

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: St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery  
other names/site number: St. Thomas Cemetery

2. Location

street & number Magnasite Road off Moapa Valley Boulevard not for publication N/A  
city or town Overton vicinity N/A  
state Nevada code NV county Clark code 003 zip code 89703

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 W. Spruill SHPO 12-6-04  
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  
     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 K. Beall 1-20-05  
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>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</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: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A  
roof N/A  
walls N/A  
other N/A

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

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1935-1954

Significant Dates 1935, 1938

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

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

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**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: Nevada State Railroad Museum

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 5.06 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>729680</u>	<u>4044560</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
2	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>4</u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

     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 03/10/04  
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 St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery Board  
street & number P.O. Box 261 telephone       
city or town Overton state NV zip code 89040

**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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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

## 7. Description

The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery was moved to its present location during February and March 1935, when the federal government undertook the relocation of the entire community of St. Thomas in preparation for the scheduled inundation of the area. The place was flooded by Lake Mead, as a result of the nearing completion of Boulder Dam (later renamed Hoover Dam). The 48 St. Thomas interments, and one from Kaolin,<sup>1</sup> were reburied at a site in Overton set aside for that purpose.

The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery consists of a 5.06-acre parcel of land in a natural desert setting. A dirt road leads to the site, which is enclosed by a perimeter chain link fence. The grave markers are mostly low profile. A flag pole, the wooden sign, and a few scrubby trees are the tallest objects present, and there are no buildings. By design and through dedication, the cemetery honors the pioneers of St. Thomas. A plaque reads:

PIONEERS

DEDICATED TO THOSE STALWART PIONEERS WHO FORGED  
AN OASIS OUT OF THE DESERT SANDS

THE ST. THOMAS CEMETERY WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE  
1860S IN THE TOWN OF ST. THOMAS, NEVADA.  
ANTICIPATING INUNDATION OF THE TOWN BY THE WATERS  
OF LAKE MEAD, THE GRAVES WERE MOVED TO THIS POINT  
IN 1935. ONLY PAST RESIDENTS OF THE BURIED TOWNS  
OF ST. THOMAS AND KAOLIN AND THEIR DECENDANTS (*sic*) ARE  
BURIED HERE.

St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery was laid out by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation in 10 rows of 5 blocks each (Boulder Canyon Project Dwg No. 45-301-1701). The 1935 reburials were located within the 50-block area, but subsequently several graves have been placed outside of the designated blocks, but within the cemetery fence line.

Of the 48 graves relocated from St. Thomas, 27 are identified only as early pioneer infant, child, adult male, adult female, etc. One is listed as "unknown infant." The rest bear the names of St. Thomas's

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<sup>1</sup> Kaolin was also inundated by Lake Mead and the occupants of the town (both living and dead) were relocated.

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

### 7. Description, continued

founders and earliest settlers: Bonelli, Bunker, Whitmore, Perkins, Pearson, Syphus, and others. The single representative from Kaolin is listed as "unknown male adult." The subsequent burials reflect the continuing history of St. Thomas: Murphy, Chadburn, Ishimoto, and more.

In some cases, the original headstones were moved to the new cemetery. In others, the government provided metal markers set in a cube of concrete. With the exception of several post-1935 burials that are delineated with concrete borders, the graves are identified only by their headstones. A few headstones are made of fine material, most likely obtained from a professional monument maker. It is interesting to note that only a few of the professionally-carved headstones include any artistic embellishments or sentimental sayings.

#### Integrity

In terms of integrity, it is difficult to imagine that there have been many changes to the St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery since it was first established by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1935. With the exception of the 67 or so interments of former St. Thomas residents since the relocations, and possibly the addition of the chain-link fence, there is little evidence of change. The cemetery clearly reflects its historical period of significance.

### 8. Significance

The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its significant association with the construction of Boulder Dam and the subsequent inundation of several communities that stood in the way of the rising waters of Lake Mead. The early Mormon settlement of St. Thomas was one of four settlements established along the Muddy River in southern Nevada's Moapa Valley when Brigham Young sent 15 colonists to organize the Muddy River Mission in early 1865. The leader of the group was Brother Thomas Smith. The largest of the four settlements was named for him: St. Thomas. Those who settled there with Smith are represented by the graves from the St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery; pioneers who made a significant contribution to the settling of Nevada and the development of agriculture in a barren and arid region.

#### Criteria Consideration B

The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria Consideration B. The cemetery was relocated as a result of the construction of Boulder Dam, one of the

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

### 8. Significance, continued

most remarkable engineering feats of the twentieth century. The relocation of the cemetery is significant for its association with the construction of the dam. Also, through its efforts to carefully and properly relocate the cemetery, the federal government acknowledges the importance of St. Thomas. Further, the cemetery is the last surviving property associated with the important contributions made by Mormon agriculturalists who settled in St. Thomas and the Moapa Valley in the nineteenth century.

