

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.

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: **Pine Community Center Historic District**

other names/site number: **Pine LDS Ward Chapel, Cultural Hall, and Pine Elementary School**

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2. Location

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street & number: **Bounded on the north by Randall Drive, on the east by State Route 87/260, on the south by an unnamed service road, and on the west by Pine Creek Drive**

not for publication: N/A

city or town: **Pine**

state: **Arizona** code: **AZ**

county: **Gila**

code: **007**

vicinity: N/A

zip code: **85544**

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

James W. Gamari, AZSHPO
Signature of certifying official

1/7/05
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

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4. National Park Service Certification
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I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register Edson Ball 2/24/05
 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] _____ Date of Action _____
Signature of Keeper

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5. Classification
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| <u> 3 </u> | <u> 1 </u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u> 3 </u> | <u> 1 </u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: EDUCATION Subcategory: School (Pine Elementary School)
RELIGION Religious facility (Pine LDS Ward Chapel)
SOCIAL Meeting hall (Pine LDS Cultural Hall)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: RECREATION & CULTURE Subcategory: Museum (Pine-Strawberry Museum)
SOCIAL Meeting hall (Pine Recreation Hall)
Civic (Senior Thrift Shop, Kitchen, & Dining Hall)

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: OTHER Subcategory: Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: CONCRETE
Walls: WOOD (Woodframe); STONE (Sandstone); CONCRETE (Block)
Roof: OTHER (Composition shingle); METAL (Tin)
Other: N/A

Narrative Description (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, pages 7.1 to 7.5*)

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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.)

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 yrs old; achieved significance in past 50 yrs

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY
EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1915-1954

Significant Dates

1915/1916 (construction of Pine LDS Ward Chapel)
1930 (construction of Pine Cultural Hall)
1945 (construction of Pine Elementary School)

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Bowler (chapel architect); Peter Mangusun (construction manager for chapel); Heber Higgins and Arthur Clark (carpenters for chapel); other architects and builders unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, pages 8.1 to 8.4*)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bibliography (*SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, pages 9.1 to 9.2*)

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 (DOE 10/2/1981 for Pine LDS Ward Chapel & Cultural Hall)
- 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: Pine-Strawberry Museum, P.O. Box 564 (3886 State Route 260), Pine, Arizona 85544

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 2.03

UTM References (See accompanying USGS map, Figure 1, for point references) (All Zone 12)
A 458180E 3805080N B 458255E 3805080N C 458255E 3805000N D 458175E 3805000N

Verbal Boundary Description

The property lies within Township 12 North, Range 8 East, Section 36, the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ (Gila & Salt River Meridian). The boundaries of the nominated property are those of Tax Parcels #301-20-008 and 009, Gila County, Arizona. The two parcels contain a total of 2.03 acres. The parcels comprise the area of one block, bounded on the north by Randall Drive, on the east by SR 87/260, on the south by an unnamed service road, and on the west by Pine Creek Drive.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property are the legally recorded boundary lines for Tax Parcels #301-20-008 and 009, Gila County, Arizona. (See accompanying plat map, Figure 2, for property boundary lines)

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11. Form Prepared By

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| | | | |
|----------------|---|------------|-----------------------|
| name/title: | Pat Haigh Stein | date: | November 2004 |
| organization: | Arizona Preservation Consultants | telephone: | (928) 714-0585 |
| street/number: | 6786 Mariah Drive | zip code: | 86004-1232 |
| city or town: | Flagstaff | state: | AZ |

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Additional Documentation

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Continuation Sheets

Maps

- Figure 1: 7.5' USGS map (Pine quadrangle) indicating the property's location
- Figure 2: Portion of Gila County Assessor's plat showing district boundary lines
- Figure 3: "Pine Community Center Historic District" map showing contributing and noncontributing buildings

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property (Photos 1 through 6)

Other N/A

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Property Owner

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| | | | |
|------------------|---|------------|-----------------------|
| name: | Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District #12 | telephone: | (928) 476-3283 |
| street & number: | P. O. Box 1150 | zip code: | 85544 |
| city or town: | Pine | state: | Arizona |

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1 Pine Community Center Historic District
Gila County, Arizona

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DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Pine Community Center Historic District consists of four buildings on one block in the rural community of Pine, Arizona. The buildings include a former chapel (built in 1915-1916), a cultural hall (constructed in 1930), an elementary school (erected in 1945), and a prefabricated classroom (placed on the site in 1987). The buildings now serve as a museum, a recreation hall, a thrift shop/kitchen/dining hall, and a clubhouse, respectively. Despite adaptive reuse, the former chapel, cultural hall, and school retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the character of the historic district. The prefabricated building does not contribute to the district because of its recent age.

