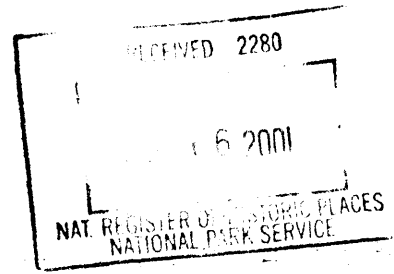


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



9060

1. Name of Property

historic name - Lehi School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street and number - 2345 No. Horne

city or town - Mesa

state - AZ code 013 county - Maricopa zip code 85203

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 the 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Gorman AZ SHPO 12 JULY 2001
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Property Name

Lehi School

County, State

Maricopa, Arizona

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Entered in the National Register

ENTERED AUG 30 2001

- 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)

Signature of Keeper

Date of action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)

- X private
public-local
public-state
public-Federal

Category of Property (check only one box)

- X building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total. Values: Contributing 2, Total 2.

Property Name

Lehi School

County, State

Maricopa, Arizona

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: Education Sub: Elementary school

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Recreation and culture Sub: Museum

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Mission Revival/Neoclassical - Classroom Building

 WPA Moderne - Auditorium Building

These categories were supplied through a Building Conservation Assessment for the Mesa Historical Museum in the Old Lehi School, Mesa, Arizona, by Robert G. Graham of Alliance Architects in June 1999

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation cannot be verified - Classroom Building
/ concrete - Auditorium Building

roof asphalt - Classroom Building
asphalt - Auditorium Building

walls heavily dashed stucco surfaces - Classroom Building
poured concrete to simulate wood siding exterior, poured concrete interior with river rock between - Auditorium Building

other rounded glass brick at entryway - Auditorium Building

Narrative description (on continuation sheets 1 -6)

Property Name
Lehi School

County, State
Maricopa, Arizona

=====

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 history.

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

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

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

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

A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B. removed from its original location.

C. a birthplace or a grave.

D. a cemetery.

E. a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F. a commemorative property.

G. less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education/recreation and culture/community development
Architecture

Period of Significance

1913 to 1951 Classroom building
1939 to 1951 Auditorium building

Property Name

Lehi School

County, State

Maricopa, Arizona

Significant Dates

1913 - Classroom building - 1939 addition

1939 - Auditorium building

Significant Person (complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Classroom Building - Unknown/Classroom Building addition - WPA
Auditorium Building - WPA

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) (On continuation sheets 7-15)

=====

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: Mesa Historical Museum Archives

Property Name

Lehi School

County, State

Maricopa, Arizona

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

Acreage of Property 5 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.12	424475	3702200	3.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	4.	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description

Legal description (from Maricopa County Tax records):

PT SE4 DAF BEG CEN SEC TH E 238F S 98F E 40F S 315F W
283F TH N 413F to POB EX N 33F & EX W 53F

Boundary Justification

The property associated with the Lehi School is the original 5-acre plot donated by Henry C. Rogers in 1878 to the town of Lehi for a school.

=====
11. Form Prepared by
=====

name/title Reta R. Kellis, Volunteer

organization Mesa Historical Museum date April 30, 2000

street and number 2345 No. Home telephone (480) 835-7358

city or town Mesa state AZ zip code 85203

Property Name

Lehi School

County, State

Maricopa, Arizona

=====
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 Mesa Historical Society

street & number 2345 No. Horne Street telephone (480) 835-7358

city or town Mesa state Arizona zip 85203
=====

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

Page 1

**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

Narrative Description

The Lehi School classroom building was constructed in 1913. The original structure measured approximately 110 by 59 feet, for a gross floor area of 6,490 square feet. In 1939, when Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers constructed the auditorium, two classrooms were added to the structure, duplicating the others in the building. These rooms were added onto the south elevation of the original building in such a way that it was difficult to see where the extension had been constructed. This added 38 feet to the length of the building to the south, bringing the total gross area to 8,260 square feet. Structurally, the school is composed of brick masonry with a wood truss roof structure. Floors are wood-framed over a ventilated crawlspace. Foundation construction cannot be verified. Interior partitions are wood framed with wood lath and plaster finishes. The classroom building is an example of a mix of Neoclassical and Mission Revival styles and the auditorium exhibits the WPA Moderne style.

Setting

This Lehi School (there is a new Lehi School built in 1978 currently used by the Mesa School system) is located in a rural environment on a five-acre parcel given early in the establishment of the Lehi community by one of the original Mormon settlers of the area, Henry C. Rogers, as the site of a school. The immediate view from the front steps of either the classroom building or the auditorium has changed little from the time they were built except that the street is paved; also, there is a paved parking strip along the fence in front of the school property. A pasture is directly across from the classroom building, and a commercial building, which was originally the Lehi Store, is across from the auditorium. Although the school retains its integrity of setting, there is steadily encroaching development. New housing subdivisions and a new freeway are within sight of the property as this area grows rapidly.

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Section 7 Page 2

**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

Exterior Features of Classroom Building

According to the building conservation assessment of the Lehi School done by Robert Graham, historical architect, the character-defining elements that mark the Mission Revival/Neoclassical style of the classroom building are stuccoed wall surfaces, predominantly flat roofs, curvilinear parapets in addition to classically pedimented entry porticoes and cornices at the building parapet, which are features favored for public buildings of all types at the time of its construction. The building thus represents a melding of the nationally popular Neoclassical trend with the southwestern western regional appeal of the Mission Revival style.

