

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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall

other name/site number Washington Elementary School, 268 North 500 West, 282 North 500 West

2. Location

street & town 270 North 500 West not for publication

city or town Vernal vicinity

state Utah code UT county Uintah code 047 zip code 84078

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 11/15/04
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] 12/29/04
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	4	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Vernal, Utah

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Victorian Eclectic

OTHER: Classical vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: sandstone

walls BRICK

roof METAL; WOOD: shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall
Name of Property

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah
City, County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION _____

RELIGION _____

ARCHITECTURE _____

SOCIAL HISTORY _____

Period of Significance

1895-1928 _____

Significant Dates

1895, 1913, 1928 _____

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall
Name of Property

Vernal, Uintah County, Utah
City, County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION _____

RELIGION _____

ARCHITECTURE _____

Period of Significance

1895-1928 _____

Significant Dates

1895, 1913, 1928 _____

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Primary location of additional data:

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.0 acres

UTM References

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

1 1/2 6/2/4/0/6/0 4/4/7/9/5/6/0
Zone Easting Northing

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

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

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

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beg at the SW cor of the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 23, T4S, R21E, SLM: th N 12 rds; E 13 1/3 rds; S 12 rds; W 13 1/3 rds to the beg.

Property Tax No. 05 022 0055

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the school.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beatrice Lufkin, Historic Preservation Consultant, & Utah SHPO Staff

organization _____ date September 23, 2004

street & number 1460 Harrison Avenue telephone 801-583-8249

city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84105

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name/title Henry Schaefermeyer

street & number 266 North 500 West telephone 435-789-0786

city or town Vernal, Utah state UT zip code 84073

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

Narrative Description

School/Relief Society Hall

The Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, built by volunteers of the community in 1895, is a rectangular Temple form building with the gable end facing the street to the west. It is basically a classical building in form with minor Victorian embellishment. The building is constructed of locally produced soft-fired brick over a sandstone foundation and sheltered by a wooden shingle roof covered with corrugated metal. The brick is laid in a common bond with flush mortar joints. The school is set back at the rear (east) of a one-acre lot with residential buildings along both sides of the street and pastureland to the east. Mature fruit trees are set across the front of the building.

All of the elevations of the school building have openings symmetrically placed. The façade, facing west, has two entrance doors with an arched plastered panel above. The panel at one time had lettering but at the time of this visit, December of 2003, the lettering was indecipherable.¹ All three openings on the façade have drip moldings in segmental arch-shapes constructed of a raised course of header bricks, as do all of the windows and doors on the building. The doors have transom windows. Boards cover all windows and transoms. The north and south elevations have four regularly placed openings; all windows on the north elevation and three windows and a door on the south. The east elevation has no openings and log supports with a galvanized metal roof provide shelter for additional storage.

The interior is one large room with an entrance door on the south and two small equal-sized rooms on the west or front of the building. The chimney is on the ridge of the roof, located in the wall between the large and small rooms. Some of the ceiling plaster has cracked and fallen, exposing the lathe, and the wallpaper is peeling in spots, but a corrugated metal roof added c. 1960 protects the building from further water damage. Throughout all three rooms, beadboard forms a three-foot-tall wainscot surmounted by a chair rail. Each small entrance room has its own door to the outside and rows of hooks, presumably for the students' coats. There is a stenciled pattern high on the wall in both vestibule rooms. All of the windows are boarded over on the exterior, preserving the glass and the six-over-six double-hung wooden sash on the interior. All three doors have oval transom lights that are now covered. Interior window casings and trim are painted wood and remarkably intact with corner block patera. When the building was used as a residence by the Carl and Elva Davis family, temporary partitions were put up to demarcate a kitchen space.² Ghosts of one of the partitions remain along the east wall.

Contributing Outbuilding

There are six buildings on the property and two are contributing; the school, and the small log building. The low-pitched gable-roofed small log building in the far northeast corner of the lot is deteriorating. Tradition

¹ Photos from the 1987 ILS show "Vernal" across the top. The rest is illegible.

