

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

CAPL 6 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harrington Elementary School
other names/site _____

2. Location

street & number 50 North Center Street N/A not for publication
city, town American Fork N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Utah code 049 zip code 84003

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Date 1/21/93

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.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I/hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. [Signature] 3/4/93
 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 the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / school

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / education-related

SOCIAL / meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Other: Victorian Romanesque

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT (shingles)

other WOOD (trim, doors, windows)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Harrington Elementary School was constructed in two, virtually identical stages, the first in 1903 and the second (to the north), in 1934. Both parts of the two-story, brick and stone building match in plan, elevation, materials and detailing. The resulting school is symmetrical as well as horizontal in exterior appearance. Its long east and west elevations match one another, as do the shorter north and south elevations. To the west of the school, but on the same site, is a one-story, WPA-era school district administration building. Adjacent to the Harrington School (to the south) is the similarly styled 1903 City Hall. Neither building is included in this nomination.

The 1903 Harrington School was designed with a square-shaped floor plan with projecting entry wings at the east and west. The entries led to a wide, central corridor which intersected with a similarly wide north-to-south corridor, forming a Greek cross-shaped interior hall pattern. In each corner of the plan was a single, large class room. The second floor plan was identical to the first, with access provided by two fancy, wood-trimmed, open stairways, one in each of the entry vestibules. After removing the 1860 Science Hall which had been attached to the north side of the 1903 section of Harrington School, an addition was built in 1934, utilizing a very similar entry, stairway, hallway and class room plan. The one exception was the dividing of the north side of the addition into four rooms instead of a hall and two larger rooms. Aside from the addition of a few minor partitions, the floor plans of both parts of the school remain intact as originally built.

The exterior and interior architecture is also mostly intact. The exterior features a sandstone foundation; multi-colored, pressed brick walls; and painted wood trim. Three types of window openings are employed: flat, segmented, and round-arched, all with double-hung assemblies. The double-hung sash in the classrooms are typically 4-over-2 with the top sash much larger than the lower sash, resulting in a nearly 'triple-hung' appearance. Rusticated bricks form the arches while smooth bricks are used for the large Roman or round-arched entry openings. The eaves are deep, molded and trimmed with large brackets. On the hipped roof above each projecting vestibule is a small, hip-roofed dormer. There is large, shallow-pitched, truncated hip roof over the main rectangular building, while the four entry projections also have hip roofs. Except for a small concrete block utility structure along the lower north wall and a newer chimney and fire escape stairs along the rear (west) wall, the exterior has not been altered since it was built.

The interior is also largely intact with its spacious rooms, tall ceilings,

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Harrington Elementary School, American Fork, Utah County, UT

plastered walls, heavy wood trim (baseboards, casings, wainscoting, newel posts and stair balustrades -- all painted), metal radiators, blackboards, multiple-panel doors, and maple floors still extant. Some ceilings have had acoustical tile installed and some minor partitions and doors changes have been made. Overall, however, the interior retains the majority of its character-defining features and spaces.

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8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
___ nationally ___ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A ___ B X C ___ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1903-1942</u>	<u>1903</u>
<u>EDUCATION</u>		<u>1934</u>

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
<u>N/A</u>	<u>Richard C. Watkins (probable 1903 architect)</u>
	<u>Joseph Nelson (architect of 1934 addition)</u>

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Harrington Elementary School is an intact and significant example of educational architecture designed in Utah after 1890 to house the changing educational programs that swept through the state during the reform era. It is an important example of the Victorian Romanesque styling which dominated the educational architecture of this period and region. The school is one of two remaining public buildings in this style in American Fork -- the other is the recently renovated City Hall standing south of the school, also built in 1903. The matching addition on the Harrington School, built thirty-one years after the original school, is a noteworthy example of sympathetic expansion architecture. Of the many brick and stone schoolhouses erected in Utah between 1890 and 1915, most have been abandoned, put to other uses and altered, or demolished. In continuous use almost since it was first built, the Harrington School is a prominent exception. Its exterior has undergone very little alteration. Although the interior has been adapted to contemporary uses, its character-defining features remain intact.