The original building was roughly rectangular in plan, with entries centered on the north, south, and west facades. The main body of the building is simple and planar, with flat but heavily dashed stucco surfaces punctuated by large window openings. Each classroom had four large double-hung sash windows in its exterior wall, and one window of the same size is on each side of the west, or front, door of the building. There are no windows in the north and south exterior walls; however, the double wooden doors at the north, south and west entrances have glass in the upper half. A cast-stone cornice continues around all of the building roughly at the roofline. The top of the parapet is finished with a projecting coping. Above the western entry, the parapet steps up and then curves into a bell-tower feature.

Each of the three entries to the classroom building has a flat-roofed porch of about four feet in depth protecting it. This feature is identical in all three cases and is ornamented with a cast-stone pediment supported on cast-stone columns. The addition was constructed to match the original building exactly. The only exterior clue that it is in fact an addition is the joint where it grafts onto the

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Lehi School

Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona

original. Even the detail of the south entry was copied accurately. (Parts from the original south entry may have been salvaged for reuse when constructing the addition.)

Interior Features of Classroom Building

The interior spaces of the classroom building are largely defined by the "T" shaped hallway that connects the three building entrances. The original building contained five classrooms, three at the east side of the building and two at the west, with the remainder of the space flanking the western entry hall being used for offices and administration. To provide two more classrooms, the addition merely extended the building toward the south. Each classroom, both in the original building and in the addition, was provided with a large cloakroom at one end. Interior finishes throughout include hardwood strip flooring (maple in the original and oak in the addition), painted plaster walls, and 12-by-12 inch acoustical tile ceilings covering the original plaster ceilings.

Modern adaptive use of the building has been mostly as exhibit space for the Mesa Historical Museum collections. Alterations to the building to accommodate these collections have included construction of wall furr-outs along the exterior walls, concealing all windows, and installation of railings or other pedestrian control devices. The exterior side of all windows have been covered in plywood panels and painted. One interior wall has been removed in order to accommodate the gift shop within two of the original offices. In order to improve handicap accessibility to the building, a concrete ramp with steel handrails has been added to the south entry. The only other notable alterations to the building have been the provision of a new electrical service and eight heat pumps mounted on the roof and ducted within the attic spaces.

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Section 7 Page 4

**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

Exterior Features of Auditorium Building

The auditorium is a substantial concrete building constructed in 1939 as a Depression-era Works WPA project. Its architecture, particularly that of the western facade, is an outstanding example of the WPA Moderne substyle of the Streamline Moderne movement that began in the 1920s. Identifying characteristics of the Streamline Moderne style include rounded corners, a horizontal emphasis enhanced with horizontal striations, "porthole" windows, and the use of glass block. The rough, "board formed" concrete surfaces clearly indicate the structural material used and were typical of WPA-built projects.

The auditorium has rough over-all dimensions of 52 by 114 feet for the main hall with two smaller classroom wings each measuring 23 by 35 feet. The main hall is a 2-story space, and the west end of this building mass has a small second story projection room. The building also has a full basement. Gross floor areas are 7,500 square feet for each basement and first floor, and 400 square feet at the second floor.

The building is oriented with the primary facade to the west, facing Horne Street. The two-story height of the main hall is moderated in scale by the single-story classroom wings, which are set out in front and flanking the central entry, forming a small courtyard. A pair of broad, concrete stairways (abutting the classroom wings) lead up about four feet to the principal floor level and entry terrace, which provides access to each of the classrooms and to the main entry of the auditorium. The entry is defined by vertical piers that divide the main hall mass into three parts, the center of which contains the entry at the first floor and a circular window at the second floor. The sidewalls of the entry curve inward and are fluted. Glass block is found over the entry doors. Each of the classroom wings reinforces the streamline effect through the use of horizontal banding. The classrooms originally had

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Lehi School

Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona

large windows facing the street, but these have been removed and the openings infilled with stuccoed concrete block. The tops of all the parapets are stepped back twice, further carrying out the horizontal emphasis. The entire facade is rendered in painted, rough, cast-in-place concrete.

The remainder of the building exterior is simple and carries little ornament. Tall windows originally flooded the main hall with light; these have been covered over on both the interior and exterior. Similarly, light wells occur in several places around the building to provide access to basement windows, which have now been covered over. Concrete stairs and pipe railings lead up or down to ground level from building exits at the main floor and basement. Structurally, the majority of the building, including the main floor over the basement, is built of cast-in-place reinforced concrete.

Interior Features of Auditorium Building

The interior main floor has a simple and logical arrangement of spaces. As was noted before, the main floor classroom wings are entered directly from outside from the entry terrace. Each contains a single first-floor room. A small lobby inside the main entry connects directly into the main hall to the east, and to stairways leading to the basement on the north and south and the second floor on the north. The stage occupies the full width of the main hall's east end. The eastern most ten feet of the building is only a single story in height and contains restrooms for men and women.

The basement has a more complex arrangement of spaces, being subdivided by a combination of cast-in-place concrete walls (thought to be original features) and wood-framed plaster partitions (thought to be later alterations). There is little order to basement spaces, which housed a number of classrooms and an earlier cafeteria. Most of the basement rooms were provided with natural light

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Section 7 Page 6

**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

and ventilation and exits into exterior areaways. Each of the basement rooms beneath the front classroom wings can only be entered from outside through such areaways.

