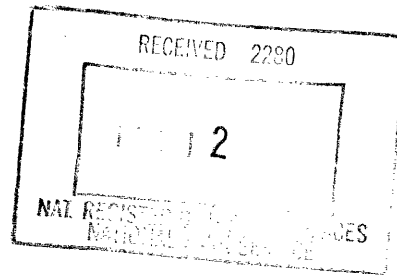


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

159



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 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 Echo Post Office

other name/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & town 3455 S. Echo Road  not for publication

city or town Echo  vicinity

state Utah code UT county Summit code 043 zip code 84024

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter M. [Signature] SHPO 2/4/2003  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation  
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 the 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

2 [Signature] 8/14/03  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Echo Post Office  
Name of Property

Echo, Summit County, Utah  
City, County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

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

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Post Office  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Post Office  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER: Vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
walls WOOD: weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT shingle  
\_\_\_\_\_  
other  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Echo Post Office  
Name of Property

Echo, Summit County, Utah  
City, County and State

**8. Description**

**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 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL HISTORY \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1928 - 1953 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1928 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Echo Post Office  
Name of Property

Echo, Summit County, Utah  
City, County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.14 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/2 4/6/2/6/8/0 4/5/3/6/4/4/0  
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A tract of land commencing at a point which is North 25 degrees 7' West 501 feet and North 65 degrees East 29.3 feet from A.C.B. Monument, which is 35.72 chains West and 21.97 chains North from the SE corner of Section 24, Township 3 North, Range 4 East, SLB&M, and running thence North 65 degrees East 417 feet; thence North 25 degrees 07' West 147 feet; thence South 65 degrees West 417 feet; thence South 25 degrees 07' East 147 feet to the place of . Containing 1.14 acres more or less.

Property Tax No. NS-908-X

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the current legal description for the property. The building was recently moved to this site fifty feet directly north of its historical site. The current site retains the same situation to the road and same and same feeling and landscape characteristics.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sandra Morrison, Summit County Historian  
organization Summit County Historical Society date January 23, 2003  
street & number 60 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 128 telephone 435-336-3015  
city or town Coalville state UT zip code 84017

### 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

name/title Echo Community & Historical Organization  
street & number P.O. Box 46 telephone 435-336-5642  
city or town Echo state UT zip code 84024

**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.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Echo Post Office, Echo, Summit County, UT

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## Narrative Description

The one-story wood frame Echo Post Office building was constructed sometime before 1928, and possibly as early as 1900<sup>1</sup>. The building was recently moved as it was threatened by demolition by the property owners. It was moved approximately fifty feet to the north (across the property line but visually on the same property) facing the same direction, in the same setting. It now rests on a concrete foundation with shored-up floor joists. It is located on the main road through Echo, a small, rural community situated in the Wasatch Range of the Rocky Mountains, surrounded by reverberant red rock cliffs and farmland. This rural setting adds to the historic association and feeling of this small town post office. Surrounded by a large field to the south and east, a large tree shades the building on its south side. The red rock cliffs tower in the background less than a mile away. To the north of the building stands the 1917 Echo School (National Register 1997), with Echo Road (the main street) and the Union Pacific railroad tracks on the west.

The rectangular building has a hipped roof covered in decaying asphalt shingles that reveal the wood shingles underneath. Minor architectural details in the vernacular building are apparent in the use of 6-inch wide horizontal drop/novelty siding, wood corner boards and visible studs (vertical boards) on the exterior and bead-board wall and ceiling finishes and multi-light double-hung wood sash windows on the interior.