Following the settlement of American Fork in 1850, a one-room log school house was built in late 1851. Moved and enlarged in 1853, the building served the purposes of school and public meeting place -- both religious and civic -- until 1860-61 when a new 35 by 50 foot adobe meeting house with granite foundation and a basement was completed.¹ Expanded by a 30 by 50 foot addition in 1877, the completed building was known as the Science Hall, the direct predecessor of the Harrington School. It was erected from funds raised by donations or shares of \$25.00 per person, according to the journal of Mormon Bishop and first mayor of American Fork, Leonard Ellsworth Harrington, after whom the school was named.² During the 1870s two other new schools were built, one in the east part of town and one in the northwest section. Together, these three structures provided adequate facilities for the Mormon school system which operated during Utah's first 43 years.

During the period 1862 through 1893, the number of school districts in Utah

X See continuation sheet

¹Ellen Jacklin Tracy, "Science Hall--First Public School," American Fork Citizen, 31 July 1975.

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Territory grew from 76 to 342.³ The relative effectiveness of districts varied dramatically and often depended on the abilities of local trustees as well as teachers. Clearly students throughout the state were not being offered equal educational opportunities. Consolidation and grouping the districts by counties not only made administration more efficient but made progressive curriculum available statewide. These benefits would be felt by American Fork's school children.

Over the years, the Harrington School property had moved in and out of private hands. As was common in the late nineteenth century, Mormon Relief Societies (the women's auxiliary) owned property and constructed buildings for their own use. The American Fork Relief Society took title of the Science Hall property from the school's owner, W.D. Robinson et al, in 1895. Five years later the American Fork Ward (i.e., Mormon congregation) was divided into four separate units and the property was sold in 1901 to American School District #14. This facilitated the construction of the new Harrington School along the south end of the old Science Hall.

A further development impacting educational quality was the replacement of the Mormon school system with a free public school system after 1890, part of the accommodation reached between Mormon and federal government leaders following the abandonment of the practice of polygamy in 1890. It was Leonard Harrington, the school's namesake, who sponsored a bill in the territorial legislature giving communities the right to maintain free public schools supported by taxation. Interestingly, the idea of a free school system was not universally appreciated.⁴ In American Fork the proposal met with considerable opposition. One childless man stood up in a public meeting to debate the issue and passionately declared that "he was not going to educate other people's youngsters."⁵ Harrington himself chaired a second meeting wherein the proposition of a free school was accepted more favorably. When the vote resulted in a tie, Harrington cast the deciding vote that carried the issue in favor of a free school.

The consolidation of districts and school facilities, as well as the establishment of a tax-supported school system had a direct impact on the educational architecture that followed. Instead of small, individually designed schools which were often multi-purpose buildings spread throughout communities, there were fewer, but larger, and more uniformly designed, single-purpose schools designed after 1890. The state and counties hired architects who specialized in school design, and plans were engineered and somewhat standardized. The architect for the Harrington School of the 1903 is not known, but he was most likely Richard C. Watkins, State Architect of

X See continuation sheet

³John C. Moffet, The History of Public Education in Utah (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1946): 204-209.

⁴Emma N. Huff, A Centennial History of Utah County (Springville, Utah: Art City Publishing, 1947): 218.

⁵George F. Shelley, "Schools and School Houses," Early History of American Fork, (American Fork: American

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Harrington Elementary School, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Schools who, during his long career, designed some 240 school buildings. Watkins was especially active in the design of schools south of Salt Lake City. He designed several other schools, churches and commercial buildings in Utah County including the Peteetneet School in Payson (NR). Watkins masterfully employed the Victorian Romanesque style in all of his schools of this period. Moreover, the floor plan of the 1903 Harrington School is identical to that of the 1901 Peteetneet School, providing circumstantial evidence that he may have designed both structures.