Interior finishes and features were originally very simple. The original appearance of the main hall has been obscured by modern material, including furr-outs over the walls and a suspended acoustical ceiling. Original doors to the hall from the lobby do remain, with glass block over the top. Other modern alterations or improvements include lighting fixtures and complete interior rehabilitation of the restrooms on the east side of the building. A new electrical service has been installed, located at the east end of the building, and a new heat pump system serves the main hall and the first floor classrooms.

To conclude, the architectural design of the classroom building, built in 1913, although typical of school buildings of this time period is neither purely Mission Revival nor neoclassical, but a pleasing combination of both. The 1939 WPA addition, constructed at the same time the auditorium was built, so well done that the architectural integrity of the building was well preserved.

The auditorium building, one of the last Depression-era projects constructed in Mesa, was built in the WPA Moderne style and remains as one of the last examples of that style of school building in the community.

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

Narrative Statement of Significance

In 1878, just a few months after the Mormon settlers came to Lehi, one of the original settlers, Henry C. Rogers, donated five acres to be used for a school. Today, Lehi School is located on those five acres. Since education was of primary importance to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS), and since the school continued to be important in the history of Lehi, Lehi School is significant under National Registration criterion "A," a property associated with events that have played an important part in the development of this community. Also, the classroom building of the Lehi School, as an example of the Mission Revival/Neoclassical style of architecture, and the auditorium building, as WPA Moderne, are both significant under National Register criterion "C" as examples of architectural styles typical of the time when each was built.

The classroom building and the auditorium building of the Lehi Elementary School are both significant structures within the context of the history of Lehi, a unique part of Mesa, Arizona. The Lehi School was a center of education in the community for many years and symbolized the town's independence. It is for this reason that the school is significant for community development. The preservation of these buildings as a part of the Mesa Historical Museum makes a positive statement regarding the value of these historic buildings to the interpretation of Mesa's history.

The site of the Lehi School is at the southeast corner of Horne Street and Lehi Road in Mesa, Arizona, and is part of the 1/4 section homesteaded by Henry C. Rogers in 1877. This area, Lehi, on the northern fringe of the city of Mesa, was originally established as a separate settlement, and predates the Mesa townsite that was settled in 1878. Many of the surrounding properties are thus also historic. The school lies at the heart of the town of Lehi as envisioned by the original settlers

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

(see map). Even though the concept of the community changed over time, the individuality of the people of this area did not. Lehi was annexed by Mesa in July, 1970, without giving up its unique identity. The community has maintained its treasured ambiance to this day. When their opinions are sought about such things as paved streets, curbs, sidewalks or other "city" amenities, the citizens of Lehi usually choose to decline these improvements, preferring their "town" be left as it has been or as its own property owners decide it is to be. Lehi's growth is necessarily limited because it is situated on river bottomlands surrounded by the Salt River-Pima Indian Reservation and the Salt River on the north and Mesa developments to the east, west, and south. This limitation and their history of competition with Mesa have made Lehi inhabitants fiercely independent, wishing to preserve their community and their way of life as much as they possibly can. Therefore, the area around the school is much the same as it has been since these buildings were erected.

The first company to settle in the area that has become Mesa, Arizona was a group of people which was called by the LDS Church (Mormon) to establish in the Salt River Valley one of a series of settlements which the church leaders hoped would reach to Mexico. At this about one third of the men in the church practiced polygamy and Brigham Young was planning for a time when these polygamous families, or even the entire church, might have to leave the United States. A company was a large enough group of people to be successful in a particular endeavor who were "called" or asked if they would perform whatever it was that the church was asking them to do, in this case to settle in a part of the Salt River valley. On the other hand, a Mormon company could also be a group of members who voluntarily joined together to travel and settle in a certain area.

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

This group called their settlement Utahville, or Fort Utah, at first, then Jonesville (after their leader Daniel Webster Jones). Finally, after some trouble between the settlers and their leader about his partiality toward the Indians in the area, the name of Lehi, a prophet in the *Book of Mormon*, was suggested and adopted on May 26, 1882 when a post office was established for the settlement.

As its members settled in a new area, each Mormon company, as a matter of first importance, started a school as quickly as they could. Each of the presidents of the LDS church has emphasized the importance of education for all its members. Typical of the counsel of the church leaders to the members was this part of a talk given in American Forks, Utah, on April 20, 1863, by President Brigham Young. "Let good schools be established throughout all the settlements of the Saints in Utah. Let good teachers, who are Latter-day Saints in principle and at heart, be employed to educate our children. A good school teacher is one of the most essential members in society; he relieves parents, in part, of a great responsibility; we should, therefore, make the business of school teaching a permanent institution, and the remuneration should be in amount and kind equal to the receipts of our best mechanics."

The people of the Lehi Company who arrived in the Utahville (Lehi) area in March of 1877 followed the counsel to start a school as quickly as possible to educate their children. A school was first established in a home, probably on the west side of what became Center Street about 1/4 mile north of McKellips, in 1878, a few months after the company arrived in the area. This pattern was followed by the people of the Mesa Company who came a year later, 1878, and immediately started a school for their children in a bowery they built on the property of one of its leaders.