The asymmetrical gable end main facade faces west onto Echo Road and has a small six-over-six double-hung window flanking the front door. The east and west sides of the structure are similar in appearance with the horizontal siding interrupted by a vertical board dividing both facades about six feet from the main facade corner board. This vertical board indicates an addition to the front of the structure, probably when the building was modified in 1928 to function as a post office. This front addition serves as the lobby area. The rear two-thirds of both the east and west facades are divided by a small six-over-six double-hung window that provides natural light into the workroom of the post office. The backdoor is centered on the rear facade and a six-over-six double-hung window flanks the door to the left. The front and rear doors have been replaced with more recent hollow core doors.<sup>2</sup>

The original post office boxes, still in use today, divide the interior space into two rooms, the smaller lobby area and larger workroom. Larger more modern boxes have been installed adjacent to the individual boxes. These have allowed patrons access to larger parcels since the staffing hours reduction in 1993. The original wood floor remains beneath the carpet along with original fixtures of workbench, drawers and cupboards.

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<sup>1</sup> As indicated by such architectural elements as the horizontal siding and double hung windows.

<sup>2</sup> There are plans underway to replace these doors with more appropriate replicas.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2

Echo Post Office, Echo, Summit County, UT

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Although the building has been recently moved, it is still situated the same distance from the road and faces the same direction. The Echo Post Office retains its historic and architectural integrity and feeling and is a contributing historic resource in the small town of Echo.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 1

Echo Post Office, Echo, Summit County, UT

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

The Echo Post Office building, constructed at an unknown date, possibly as early as 1900 but at least before 1928 when service began, is significant under Criterion A as the only building used exclusively as a post office in Echo, a community in northeastern Utah important as a junction on the Union Pacific's transcontinental railroad. Still in use as the local post office, the building epitomizes the communication system of rural communities across the west. Its small size and gable end entry reflects the transformation of local post offices in the early 20th century from locations inside stores and hotels to separate distinct structures. Requirements included that it be economically and easily refurbished and easily portable. These privately owned post office buildings were commonly moved each time the office of Postmaster changed. The Echo Post Office represents the adaptive reuse of an outbuilding chosen to serve in this capacity in small western towns and is a contributing historic resource in this small northern Utah town.

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### Summit County History

In 1846, Lansford Hastings announced his new cut off on the California trail that would eliminate several hundreds of miles and many days of travel. The cut off turned southwest from Fort Bridger, Wyoming and entered Utah at the northeastern corner of Summit County through Echo Canyon. It followed the Weber River to the Great Salt Lake, went around its south shore and across the Salt Flats to Nevada. The Donner Party followed this route to their demise in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Mormon Pioneers used the route the next summer to settle the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Gold discovered in California in 1848 brought an onslaught of prospectors through the canyon before the year's end.

By 1851 Congress was awarding mail contracts between the Missouri River and Pacific Coast. In 1853, after frequent and lengthy delays in mail service (mail would pile up in mountain stations during the region's severe winters) Brigham Young complained to the Utah Territorial Legislature in the inadequacy of the monthly mails. The Legislature requested of Congress a weekly mail route to the Missouri River. Construction began in 1853 at the mouth of Echo Canyon of the Weber Stage Station, the most important stop on the mail route between Fort Bridger and Salt Lake City. By March 1854, there were over thirty post offices in Utah. That year, James E. Bromley, in charge of the mail service between Pacific Springs and Salt Lake, settled at the station.<sup>3</sup> His numerous wooden buildings soon served as general store, inn, saloon, blacksmith shop and jail. June 1858, Bromley guided Johnson's Army down Echo Canyon, past the Mormon fortresses, en route to Salt Lake City, during the so-called Utah War. In 1860, with the start of the Pony Express, Bromley hired riders for the division between Pacific Springs and Salt Lake. The first rider reached the Weber Station on April 7, 1860. Attention soon shifted to this Central overland route and the Post Office Appropriation Bill of March 2, 1861 directed the

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<sup>3</sup> Kate B. Carter, Our Pioneer Heritage Volume 16 Salt Lake City: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1958 p.146

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2

Echo Post Office, Echo, Summit County, UT

Postmaster General to discontinue the Southern route and commence daily mail service along the central route. Though the Pony Express was discontinued after the completion of the transcontinental telegraph in October 1861, the need for service to convey day-to-day correspondence, newspapers and periodicals remained. After 1862, the only two primary carriers were Ben Holladay's Overland Mail and Stagelines (on the route east of Salt Lake) and the Wells Fargo Company (on the western route). In 1866 Holladay sold out to Wells Fargo and the entire Central Overland mail route was in the hands of a single contractor for the first time.