Location, Setting, and Settlement Pattern

The nominated district lies in the center of Pine, an unincorporated community in northern Gila County, Arizona. The town is situated at an elevation of approximately 5450 feet amidst a vast ponderosa pine forest. Located along State Route (SR) 87/260, Pine is 15 miles north of Payson, 152 miles northwest of the county seat of Globe, and 165 miles northeast of the state capitol building in Phoenix. The town stretches along Pine Creek in a narrow valley defined by the Mogollon Rim on the east and by Strawberry Mountain on the west.

Euroamerican settlement of northern Gila County began in the mid 1870s following General George Crook's tentative subjugation of the Tonto Apaches. In 1879, disciples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints purchased squatter's rights from two early Pine Creek residents and began to colonize the locality. The Mormon colonists did not follow Joseph Smith's "City of Zion" model—a grid of square blocks separated by wide streets—to develop their townsite. Instead, constrained by the geography of Pine Valley, they chose to build their farms on lots arranged in linear fashion along the creek and wagon road (now SR 87/260). Pine's linear configuration resembled those of the LDS townsites of Eager in eastern Arizona, and of several valley communities in southern Utah (Anderson 2000; Comeaux 1981; Francaviglia 1978; Johns and Strittmatter 1996; Nelson 1952).

Community buildings developed in the center of the linear village. Land donated by the family of ward leader Alfred Jason Randall provided the site for schools, a chapel, and a cultural hall (Gila County 1913 and 1926). The same site, a block of land measuring approximately 265 feet east-west by 333 ft north-south, became the heart and core of Pine and remained so throughout the historic period (Anderson 2000; Johns and Strittmatter 1996). The boundaries of the block are those of the proposed historic district.

After two initial decades of growth, decline, and re-growth, Pine's population stabilized at about 200 residents. The village remained small, rural, and agricultural through the first half of the twentieth century. Main Street became part of SR 87 in the 1940s. Paving of the highway in 1958 brought great change to Pine, as the community became discovered by would-be residents. Although the population of the village today still numbers in the hundreds, that of the greater Pine area exceeds several thousand (Johns and Strittmatter 1996).

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Section 7 Page 2 Pine Community Center Historic District
Gila County, Arizona

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Population growth and shifting demographics have placed new demands on Pine's land and resources. Many new buildings have been constructed, while several old ones have been preserved through adaptive reuse. Three of the four buildings within the proposed district have found new public uses. Despite changes in specific building function, the district continues to serve the community and to be recognized as its core.

Description of Contributing and Noncontributing Buildings

The Pine Community Center Historic District contains a total of four buildings. Each is listed and described below, in order of date of construction. Figure 3 indicates the location of the buildings within the district. Section 8 discusses their history.

Pine LDS Ward Chapel (Contributor)
#3886 State Route 87/260 (Photos 1 and 3)

This building was constructed in 1915-1916 and dedicated on 23 May 1917 as Pine's first permanent LDS Ward Chapel. Prior to that time, religious services were held in the Pine schoolhouse (Hunt c1978).

Situated at the southeast corner of the historic district, this woodframe building has a square plan and a pyramidal roof that changes pitch near the crown. A two-story tower, on the northeast corner, is also capped with a pyramidal roof. Exterior walls are of stuccoed-frame construction on a concrete foundation. Floor joists are supported by brick and stone piers. Original wood-shingle roofing is now covered with corrugated sheet metal.

A notable feature of the building is its pressed-metal ceiling. Many original panel doors and items of hardware remain intact. The wooden-sash, one-over-one windows are partially covered on the exterior with wooden inserts having a pointed arch—an expedient method used by the builders to create the illusion of Gothic-arch windows.

The building was constructed before electrical service was introduced to the village. In 1948 electrical wiring was installed. Wood stoves were originally used to heat the chapel. Between 1958 and 1968, the building received a gas furnace. During the same decade, metal sheeting was placed over the original, wooden roof shakes (Hunt c1978).