In March 1920, the American Fork School District #14 gave the title of the property to the Alpine School District which has maintained ownership to the present. In 1924, school board architect Walter E. Ware (of the prominent, Salt Lake City-based firm of Ware and Treganza) prepared plans for a two-story addition with four rooms per floor, to be built on to the north side of the 1903 structure. The addition was to match the appearance of the older school and required the removal of the historic Science Hall. Although a low bid of \$19,986 for the project was received on 17 June 1924, it appears that the work was postponed for a decade, perhaps because the low bid was considered too high. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and school records show that a similar addition designed by Provo architect Joseph Nelson of Nelson and Ashworth was built in 1934. Partly funded by the NIRA, WPA and PWA, as were other schools in the district, the addition was built by the Chipman Mercantile Corporation for \$13,147, significantly less than the estimated amount of the proposed 1924 addition. Like the addition planned a decade earlier, the new north section matched the architecture of the 1903 building despite the fact that architectural styles had changed since the construction of the earlier structure. There was clearly a strong and continuous commitment on the part of the school board to maintain and mirror the architectural character of the original Harrington School.

The expanded Harrington Elementary School continued in operation until the late 1960s when new elementary schools were built and its mission was changed slightly to accommodate learning disabled students. This use continued until about 1985 when a new facility for these challenged students was constructed. Administrative use of the building by the Alpine School District increased and continues to the present. The building is still used by the school district for offices and quasi-public facilities. It has been kept in its original appearance with only minor, reversible modifications. With the demolition of the historic American Fork High School in 1991, Harrington School survives as the oldest and most significant example of educational architecture in American Fork. It is one of the finest and most intact buildings of its type in the state and becomes more rare yearly as most school districts have adopted a policy of demolishing or selling what they consider to be obsolete and unusable educational buildings.

During the Great Depression, a one-story, brick building was built by the WPA approximately 70 feet west of the Harrington School. This c. 1937 building also continues to be used by the school district administration. It is not included in the nomination.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alpine School District historical records/Board minute books.

American Fork City Library Historical Scrapbook. American Fork Public Library.

American Fork Citizen, 31 July 1975.

Huff, Emma N., Memories That Live -- Centennial History of Utah County.

Jenson, Andrew, LDS Biographical Encyclopedia, Volume 3. (1920)

Moffet, John C., The History of Public Education in Utah. (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press, 1946)

Shelley, G.F., Early History of American Fork. (1942)

___ See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.63 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/3/2/3/3/0</u>	<u>4/4/6/9/7/8/0</u>	B	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / /</u>	D	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / /</u>

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Com. SW Corner of Lot 21 Blk 18, Plat "A" of American Fork City: N 316 FT; E 225 FT; S 316 FT; W 225 FT to beginning. Excluding the WPA-era administration building located to the west of the Harrington Elementary School at approximately 48 North Center Street.

___ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Site is the same as the historic school property since 1903.

___ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allen Roberts, AIA / Preservation Consultant; Dr. Martha S. Bradley/Historian

organization Cooper/Roberts Architects, AIA date December 1992

street & number 202 West 300 North telephone 801-355-5915

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah zip code 84103

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Section number PHOTOS Page 4 Harrington Elementary School, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Photo No. 1

1. Harrington Elementary School
2. American Fork, Utah, County, Utah
3. Photographer: Allen Roberts
4. Date: August 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. South and east elevations. Camera facing northwest.
7. Photo No. 1

Photo No. 2

1. Harrington Elementary School
2. American Fork, Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Allen Roberts
4. Date: August 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. North and west elevations of the Harrington School with the north elevation of the 1903 City Hall visible in background. Excluded WPA-era building is located to the west (right), out of view. Camera facing southeast.
7. Photo No. 2