Around 1860, the first Mormon farmers settled the area.<sup>4</sup> They marketed their produce to the constant stream of immigrants on their way to Salt Lake City or California. In the fall of 1868, as the Union Pacific graded its way down Echo Canyon, Brigham Young Jr. purchased the Echo Valley from James E. Bromley and William Stevenson (a Mormon convert and brother of Elizabeth Stevenson, wife of Bromley) for \$200 each.<sup>5</sup> Young designed "Echo City" with 12 avenues running east-west named in honor of his wives and north-south streets named after Union Pacific dignitaries.<sup>6</sup>

The first locomotive reached Echo on January 16, 1869. Echo became a place for fueling helper engines to assist eastbound locomotives going up the steep slopes of the canyon. It also became a connecting point for trains shipping equipment to and delivering ore from the coal and silver mines of Coalville and Park City. Echo's future was secured and the impact of the Union Pacific on the town's development is evident as the town grew not as the traditional Mormon community but as a predominantly non-Mormon railroad town.

### US Postal Service in Utah

According to the 1870 census, most Utah citizens lived in small settlements and only three towns had populations greater than 2,000 - Salt Lake City, Ogden and Provo. By 1886, Utah Territory had developed 3,428 miles of postal routes.<sup>7</sup> Railroads accounted for 1,217 miles, the cheapest method of transportation. Communities not located on rail routes continued to be served by stagecoaches or freight wagons from points along the rails. But not until six months after achieving statehood in 1896 did Utah receive approval and appropriation for the first federal post office. The Salt Lake courthouse and post office was completed in 1905. Between 1900 and 1941, Utah received federal funding to construct 21 post offices.<sup>8</sup> Only one of these (Park City 1921) was built in Summit County. Elsewhere in Utah the US Postal service either leased commercial buildings or, in the case of smaller communities, leased space from the local postmaster.

<sup>4</sup> Coalville Times newspaper May 3, 1901, p 1

<sup>5</sup> Miscellaneous Old Records Book A page 193 Summit County Records' office

<sup>6</sup> "Platt of Echo City, Utah Territory, 1868" Pony Express magazine, October 1968 pp. 8-9

<sup>7</sup> Annual Report of the Postmaster General, 1886

<sup>8</sup> Historic U.S. Post Offices in Utah 1900-194, National Register Multiple Property nomination, 1988.



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

Echo Post Office, Echo, Summit County, UT

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### Echo Postal Service

With the post office being established at "Echo City" in 13 December 1867, Bromley had also become postmaster.<sup>9</sup> Old timers often told of the young ladies and gentlemen walking from Henefer to mail a special love letter. It was just a short eight-mile walk. With the coming of the railroad in 1868-69 the mail problem was solved for Henefer as they had train service.<sup>10</sup> Apparently the communities south were not happy. In a letter found at the US Postal Service Records section in Washington DC dated February 17, 1869, sent to the Honorable Alexander W. Randall, Postmaster General, stated:

"Your memorialists, the Governor and legislature of the State of Utah in view of the rapid development of the settlements in Summit and Wasatch Counties, desire the corresponding increase in mail service as named in this memorial: from Echo City in Summit County to Provo City in Utah County a semi-weekly, a distance of 70 miles via Coalville, Union, Wanship, Rockport, Peoa, Kamas in Summit County; Heber and Midway in Wasatch County, to Provo in Utah County. Your favorable consideration of the foregoing memorial is most respectfully solicited and in duty bound, you memorialists will ever pray."<sup>11</sup>