By the late 1970s, the Mormon congregation had grown to the point that a new chapel was needed. Completed in 1980, the new chapel was situated about 0.3 miles north of the old one. Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District #12 acquired the old chapel building in 1981 and began to plan for its adaptive reuse. The project involved federal funding; therefore, the school district submitted architectural plans (drawn by Gerald A. Doyle & Associates of Phoenix) to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and submitted historical information about the building to the SHPO and the National Register of Historic Places. The review process determined that the building was eligible for the National Register and that the proposed project would have no adverse effect on the historic building (Harrison 1981; Pritzlaff 1981).

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Section 7 Page 3 Pine Community Center Historic District
Gila County, Arizona

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The rehabilitation project added insulation, upgraded the mechanical systems of the building, removed the staircase to the second story of the tower, and re-partitioned the interior—originally containing a worship room, bishop’s office, ward library, and four classrooms—into school offices and a library. Character-defining elements such as the pressed-metal ceiling, wall finishes, panel doors, and hardware were retained (Gerald A. Doyle & Associates 1981). The building continued to function as an administrative office and library until a new school complex was completed in the 1990s. Under a lease agreement with the school district, the old chapel subsequently became the Pine-Strawberry Museum. In recent years, metal grilles have been placed over the original, Gothic-arched windows to secure the museum’s contents.

Pine LDS Cultural Hall (Contributor)

No street address, west of #3886 SR 87/260 (Photo 4)

This building was erected in 1930-1931 to serve as the LDS cultural hall, a venue for dances, dinners, plays, musicals, sporting events, and social meetings. The building is situated immediately west of the chapel, with its main entrance facing east toward the chapel and the main street (SR 87/260).

The building is of woodframe construction finished with clapboard siding on the exterior and plaster on the interior. The rectangular plan is of one story with the long axis oriented north-south. The medium-pitched, gabled roof was originally covered with asphalt shingles; the roofing was replaced in the early 1980s with new asphalt shingles. Character-defining elements of the building include a gable-roofed entry with Craftsman detailing; paired, wooden-sash, one-over-one windows; and a massive sandstone chimney and fireplace.

As originally constructed, the building contained an auditorium, dressing rooms, and a rear, lean-to kitchen. The auditorium had an elevated stage, hardwood flooring, and vaulted ceiling. The fireplace heated the building until a gas furnace was installed during the 1960s (Hunt c1978).

In 1981 the Pine Ward sold the cultural hall to the Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District #12. With federal funding, the school district made plans to rehabilitate the building. Architectural drawings (Gerald A. Doyle & Associates 1981) were submitted to the SHPO, and historical information was submitted to the SHPO and the National Register of Historic Places. The review process determined that the cultural hall was eligible for the National Register, and that the proposed project would have no adverse effect on the historic building (Harrison 1981; Pritzlaff 1981).

The rehabilitation project replaced the lean-to kitchen with a larger, rear, gabled addition containing a kitchen, dining room, freezer, restrooms, and storage rooms. Interior and exterior walls of the addition were finished with materials matching those of the original building. Original asphalt roofing was removed, and the entire building was re-roofed with new asphalt shingles. The building is still owned by the school district and continues to be used as a recreational hall for the community.

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Section 7 Page 4 Pine Community Center Historic District
Gila County, Arizona

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Pine Elementary School (Contributor)

#3916 SR 87/260 (Photos 2 and 5)

Situated at the northeast corner of the historic district, this building was constructed in 1945 as the Pine Elementary School. It was the last of a series of public schools to be built on the same block over the course of 70 years (see Section 8). The site of the elementary school was formerly that of the Pine High School. Constructed in 1926, the high school averaged about five graduates a year until it closed in 1938 for lack of funds. When the high school building burned in 1944, this elementary school was erected in its place (Koupal 1977).

The original (1945) part of the building provides the principal elevation, facing east onto the main street (SR 87/260). This part is a one-story structure with a rectangular plan and hipped roof. Exterior walls are of coursed and uncoursed sandstone set in concrete mortar. Interior walls are stuccoed. Galvanized sheet metal with standing seams provides the roofing material. Character-defining elements include gabled entries at the northeast and southeast corners of the building, and wooden-sash, double-hung, four-over-four windows. The 1945 building had two classrooms, a janitor's closet, and a partial basement (for a furnace).

The building was enlarged in the late 1960s and again in 1975 (Ritter 1975) to provide room for new classrooms, restrooms, a library, kitchen, and dining hall. Attached to the original building at its southern end and extending westward from that point, the two additions gave the building an L-shaped plan. The additions have unsheathed, cinder-block walls; low- to medium-pitched, gabled roofs with standing-seam, sheet-metal roofing; board-and-batten gable ends; and metal-sash, horizontal-sliding windows. Interior surfaces include acoustic-tile ceilings, carpeting, and linoleum.