#### Criteria Consideration D

The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery is also eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria Consideration D. The pioneer names represented in the cemetery were among the Mormons, under the leadership of Thomas Smith, who settled St. Thomas and created the agricultural heritage of the Moapa Valley. These people, through their religious ideals and perseverance, developed a barren and arid desert into a lush and flourishing agricultural center. The importance of Mormon settlement in Nevada is widely recognized by scholars. The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery is the last surviving property conveying the significance of St. Thomas, which was inundated by the rising waters of Lake Mead through the construction of Boulder Dam.

#### Mormon Settlement and Agriculture in Moapa Valley

Moapa Valley is in the southeastern part of Clark County in Southern Nevada. Rising out of springs in the Pahranaagat Valley, the 30-mile long Muddy River flows through Moapa Valley to the Virgin River to the north. The Muddy River is virtually the only source of water from the Beaver Dam Mountains in Utah to Vegas Springs in today's Las Vegas. Summers in the region are unbearably hot, with little relief over night. As inhospitable as the region seems, with irrigation the valley is extraordinarily fertile. American Indians practiced irrigated agriculture in the valley, raising corn, squash, beans, and cotton, from perhaps 1000 B.C. to 800 A.D. (Elliott and Rowley 1987). Pueblo Grande de Nevada contained a population from 10,000 to 20,000 people. During the third phase of activity known as the Lost City, dating from 700 A.D. to 1100 A.D., agriculture, likely with irrigation, thrived (Elliott and Rowley 1987). These prehistoric activities became known when Moapa Valley received national acclaim with the archeological excavations conducted from 1924 through 1938 in anticipation of the flooding of Lake Mead.<sup>2</sup> As result of this work the Lost City Museum was built in Overton.

The Mormons began their westward trek in 1847, choosing to settle in Utah's Great Salt Lake Valley. The region fit their needs because of its distance from other population centers and because it fit the

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<sup>2</sup> Several residents of St. Thomas assisted with the excavations, including the Perkins brothers.

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

### 8. Significance, continued

biblical description of the "Zion of the last days." Conditions in Great Salt Lake Valley were difficult, but the Mormons persevered through a program of building, planting, and purchasing supplies from Gentiles (non-Mormons) at nearby Fort Bridger. Although some Mormons moved on to the California gold fields or to more populated areas, most remained in Great Salt Lake Valley under the direction of their leader, Brigham Young (Kimball 1987:292).

The Mormons clearly possessed characteristics that allowed them to succeed under extreme conditions, and that would serve them when they arrived in the Muddy River Valley some 20 years hence. Historian Leonard Arrington noted seven principles that guided early Mormon settlements. (1) Gathering—the coming together of faithful at selected gathering places (Zions) to prepare for the Second Coming. (2) The Mormon Village—the settlement of the gathered people in villages built according to the Plat of Zion, which divided the land into three sections: Village lots, farming lots, and pasturage. (3) Property as Stewardship—all property was consecrated to the church for the benefit of the Kingdom. (4) Redeeming the Earth through the development of local resources. (5) Frugality and Economic Independence by achieving total self-sufficiency. (6) Unity and Cooperation, and (7) Equality (Kimball 1987:292-293).

These principles guided the development of the original Mormon settlement in the Great Salt Lake Valley and as they spread into other valleys. A group of Mormon settlers established a mission at Vegas Springs in 1855, but abandoned it in 1857, when Brigham Young called them back to Salt Lake in fear of military reprisals by the U.S. Army. The military action never came to pass and a second Mormon expansion phase began in the 1860s. It was during this second phase that Mormons brought their established ideals to the Muddy River Valley. At the direction of Brigham Young, the first group of Mormon missionaries, led by Thomas Smith, arrived on January 1, 1865, at the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers. The group established a community they called St. Thomas, after their leader and guide. In June of that year, a second missionary group arrived in the region and set up a second community nine miles north of St. Thomas, which they named St. Joseph. There soon came to be numerous southern Nevada colonies.

In addition to St. Thomas and St. Joseph, there were Callville, West Point, Kaolin, Overton, Bunkerville, and Mesquite, all part of a line of settled valleys that stretched from Rexburg, Idaho to southern Nevada (Kimball 1987). The purpose of the Muddy Mission, following the seven principles mentioned above, was to grow cotton and other semi-tropical products, to convert the Indians to Christianity, and as a stopover for travel and trade on the Colorado River and for California-bound travelers on the Old Spanish Trail, also known as the Mormon Road. The other purpose was to "secure land from the invasion of Gentile miners and cattlemen . . ." (Kimball 1987:293). Ultimately, more than 100 settlers occupied the lands of the Muddy River Valley, growing cotton, wheat, corn, melons, sunflowers, peach trees, grapes, pumpkins, and general garden vegetables. They also raised livestock, including cattle, mules, goats,



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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

### 8. Significance, continued

chickens, ducks, geese, and sheep. Their success is a testament to their devotion to the tenets of their church and to Arrington's seven principles (Kimball 1987:295).