Mrs. Elizabeth Bromley (James widow) became postmaster on May 25, 1899, according to the US Postal Service Records. She served until February 1915, when her adopted daughter Helen Bowman replaced her. In April 1916, Mr. Clyde Keyes was appointed but he resigned six months later. Mr. Colorado Perry was installed October 15, 1916 and served until November 30, 1918 when the post office was discontinued.<sup>12</sup>

### Echo Post Office Buildings

Echo's population was booming, indicated by the new two-room schoolhouse that had opened in 1915. But for some reason the mail was ordered to Henefer and the Union Pacific Railroad signal maintainer directed to pick-up the mail each day as he came through Henefer and deliver it to the Echo train depot for collection by residents. The arrangement proved very unsatisfactory and at the request of the residents the post office was reestablished in 1920 with Henry Bunot serving as postmaster. In April 1924, Isaac Ferguson took over the position. He operated the post office from the two-story brick hotel built by Thomas Thackery in 1892.<sup>13</sup> Moroni Richins was appointed Postmaster on October 1, 1928. A devout Mormon and Bishop of the Echo Ward, he removed the post office from the hotel, purchasing a small outbuilding from Mr. Brims for the

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<sup>9</sup> Letter from Office of the Postmaster General to Michael Paul Richins, 16 January 1981.

<sup>10</sup> Amelda S. Richins et al, Echo, Utah History of Utah Postmasters

<sup>11</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Marie Ross Peterson Echos of Yesterday: Summit County Centennial History Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Summit County 1947 p.77

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 4

Echo Post Office, Echo, Summit County, UT

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purpose.<sup>14</sup> Moving the building to its current location on the edge of his property facing Echo's main street, he finished the interior walls with beadboard and installed the necessary post boxes, service window, workbench and cabinets. His daughter-in-law Amelda Saxton Richins took over as Echo's postmaster on July 1, 1948. She and her husband William purchased the family home and property, including the post office building from Moroni and his wife in October 1954.

In 1955, Utah State Road department purchased easements from Echo's main street property owners and paid their costs to move the structures out of the way of the impending 4-lane road-widening project.<sup>15</sup> William and Amelda Richins moved both their home and the post office building east to the new curb of Echo's main road. The post office building was left resting on salvaged railroad ties. After she retired in December 1975, Amelda continued to rent the building to the US Postal Service as did her children until 2002, when they gave the building to the Summit County Historical Society to ensure its preservation. The building was recently moved fifty feet to the north, although it retains the same setting and situation to the street. It retains its architectural integrity and remains a contributing historic resource in the town of Echo.

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<sup>14</sup> Interview with Amelda Richins, August 20, 1993. Amelda moved to Echo in 1925 as a teenager and remembered the post office being located in the "brick hotel".

<sup>15</sup> David Hampshire et al, *A History of Summit County Utah* State Historical Society, Summit County Commission, 1998 p.152

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 1

Echo Post Office, Echo, Summit County, UT

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 1

Echo Post Office, Echo, Summit County, UT

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### Common Label Information:

1. Echo Post Office building
2. Echo, Summit County, Utah
3. Photographer: Cory Jensen
4. Date: December 2002
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