The building served as Pine's elementary school until the 1990s. At that time a new school complex was constructed a short distance to the southwest. With minimal remodeling, the stone portion of the old school building became a non-profit thrift shop (the proceeds of which benefit the community's senior citizens). The additions became the Senior Citizen Dining Hall and Kitchen. The Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District #12 remains the owner of this building and the other three buildings on the block.

Prefabricated Classroom Building (Noncontributor)

#3872 SR 87/260 (Photo 6)

The school district purchased this modular, prefabricated building in 1987 to provide extra classroom space for the Pine Elementary School. Construction of a new elementary school in the 1990s obviated the need for the building. It now serves as the clubhouse for the Rim Country Chapter of the Kiwanis Club. The building is a noncontributing element because it is less than fifty years old.

The building is situated near the southwest corner of the historic district, behind the former chapel and cultural hall. The one-story, woodframe building has a rectangular plan; low-pitched, gabled roof with composition shingles; metal-sash, horizontal-sliding windows; and wooden-panel siding. All doors are hollow-core; the two on the west side are accessed

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Section 7 Page 5 Pine Community Center Historic District
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by wooden steps, while that on the east side has a handicapped-accessible ramp. Small parking areas adjoin the building on its north and west sides.

Integrity

Despite alterations and additions, the proposed district retains its historic integrity. The one noncontributing building is the prefabricated classroom building, a relatively small edifice that is sited at the rear of the block, behind the historic chapel and cultural hall; the noncontributor is barely seen from the main road. The 1981 rehabilitation of the chapel and cultural hall preserved the historic integrity of those buildings while adapting them to new public uses. The recent installation of metal security grilles over the windows of the chapel (now a museum) has lessened, but not destroyed, the integrity of that building. The additions to the stone schoolhouse are sited so that the original design of the building can still be readily seen and appreciated. The Pine Community Center Historic District possesses sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to qualify for the National Register.

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Section 8 Page 1 Pine Community Center Historic District
Gila County, Arizona

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SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Pine Community Center Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its important association with social history and education in the rural town of Pine. For many decades the district served as the meeting place for community affairs in the historically Mormon village. The district's buildings provided the venues for educational instruction, religious services, voting, plays, concerts, dinners, ice cream socials, chautauquas, fundraisers, weddings, funerals, Girl Scout and Boy Scout meetings, Pioneer Day celebrations, sporting events, and myriad other activities. The social and educational life of the mountain town continued to center around these buildings through the late twentieth century. Criterion Consideration A applies to the district because two of its three contributing resources were constructed and owned by a religious institution during the period of significance. The period of significance begins with the construction date of the earliest remaining building (1915) and extends to 50 years before the present (1954), indicating the district's continuing importance into the modern era. The level of significance is local.

Historic Context: Significance under Criterion A

In 1879 two disciples of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Alfred J. Randall and Rial Allen, traveled by a circuitous route to arrive on Pine Creek, Arizona Territory. Randall and Allen purchased squatter's rights along the perennial stream from two earlier residents, Henry Siddles and "Old Man" Bunch, and began to move their families there. Other colonists soon followed. In 1880, the territorial census counted 38 inhabitants at "Pine Creek," soon to be known simply as Pine (Anderson 1996; Johns and Strittmatter 1996).

By early 1881, sufficient families lived in Pine to justify organization of an LDS branch. Rial Allen became first bishop, with Price Nelson as first counselor and Alma M. Hunt as second counselor. The Pine Branch of the Tonto Basin Ward of the Little Colorado Stake, as it was formally called, organized a Relief Society, naming Susan Allen as president, Ellen Allen as first counselor, and Mary Allen as second counselor (Hunt c1978). By the end of the year, 13 families at Pine had filed for water rights, built a diversion dam across the creek, installed an irrigation system, and divided home sites among heads of households (Anderson 1996).

The first branch report, dated 27 May 1882, listed 10 Mormon families with 78 church members residing at Pine. At least one and perhaps two additional families (the Houghs and Coopers) were not church members. One local historian (Anderson 1996) estimates that Pine's total population by the summer of 1882 numbered between 83 and 100. Heads of households commonly engaged in cattle ranching, farming, and freighting (Johns and Strittmatter 1996).