Conditions were difficult along southern Nevada's Muddy River. Isolation from markets and needed supplies, along with malaria and high temperatures, drove some settlers away. According to the 1870 U.S. census, 750 people lived in the region. That same year, however, the boundaries of Nevada and Utah were surveyed and it was discovered that the lands of the Muddy Mission were in Nevada, not Utah as originally thought. Nevada demanded payment of back taxes in gold coin, a debt the Mormons were unable—and unwilling—to pay. Brigham Young gave the Mormons at Muddy Mission permission to leave Nevada. All but one family relocated in 1871. As was the case with other abandoned Mormon settlements, Gentiles quickly moved in and took over the farmlands and homes left behind. Ten years later, Mormons come back to the Muddy River Valley. They bought property and re-established the communities of Overton, St. Thomas, and St. Joseph, which was re-named Logandale (Corbett 1975).

The onset of World War I further spurred agriculture in Nevada. Congressional appropriations allowed farmers and ranchers to increase their herds and flocks and promoted the use of irrigated lands as well as much submarginal land. Moapa Valley farms and ranches flourished, producing a wide assortment of fruits and vegetables including sugar beets and nationally-renown variety of cantaloupe. For ten years, beginning in 1920, Norman Shurtliff produced the famous Shurtliff Dollar Box of vegetables. Each package contained lettuce, radishes, green onions, spinach or beet greens, asparagus, carrots, parsley, and a flower, either a rose or sweet peas. Other farmers raised turkeys, hogs and chicken for the Utah, California, and Las Vegas markets (Hafner 1967).

St. Thomas played a major role in Mormon settlement in southern Nevada. It also had its own agricultural tradition. St. Thomas was known for its grapes, particularly Thompson seedless. Because it was agricultural, the town was close-knit, and many residents could claim pioneer ancestors. St. Thomas had no police, no jail, no town government, although it did have a school board. Much of town life revolved around the activities of the church and the local Mormon bishop was the main spiritual and civic leader. Its connection to the outside world came as the terminus of the spur line to the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad, built to haul produce from local farms. St. Thomas was also a tourist stop on the Arrowhead Trail, a forerunner of Interstate 15, between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles.

The importance of Mormon agricultural history and by extension to the pioneers buried in the St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, cannot be overstated. "While Mormonism is not synonymous with agrarianism . . . there has been a historical, if not doctrinal association between Latter-day Saints and agriculture.

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

### 8. Significance, continued

Mormons continue to maintain a reverence for the biblical image of sower going forth to sow" (Arrington and Bitton 1979). Historian James Hulse (1991) observes, "The history of Nevada is closely intertwined with the story of the Mormons' westward trek and their settlement in Utah, and Nevada's social and political life has been much influenced by Mormonism in recent years." By the 1920s, however, change was on the horizon.

#### The Boulder Dam Project

When the Bureau of Reclamation was established through the Newlands Reclamation Act in 1902, one of its first mandates was to find a solution to the flood and drought cycles on the Colorado River that wreaked havoc for farmers in several states. Dams were deemed to be the best solution, but selecting suitable sites presented additional problems. By 1919, after studying more than 70 sites, Black Canyon and Boulder Canyon were chosen as the two best locations to tame the mighty Colorado. Political problems existed as well, with six states and Mexico parties to the project. The Colorado River Compact of 1922 set the ball rolling and in 1928 the Boulder Canyon Project Act passed Congress. The Act selected Black Canyon and authorized \$175 million for construction of a dam, which until 1930 was called Boulder Dam<sup>3</sup> (Maxon 1980:22-29).

In 1920, when the Bureau of Reclamation was scouting dam sites St. Thomas became a staging area for the base camp established for the exploration of Boulder Canyon, which was the favored location at the time. Walker Young was the Bureau's construction engineer. His wife and daughter came with him on the project and they lived in a tent in St. Thomas while he worked in the field. St. Thomas residents followed progress on the dam project closely. They knew that when the project finally came to fruition they would have to leave or be flooded by the lake that would be created by the dam (McBride 1993:88-89).