### Photo No. 1:

6. North & west elevations of building/landscape. Camera facing southeast.

### Photo No. 2:

6. North & west elevations of building. Camera facing southeast.

### Photo No. 3:

6. South & east elevations of building. Camera facing northwest.

### Photo No. 4:

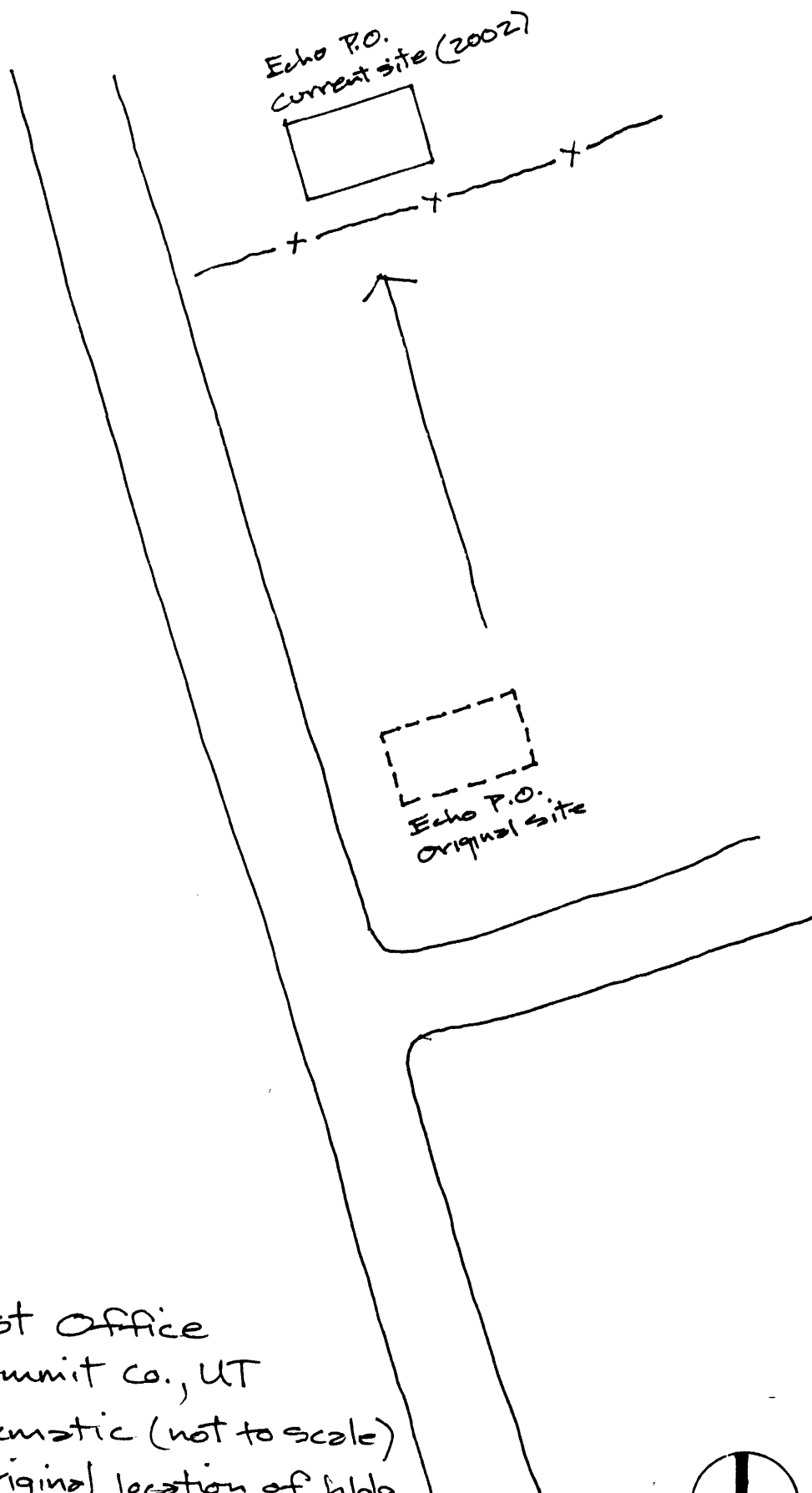
6. South elevation of building prior to move. Camera facing north.

### Photo No. 5:

6. Building being moved. Camera facing northeast.

### Photo No. 6:

6. Original site with building in new location in background. Camera facing northeast.



Echo Post Office  
Echo, Summit Co., UT  
Site Schematic (not to scale)  
showing original location of bldg  
and new site approx. 50 feet to the  
north