Alfred Randall's home site lay in the approximate center of the village. There, in 1882, local residents constructed what was probably Pine's first public building, a school. The teacher was William Huston, who instructed about 15 to 20 children, grades one through eight, in the one-room facility (Pine-Strawberry Archeological & Historical Society 2002). The log cabin doubled as the branch chapel on Sundays. A Sunday school with 12 teachers and 46 pupils began holding classes in the cabin during the same year (Anderson 1996; Camp Verde Arizona Stake 1981).

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Section 8 Page 2 Pine Community Center Historic District
 Gila County, Arizona

The 1890s were turbulent times for the community, as a spirit of unrest descended upon the town. The perceived threat of attack by Native Americans and anti-Mormons, the breakup of the Little Colorado Stake, and the Church's ban on polygamy had an unsettling effect on Pine's religious leaders. Bishop Allen requested permission from church President Wilford Woodruff to abandon the town. Woodruff approved the request, and advised all saints to leave. Enough did so to reduce the town's population by nearly a third (Anderson 1996). Among those who remained were Alfred Randall, who became bishop after Allen's departure (Hunt c1978).

Brigham Young, Jr., one of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles of the Church, visited Pine in 1900 and reorganized it as the Pine Ward within the Maricopa Stake. Randall resigned as branch leader, and Lyman Leavitt became ward bishop. Leavitt led a congregation of approximately 100 steadfast residents who apparently no longer felt threatened by the tumult of the preceding decade. Pine regrouped and regrew (Anderson 1996; Hunt c1978). Its population soon reached about 200 and remained at that level for many years (Johns and Strittmatter 1996).

Circa 1902, Pine built a new public schoolhouse to replace the 1882 log cabin. Like its predecessor, the new building was constructed on a piece of Alfred Randall's land in the center of the village (in relation to the proposed district, the school was situated between Buildings 1 and 3 in Figure 3). The woodframe building with bell tower initially had one room. A second room was soon added on the west side. The two rooms were separated by a canvas partition that could be rolled up to create a larger area for LDS meetings, dances, and other events (Hunt c1978). The public school provided instruction only for grades one through eight; until 1926, when Pine built its own high school, students who continued their education past the eighth grade usually did so at Payson High School or at the LDS Academy in Snowflake (Hunt c1978; Johns and Strittmatter 1996).

In 1914, Bishop Isaac Hunt initiated an effort to construct a ward chapel for Pine. The widow of Alfred Randall donated land. The building (Building 1 in Figure 3) was sited immediately south of, and on the same block as, the 1902 public school. The ward received permission from church authorities in Salt Lake City to erect its chapel, and contacted the Maricopa Stake to prepare the architectural plans (Hunt c1978).

The ward rejected the first set of plans, drawn by John Bowler, because they called for a basement—too costly an item for the small, rural congregation. The plans were redrawn (without a basement) and approved, and work on the foundation began on 17 August 1915 (Hunt c1978).

Peter Mangusun of the Maricopa Stake was hired to oversee the work. Heber Higgins and Arthur Clark did much of the carpentry. Rough lumber was brought in from the Hilligass sawmill east of Payson and hand-planed on site. All other material for the building was hauled by teams and wagons from Mesa, Flagstaff, and Winslow. The project involved substantial community effort. Each able-bodied male in the ward was assessed according to his ability to contribute to a building fund. The assessment could be paid in cash or labor. For example, some men furnished teams, wagons, and a driver to haul construction material; under such an arrangement, the men were credited \$2.50 per hour toward their assessment (Hunt c1978).

The chapel was completed in 1916 at a total cost of \$4082.35, including cash and labor contributions. The Pine LDS Ward Chapel was dedicated on 23 May 1917 by David O. McKay, one of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles (Hunt c1978).

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Section 8 Page 3 Pine Community Center Historic District
Gila County, Arizona

The chapel became the social hub of the predominantly Mormon village. The house of worship served not only as the outlet for administrative decisions from Salt Lake City; it also became the center for the diffusion of ideas and airing of issues important to local residents. Sunday meetings resembled a farmer's institute, with half the talk devoted to ideas about raising crops and cattle.