The Department of the Interior was required to purchase all the private land that would be impacted by the dam. The Bureau of Reclamation appointed a three-man appraisal team to oversee the acquisitions. The team included Cecil Creel of Reno, Harry Crain of Wyoming, and Levi Syphus of Overton. Field work began in the summer of 1931 with Creel and Crain traveling through Moapa Valley evaluating claims and appraising property. It turned out that Syphus's role was as the go-between for the officials of the Mormon Church who visited St. Thomas but refused to deal directly with the government. Syphus was in an uncomfortable position of trying to get the most for his neighbors and relatives in St. Thomas while paying as little as possible as demanded by his government bosses. The appraisal notices were sent

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<sup>3</sup> Hoover Dam was designated a National Historic Landmark on August 20, 1985.

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

**8. Significance, continued**

to property owners on November 27, 1931 with \$40 per acre the average price offered. No one was pleased, but the prevailing attitude was "take it or leave it." They really had no choice. By the summer of 1932, all the property within the Lake Mead area had been sold or ceded to the government. Over the next six years, residents moved, many to Utah and Las Vegas, some to the nearby communities in Moapa Valley (McBride 1993:89).

The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton

A major problem that had to be addressed was the relocation of the cemeteries in St. Thomas and Kaolin, another community to be inundated by the waters of Lake Mead.<sup>4</sup> The government hired Howell Garrison, a Boulder City mortician to handle the excavations and transfer of the graves. Mr. Garrison was assisted by his wife, Boulder City contractor L.T. Meisner, and a crew of 12 men. Mormon officials watched over the proceedings and Inspector Jesse Crandall oversaw the transfer of 87 graves, 74 from St. Thomas and 13 from Kaolin. Of the 87, 18 were moved to Logandale and 10 to Overton. The remaining graves were moved to a new cemetery built on a barren knob in the foothills two miles south of Overton. The new cemetery was called the Lake Mead Cemetery for a short time, but in memory and honor of the pioneer families buried there, the name was changed to the St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery. The relocation project took three weeks, and the last of the graves were moved on March 4, 1935.

The relocated burials dated from 1865 to 1931. A number were unidentified and their new grave markers merely indicated: "Unidentified Pioneer Man," or "Unidentified Pioneer Infant." The government paid for the excavation and re-internment. The remains, many of which were remarkably preserved, were placed in metal-lined redwood boxes that were hermetically sealed and set in concrete that surrounded the grave. New markers were placed at the head of each grave. *Las Vegas Evening Review-Journal* reporter Elton Garrett wrote of the move: "And with the finish of the moving of the cemetery today, St. Thomas' dead now sleep under ground that is safe out of reach of the waters which in a few years will lap the rocks and tree stumps to bury the site of old St. Thomas" (March 4, 1935:2).

In addition to moving the cemetery, other preparations were made for inundation. Men from the Overton camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps cut down cottonwood trees and orchards so they would not become navigational hazards. St. Thomas' buildings were dismantled or moved to other locations. Those that were not reused were demolished. St. Thomas' final day of existence was June 11, 1938. Postmaster Leland Whitmore canceled 4,000 stamps as the waters of Lake Mead rose to the foundation of St. Thomas' post office. At four o'clock in the afternoon, Whitmore threw his stamp canceler into the water and workman demolished the building (McBride 1993:91-92).

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<sup>4</sup> Rioville was another town to be inundated by the waters of Lake Mead. St. Thomas was larger than Kaolin or Rioville.

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

### 8. Significance, continued

Remarkably, St. Thomas, like Atlantis, had reappeared over the years. Low water in 1945, 1952, 1964, 1991, and 2004 has revealed the town. Building foundations, walkways, cisterns, and tree stumps allow a glimpse of the town the way it was before Lake Mead swallowed it. The history of the town, however, is conveyed on an ongoing basis through the graves of the pioneers at the St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery in Overton.

#### Summary

The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery in Overton is a symbol of the human aspect of local history including Mormon settlement and agriculture, and the building of Boulder Dam, one of the most remarkable engineering feats of the twentieth century. The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery is the last tangible reminder of the close-knit Mormon farming community of St. Thomas, which gave its life for progress.

### 9. Bibliography

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery comprises 5.06 acres identified as Clark County APN 071-30-101-001, T.16S., R.68E., Section 30, MDM.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries consist of the 5.06 acre site commonly known as the St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, identified as Clark County APN 071-30-101-001, T.16S., R.68E., Section 30, MDM.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton, Clark County, Nevada

**Photographs**

Property Name: St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery

Property Location: Magnasite Road at Moapa Valley Boulevard  
Overton, Nevada

Photographer: Bernadette Francke

Date of Photograph: March 2002

Location of Negative: State Historic Preservation Office  
100 N. Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada

Photograph 1: Overview of St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton  
Facing south

Photograph 2: Grave markers at St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton  
Facing north

Photograph 3: Grave markers at St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton  
facing south

Photograph 4: "Early Pioneer" grave marker, St. Thomas Memorial Cemetery, Overton