, 1880-1907", Master's thesis, Washington State University, 1996, p1-3
2. Beal, Merrill D. and Merle W. Wells. History of Idaho, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1959, p.249-263.
3. Stephens, *Ibid.*, p. 7-14.
4. *Ibid.*, p.97.
5. *Ibid.*, p.31.
6. *Ibid.*, p.85-89.
7. U.S. House. Fifty-seventh Congress, Second Session, *House Document 5*, "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs." Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901, Serial 4290, p.214.
8. *Ibid.*
9. U.S. House. Fifty-eighth Congress, Second Session, *House Document 5*, "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs." Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903, Serial 4645-4646, p.191.
10. U.S. House. Fifty-eighth Congress, Third Session, *House Document 5*, "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs." Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904, Serial 4798-4799, p.179.
11. Beal, *Ibid.*, p.263.
12. Stephens, *Ibid.*, p.99-110.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beal, Merrill D. and Merle W. Wells. History of Idaho, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1959.

Stephens, Shirley Ann. "The Lemhi Indian People of Idaho: Removal From the Salmon River Country to Fort Hall, 1880-1907", Master's thesis, Washington State University, 1996.

U.S. House. Fifty-seventh Congress, Second Session, *House Document 5*, "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs." Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901, Serial 4290.

U.S. House. Fifty-eighth Congress, Second Session, *House Document 5*, "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs." Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903, Serial 4645-4646.

U.S. House. Fifty-eighth Congress, Third Session, *House Document 5*, "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs." Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904, Serial 4798-4799.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

That part and portion of Lot Number Three, in Section 29, Twp. 18 N. R. 24, EBM, described as follows:

Starting at the Southeast corner of the East Half of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 29; thence North 26 deg. East 320 feet to the place of beginning; thence North 45 deg. West 194 feet; thence North 47 deg. East 142.5 feet; thence South 47 deg. East 103.7 feet; thence South 15 deg. West 165.5 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The above noted property constitutes all the land historically associated with the Lemhi Boarding School Girls Dormitory.