The block occupied by the 1902 elementary school and 1915-1916 chapel became the scene of new construction activity when a public high school was completed there in 1926. The woodframe building was situated north of the elementary school. Organized by H. E. Stevenson, who served as principal for the first two years, the school normally had six instructors and a yearly enrollment of 20 to 30 students. The high teacher-to-student ratio resulted in several outstanding achievements for the school. Its orchestra, chorus, and basketball team were prides of the community. Most students graduated and went on to receive college degrees. Unfortunately, the school closed in 1938 for lack of funds. The building stood until 1944, when it was destroyed by fire (Koupal 1977).

Four years after the high school was constructed, another building rose on the same block (Building 2 in Figure 3). Members of the Pine ward had long recognized the need for a recreation hall; Mormons from a wide area customarily journeyed to Pine on Saturdays so they would be in the village early for Sunday meetings, and Pine residents wanted a venue for entertaining and promoting a sense of fellowship with their visitors. Responding to this need, the congregation began constructing a Cultural Hall in 1930. The first major event held in it occurred in the summer of 1931 during Ward Conference. A large crowd danced to the tunes of a good orchestra brought up from Mesa (Hunt c1978).

The Cultural Hall proved a great asset not only to the church but also to the entire community. It was used constantly by the public school for plays and programs, athletics, and orchestra practice. All election polls were held in it. The Northern Gila County Fair was centered there beginning about 1937-1938. Other functions held in the building or on its grounds included 4th of July celebrations, Pioneer Day festivities, concerts, ice cream socials, chautauquas, fundraisers (benefitting Search & Rescue, the library, and the school), Girl Scout and Boy Scout meetings, and harvest festivals (Hunt c1978; Johns and Strittmatter 1996).

The former high school building at the north end of the block burned in 1944. In 1945 a new elementary school was erected in its place (Building 3 in Figure 3). Rendered obsolete, the former elementary school was subsequently demolished (Johns and Strittmatter 1996).

State Route 87 was designated through Pine in the 1940s and paved in 1958. The improved highway changed Pine from a remote agricultural village to a destination within easy reach of urbanites. Increasing numbers of visitors discovered the delights of the community and decided to move there. The rising population placed new pressures on the land and its resources. The elementary school struggled to keep pace with increasing enrollments; when two additions to the building proved inadequate, prefabricated classrooms were brought in (Building 4 in Figure 3). When the Pine LDS Ward completed a new chapel a short distance north in 1980, the school district purchased the chapel and cultural hall to gain much-needed space. By the 1990s, even this measure proved inadequate, and a new school complex was constructed a short distance to the southwest.

The Pine-Strawberry Elementary School District #12 still owns the land and all buildings comprising the proposed Pine Community Center Historic District. The former LDS Cultural Hall still serves the town as a recreation hall. The other three

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Section 8 Page 4 Pine Community Center Historic District
Gila County, Arizona

buildings have changed function: the former chapel is now a historical and archaeological museum; the former school is now a Senior Citizens' kitchen, dining hall, and thrift shop; and the prefabricated classroom building is now a Kiwanis Club clubhouse. Despite changes in function, the district continues to serve the community and to be recognized as its geographic and social core.

Criterion Consideration A

Criterion Consideration A applies to the district because two of its three contributing resources (the Chapel and the Cultural Hall) were constructed and owned by a religious institution (the LDS church) during the period of significance (1915-1954); also, the chapel was used for religious purposes during that period. Ownership of the two buildings was transferred to the local public school district in 1980; the Chapel building has not been used for religious purposes since that date. The district qualifies for the National Register under Criterion Consideration A because it derives its primary significance from its association with the historical themes of education and social history (as discussed above).

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Photographic Information

The following information pertains to all photos:

1. Pine Community Center Historic District
2. Gila County, AZ
3. Pat H. Stein
4. December 2003
5. Arizona Preservation Consultants, 6786 Mariah Drive, Flagstaff, AZ 86004-1232

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6. View northwest, showing historic district, with former Pine LDS Ward Chapel in left foreground and former Pine Elementary School in right distance
 7. PHOTO 1
 6. View southwest, showing historic district, with former elementary school in right foreground and former LDS chapel in left distance
 7. PHOTO 2
 6. View west, showing former Pine LDS Ward Chapel (now the Pine-Strawberry Museum) (Contributor)
 7. PHOTO 3
 6. View west/southwest, showing former Pine LDS Cultural Hall (now the Pine Recreation Hall) (Contributor)
 7. PHOTO 4
 6. View west, showing former Pine Elementary School (now Pine Senior Thrift Shop and Dining Hall) (Contributor)
 7. PHOTO 5
 6. View east, showing former portable classroom (now the Kiwanis Club clubhouse) (Noncontributor)
 7. PHOTO 6

Note: Photographic vantage points are indicated on Figure 3.