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

Another Lehi school, the Denmark School, was established for children of families living farther east along the river bottom on the Crismon quarter-section a mile and a half east of Horne on Lehi Road. It was named for one of Charles Crismon's wives who was Danish and who was the teacher. Then, in 1880, on the five-acre site donated by Henry C. Rogers in 1878 to be used for the settlement's school a 30 foot by 40 foot adobe building was begun. Lack of funds prevented its completion until 1882. Later, two rooms were added to the east of this building, and still later a brick veneer was placed over the entire structure. A 28-inch school bell, costing \$82.50, first rang in the tower of the adobe schoolhouse in 1884 and continued to be rung to summon three generations of young scholars to school. It was the sound by which Lehi women set their clocks and by which Lehi families were warned of the terrible Salt River floods. Since it was such a part of the life of the community, it was again hung in the bell tower of the Lehi School built in 1913. Later it ceased to be practical and for years was forgotten. Then, in 1977, in connection with a centennial project to remodel a pioneer monument and move it to the LDS church grounds directly across the street to the north of the school, the old school bell was taken from the tower and hung as part of the monument.

In 1913, the adobe building was razed and another school was built on the school corner. There wasn't a typical "Mormon" architectural style used for its schools. Given this and the fact that Lehi was by this time not entirely populated by members of the LDS church, the present classroom building was built in a style that was used for other public buildings at the time in the area.

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

In Mesa, two other schools were built about this time in the same style, the Daniel Webster School (1910), and the Booker T. Washington School (1920).

The Works Progress Administration had contributed greatly to public needs in Mesa in the years 1935 through 1937. They helped to build the public library, the post office, an enlarged southside hospital, the Washington Irving Elementary School, an extensive classroom building, a large gymnasium and a remodeled auditorium for Mesa Union High School, extensive reconstruction of Mesa's public recreation center, Rendezvous Park, (new swimming pool, new bath house, tennis courts and other playground equipment), new gas mains, surfacing of city streets, piping for irrigation, sidewalks, curbs and gutters for the city.

In February 1939, Lehi school district voters met in the classroom building to discuss the possibility of bonding themselves to receive some of the WPA monies that could be available to them for enlarging their school. In March, they voted 62 to 39 in favor of a \$15,000 bond issue for the construction of a new building they hoped to have ready for the beginning of the next school year. They wished it to be built of adobe brick and stucco finished to harmonize with the existing classroom building. So, in 1939, a two-classroom addition exactly duplicating the original building's style was added onto the Lehi School classroom building by the WPA. However, a large auditorium building with a basement built to the south of the classroom building was designed and constructed in the WPA's own style, WPA Moderne. The auditorium building provided four more classrooms, a music room, industrial arts facilities, a library, showers and an auditorium with a stage and a projection room at the front of the

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

building in a second story area. The WPA contributed almost \$34,000 toward the job. The remaining cost of the building, \$15,000, was raised through the sale of bonds by the Lehi school board at the rate of $3 \frac{5}{8}$ per cent interest to be amortized during the ten year period, 1945-1955. Another bond issue of \$10,000 was needed in February 1941 to complete and equip the auditorium building.

At this time, all elementary districts and the union high school in the Mesa area were administrated by a separate school board or board of trustees. Even the Mesa high school and its elementary schools were separated in 1932. Then, because it was felt that a consolidated school system would better fill the needs of the area, in July 1946, all elementary school districts, Mesa, Alma, Jordan and Lehi, as well as the Mesa Union High School District, were consolidated under one administration, the Mesa United School District #4. This was the largest school district in the state of Arizona.

Before the consolidation, much competition had taken place between students from the different elementary school districts, in track meets, in 4-H competitions and social activities. The animosity sometimes engendered by this competition became a problem when all elementary school students became classmates in Mesa Union High School. The hostility was long standing between some families living in Lehi and some in Mesa up on the hill to the south.

The diaries kept by young people from both settlements from earliest times showed the displeasure young men of both communities showed when their socials were invaded by adventurers who came to claim a dancing partner from the other group. This animosity between those above and

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

below the hill was grappled with by the Mesa School administration after the unification in 1946. They added some portable classrooms along the southern edge of the Lehi School property, just south of the auditorium building, and utilized all of the classrooms in its basement so that Lehi School could accommodate a large number of students. The administration then cajoled a number of outstanding, popular students into attending school at Lehi and simply advised others that they were to change schools for their last three years of elementary school. They used buses to take these students from outside the Lehi district's boundaries to Lehi School. This innovative use of buses to try to change prejudicial feelings between groups came a few years before busing was used elsewhere to integrate racially segregated schools. In this case, the use of busing seems to have worked remarkably well. Many visitors to the museum point with pride to the fact that they went to school in the Lehi School even though they had lived outside the district.

The Lehi School buildings were in use for students through the sixth grade until 1976, when a new Lehi School was built at 2555 No. Stapley Drive. Students and teachers had been moved out to new schools, and Mesa School District's Science and Social Studies Resource Center had moved in. The closure in 1976 ended the buildings' use as a school. However, the buildings would continue to be important structures to the community of Lehi and greater Mesa.

The Mesa Historical and Archaeological Society (MHAS) had its first organized meetings in 1953, but it was not until 1967 that a group of dedicated people incorporated the Society as a nonprofit organization. One of the projects started by the Society was the Mesa Museum, which later became the Mesa Southwest Museum, originally in the old city office buildings on North Macdonald Street.

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

Another project of the MHAS was called Lehi Historical Corner. When the Mesa Museum changed its focus from Mesa history to natural history, those who wished to have a place to house artifacts which represented Mesa's past looked to an area that they already had a interest in preserving, the Lehi Historical Corner, at the intersection of Horne and Lehi Road. The historic structures here included the Lehi School on the southeast corner, the Lehi Store building across the street to the west from the school, and the Biggs house, the oldest continually occupied home in the Mesa area, located immediately south of the store.