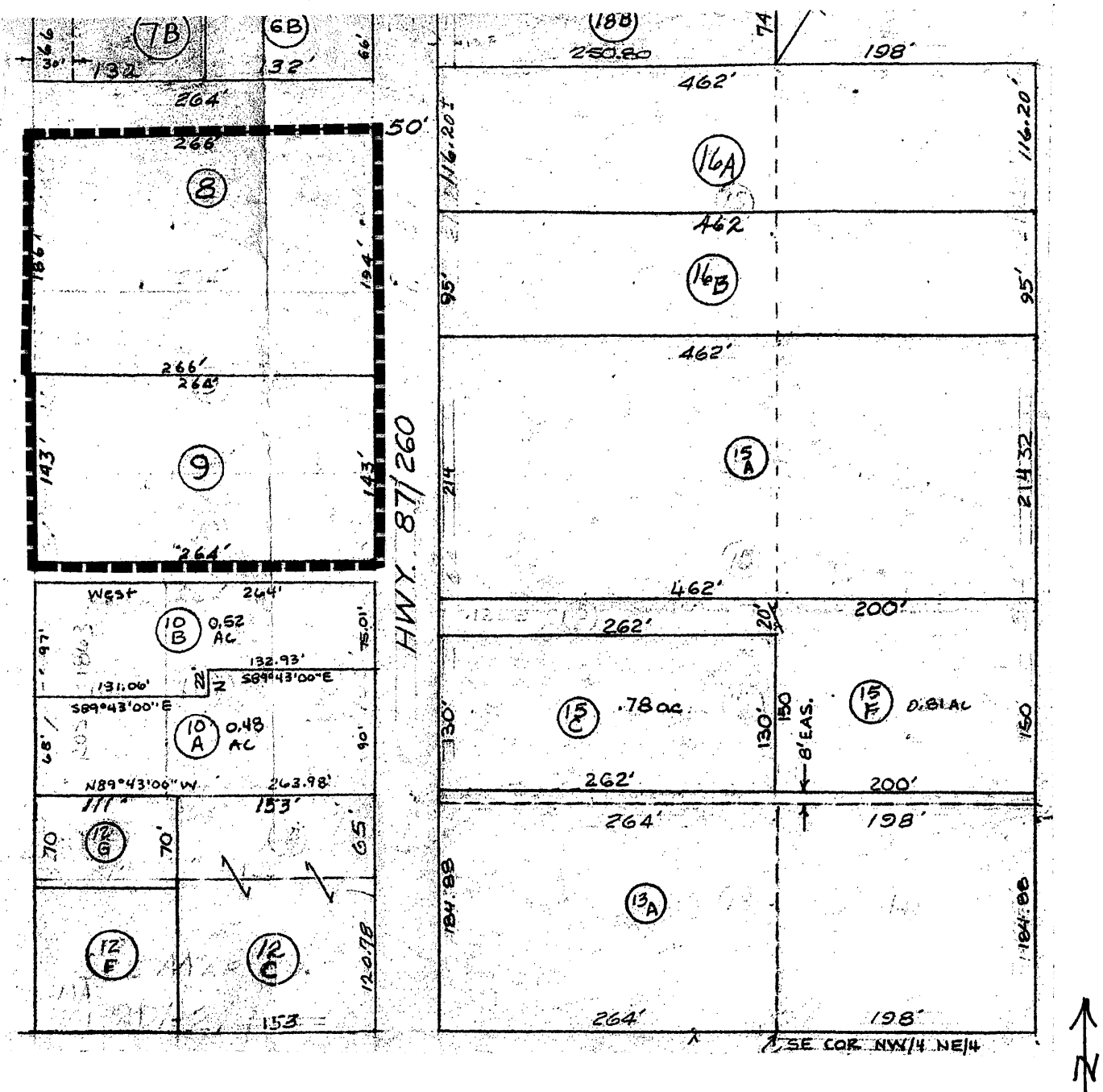


Figure 2. Portion of Gila County Assessor's plat showing Tax Parcels 301-20-008 and 301-20-009. Boundaries for the Pine Community Center Historic District are indicated by broken line.