The first part of this ambition was realized when, in 1977, the centennial of the arrival of the Lehi Company, the Pioneer Memorial, including the bell from the old Lehi School, was erected on the northeast corner of the Historical Corner. Then in 1987, three men, Leon Jones, Earl Merrill and Virgil Crismon, decided that Mesa needed a museum to preserve its pioneer and agricultural heritage and established the Mesa Farm and Heritage Museum in the building and on the grounds. This project grew through the efforts of the Mesa Historical and Archaeological Society and of descendants of some of the founding families of Mesa and Lehi. When Virgil Crismon died, the first of the three founders to die, the museum's name was changed to Crismon Farm and Heritage Museum. By 1992, the emphasis of the museum was changed, so the name was changed again to the present name, Mesa Historical Museum.

In summary, Lehi School is significant under National Register criteria A and C. The classroom building and the auditorium are still a vital part of the community that they have served so well so long. The school represents the action the founding company took to follow the advice of their church leaders and each building represents a particular type of public structure of the time each was

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**Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona**

built. The Sons of Utah Pioneers hold their monthly meetings in the auditorium. Lehi family reunions and Lehi School and Mesa Union High School class reunions are held in the auditorium. Also, the buildings and artifacts in them are a reminder of a past that can be enjoyed nowhere else in a city which has little resemblance to the Mesa of not so long ago. Of the three school buildings of the Mission Revival style built in Mesa in the first quarter of the twentieth century, the Daniel Webster School (1910), the Lehi School (1913), and the Booker T. Washington School (1920), the only one left standing is the Lehi classroom building. The Webster School burned in 1948, and the Washington School was razed in 1974. Other than the Irving School on North Center Street in Mesa, which has just recently been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Lehi auditorium building is the only example of a WPA Moderne school structure left in Mesa.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Lehi School
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Lehi School

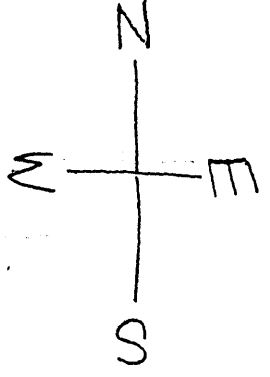
Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona

Photographer: Reta R. Kellis
Date: April 2000
Location of Original Negatives: Mesa Historical Museum
2345 N. Horne
Mesa, Arizona 85203

Photo # View of

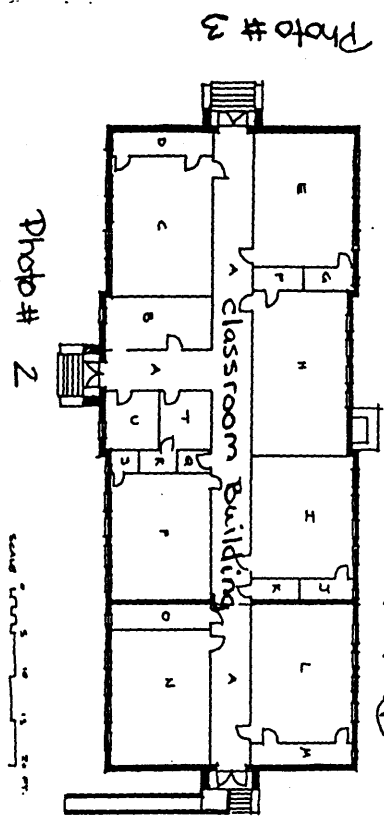
- 1 Lehi School, Mesa, Maricopa County, Arizona, copy of photo of Lehi School and students in 1913 taken from west front of building
- 2 Lehi School/Mesa Historical Museum, Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, view of main (west) door of classroom building Lehi School
- 3 Lehi School/Mesa Historical Museum, Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, view of north entrance of classroom building Lehi School
- 4 Lehi School/Mesa Historical Museum, Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, view of south entrance of classroom building Lehi School
- 5 Lehi School/Mesa Historical Museum, Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, view of classroom building where additional classroom added by WPA in 1939
- 6 Lehi School/Mesa Historical Museum, Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona, view of entrance and classrooms of auditorium building of Lehi School

Lehi School, Maricopa County, Arizona



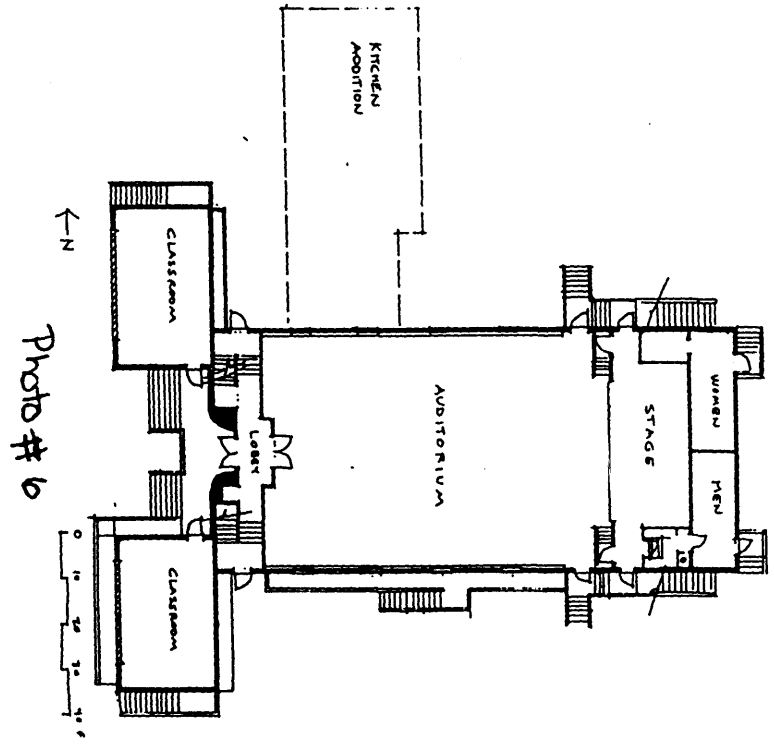
Lehi Road

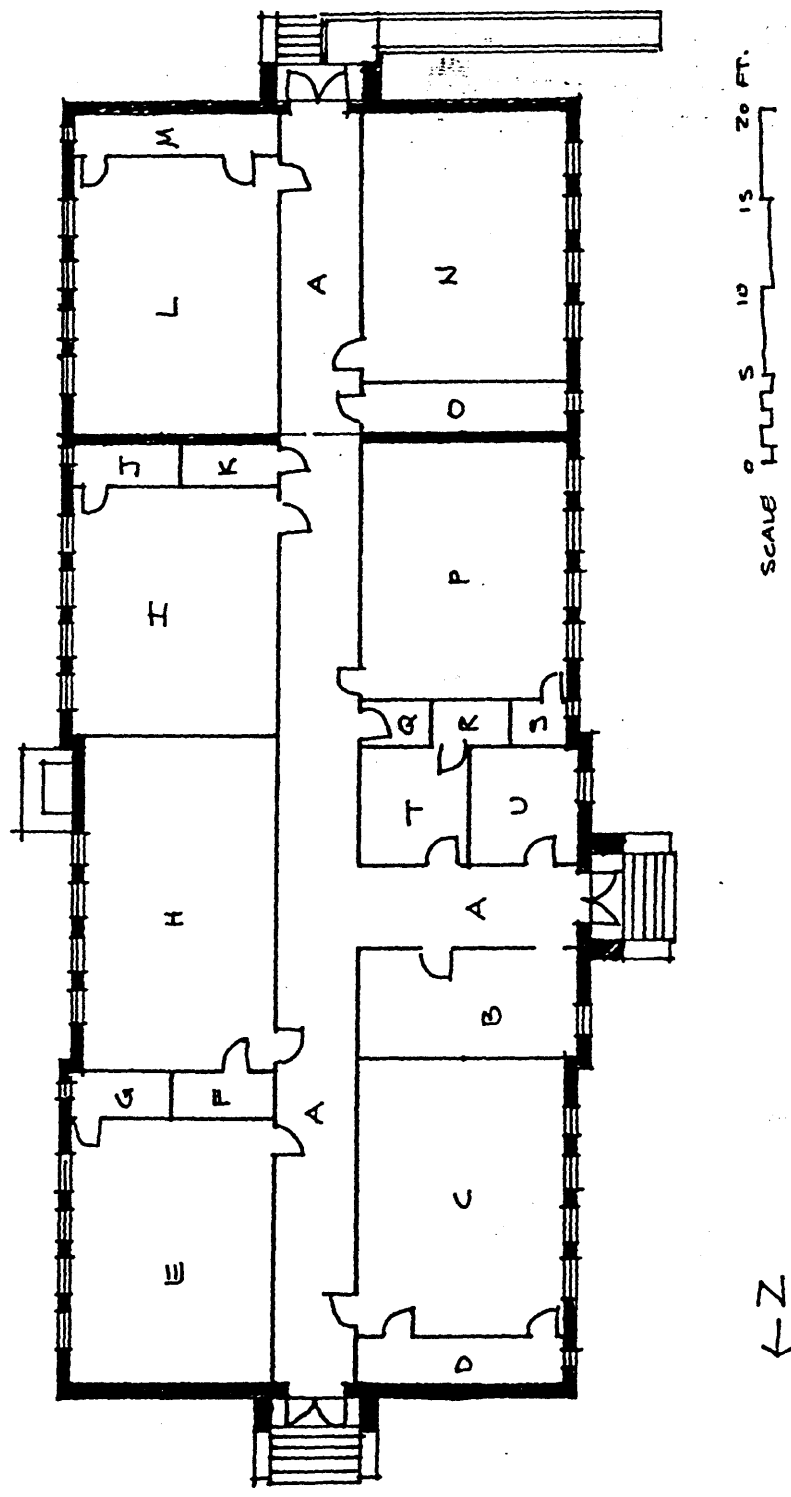
HORNE