Randall Drive

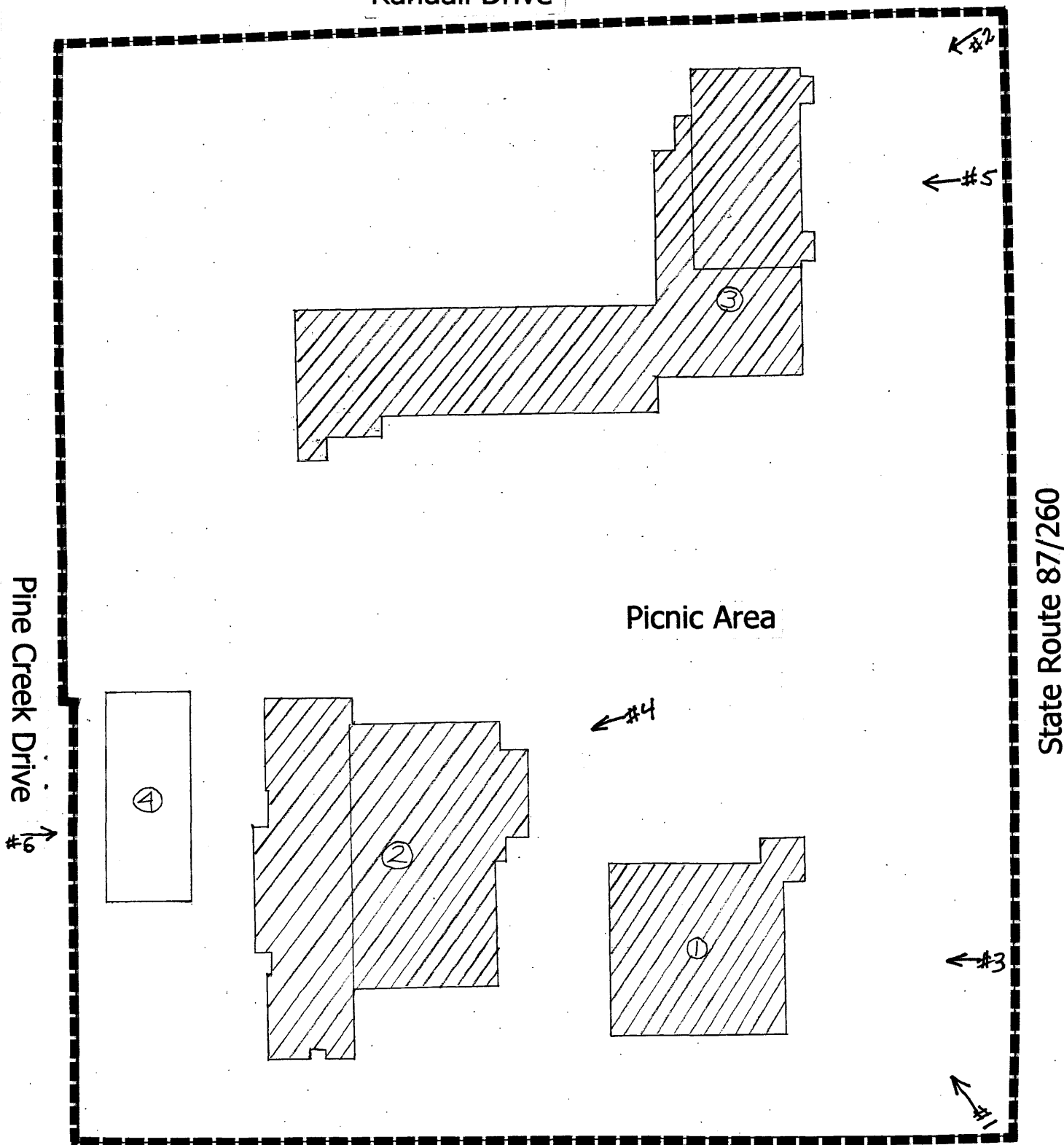


Figure 3. Pine Community Center Historic District, Gila County, AZ.

- 1 Former Pine LDS Ward Chapel (now Pine-Strawberry Museum), contributing building.
- 2 Former Pine LDS Cultural Hall (now Pine Recreation Hall), contributing building.
- 3 Former Pine Elementary School (now Pine Senior Dining Hall & Thrift Shop), contributing building.
- 4 Former Pine Elementary School portable classroom (now Kiwanis Club clubhouse), noncontributing building.



Scale: 1" = 400'

Photographic vantage point #1 →