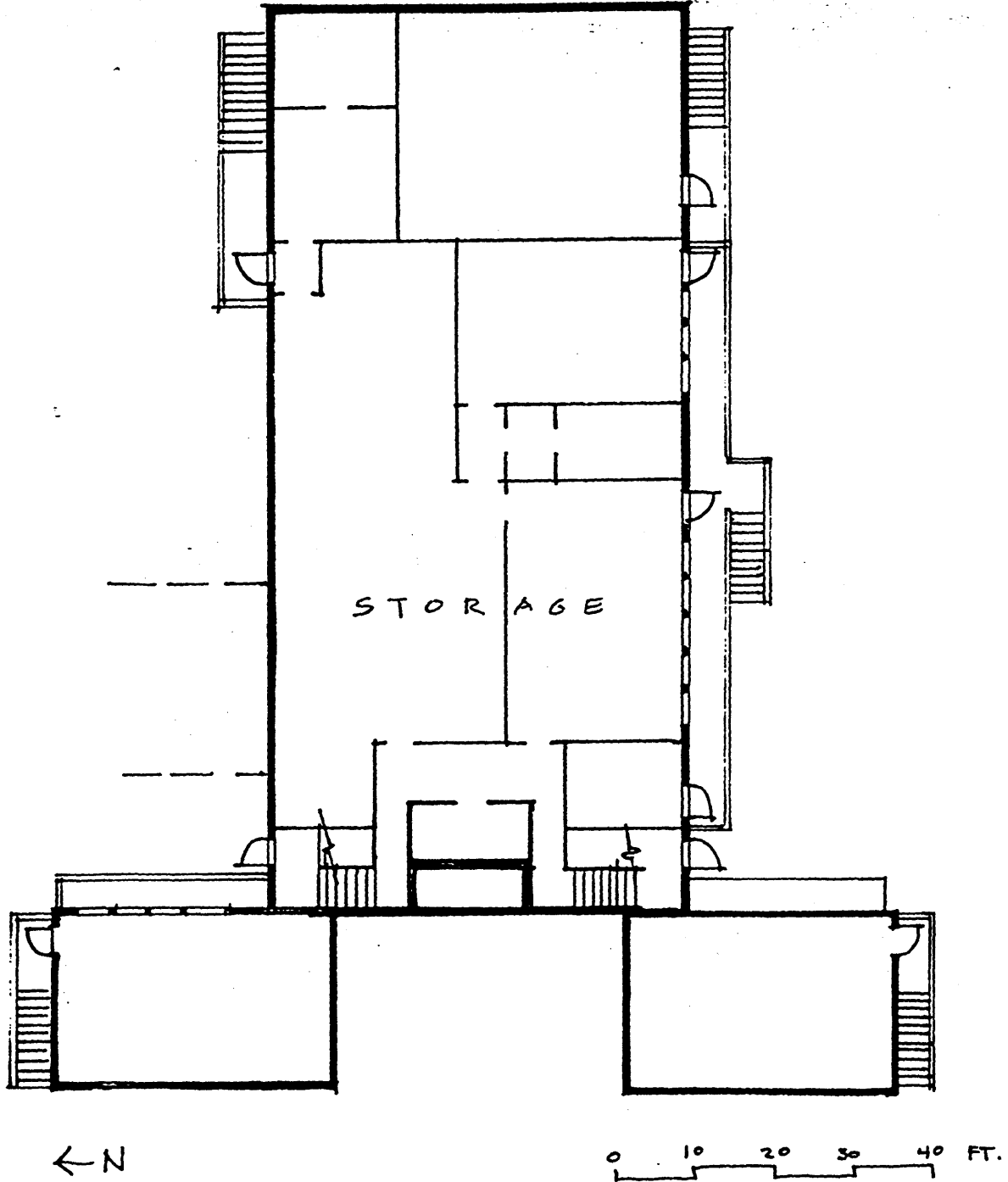
5 # 01044

Photo # 4

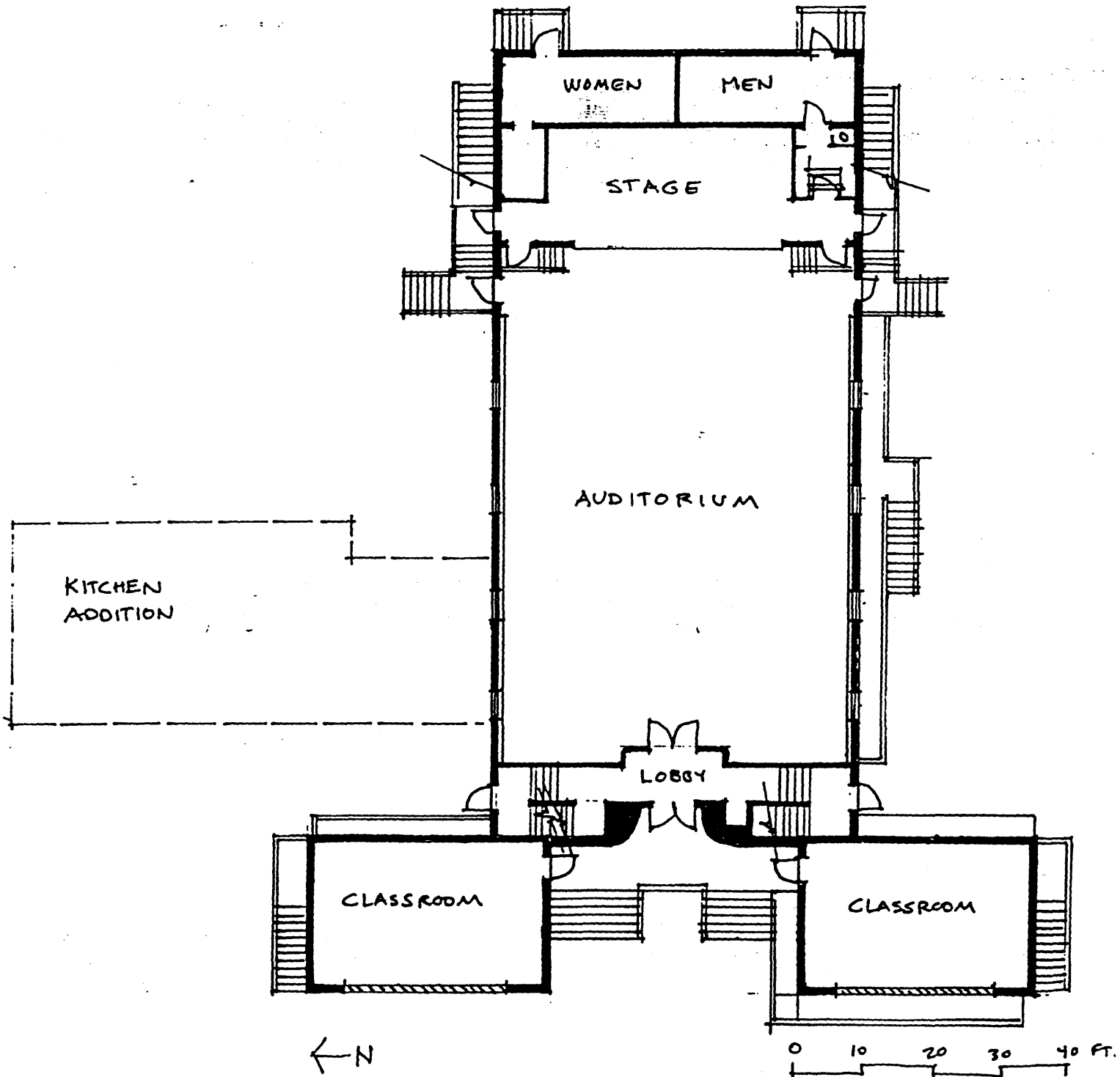




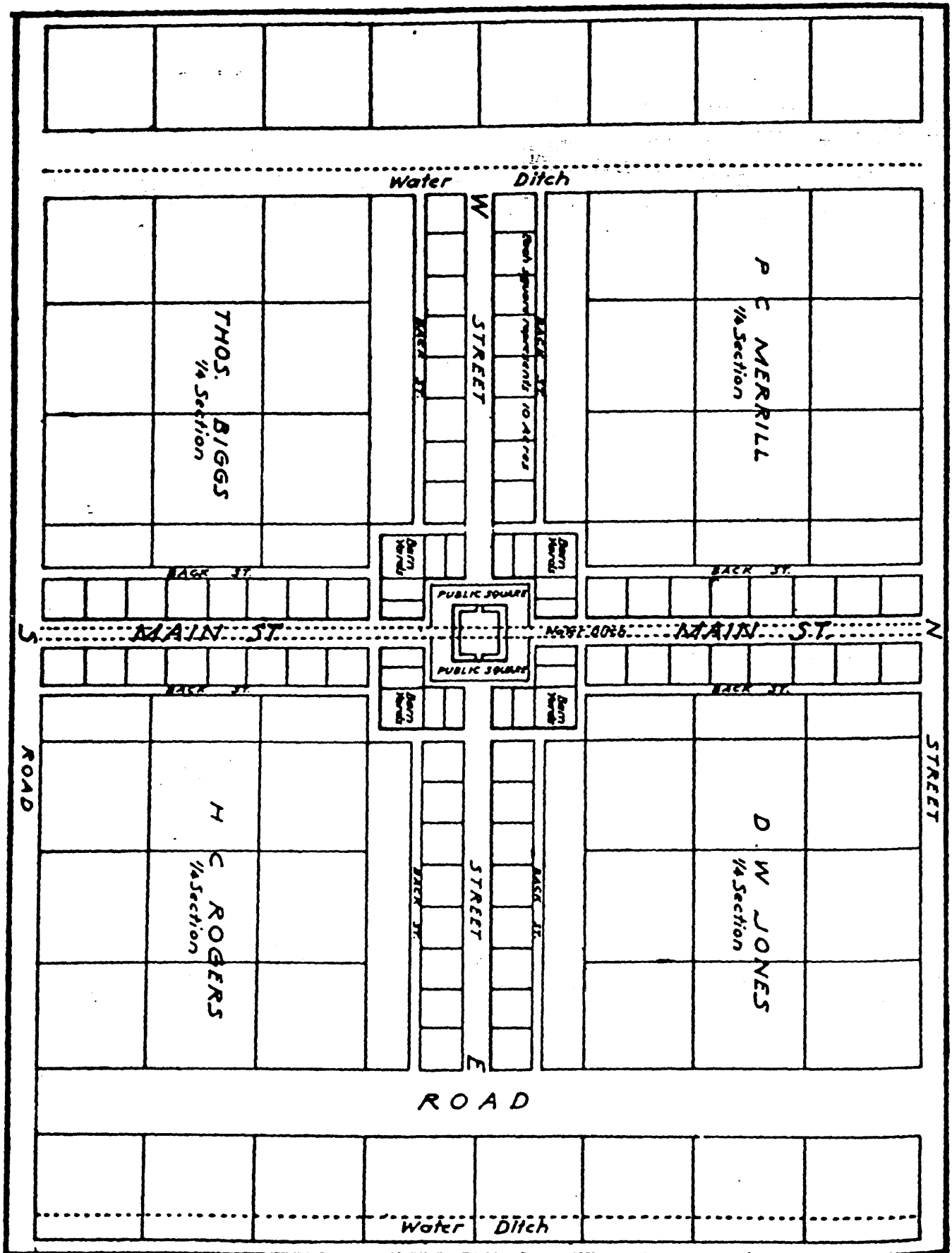
Reference Floor Plan - Classroom Building



Reference Basement Plan - Auditorium



Reference First Floor Plan - Auditorium



GROUND PLAN OF LEHI