² The date of their residence is unknown but most likely in the 1930s or early 1940s. There is no plumbing in the building.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

states that it dates from the school era and was used to house the horses of the students although it seems quite small for horses.³

Other Non-contributing Buildings

The residence, the workshop/garage, and the two metal-clad sheds that were moved to the site in the 1950s are all noncontributing. The current owner, Henry Schaefermeyer, built the residence c. 1945 of logs from the surrounding hills that he milled. It is a vernacular side-gabled bungalow with a wide shed-roofed dormer on the façade and a full-width front porch sheltered under the main roofline. There is another shed-roofed dormer at the rear as well as an addition. A three-sided bay window protrudes from the south elevation. The garage is attached to the south. The house, garage and rear additions are all clad with aluminum siding. The flat-roofed aluminum siding-clad workshop/garage, built in 1945, with a stepped parapet has a cinder block wall chimney on the south elevation and garage door openings on the east and west sides. Its windows are small paned metal sash casements. The other two structures are both corrugated galvanized metal-clad buildings. They were moved to the site, to the north the school building, in the 1950s from the telephone offices in town.⁴ The shed-roofed one, about the size of a single-car garage, has side-hinged wooden doors. The smaller one with the slightly arched roof is located directly behind (east) the other.

Although the Washington School/Vernal Relief Society Hall has been vacant and is now used only for minor storage since the 1940s, the building retains its historic fabric and its historic integrity and is a contributing historic resource in the community.

³ Personal interview with Henry Schaefermeyer, 2003.

⁴ Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, constructed in 1895, is significant under Criterion A for its association with the educational, religious, and social history of Vernal. Although originally constructed for use as a school, the building served in this function for only a couple of years because of accessibility problems. It was then sold to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for use as a Relief Society hall. However, by this time building function was going through a transition in the Mormon Church. Rather than using separate buildings for separate functions, the Church began to consolidate all organizations into a single building. Probably because of Vernal's isolation, the consolidation did not occur as quickly, and the Relief Society maintained use of an individual building later than many other areas of the state. The building is also significant under Criterion C as an example of an early school building, and one constructed by community volunteers. It is the only remaining school building⁵ from the *Early Settlement and Community Development Period (1879-1929)* of the *Historic Resources of Vernal/Maeser, Utah*, Multiple Property Nomination. This building in its two early uses helps to define the historic social character of Vernal. Because the Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall has been vacant for approximately sixty years it has seen minimal alteration and retains its historic integrity and is a contributing historic resource in Vernal.

History of Vernal

The city of Vernal is located near the Colorado line in eastern Utah, one hundred seventy five miles to the east of Salt Lake City in the Ashley Valley, bordered by the Uintah Mountains that uniquely run in an east-west direction. The area surrounding Vernal is rich in minerals and hydrocarbons. Nearby land is part of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation set-aside in the nineteenth century. Livestock and agriculture production have smoothed out the mineral-related boom and bust economy. The city was settled in the late 1870s, later than most other Utah towns. Its location is far from navigable rivers or a railhead but twentieth century highways have brought tourists as well as goods and services to the residents of Vernal.

The first Europeans known to have visited the area near Vernal were the Spanish exploring party of Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Fray Silvestre Velez de Escalante of Santa Fe, New Mexico, traveling down the Green River in 1776 in search of a route to Monterrey. Later trappers and mountain men crossed the area looking for game and established trading houses or "forts." The Ashley Valley, the location of Vernal, was named after William H. Ashley, an early fur trader in 1825. Captain Pardon Dodds was appointed the first Indian agent for the newly created Uintah Indian Reservation in 1868. When he retired in 1873 he moved to Ashley Creek to settle and was the first European settler in the area of Ashley town⁶.

⁵ The only other historic era school building extant, Central Elementary School, on 250 S. Vernal Avenue, is a c. 1942 PWA Moderne horizontal school.

⁶ Four miles northwest of present-day Vernal.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

After the Native Americans of the Uintah Basin were defeated in the Blackhawk War (1866-70) and forced to move into the new Uintah Indian Reservation, LDS President John Taylor, the leader of the Mormons,⁷ with headquarters in Salt Lake City, “called” church members for colonization of the Ashley Valley. The David Johnston family was the first to settle in the area called the Bench, now known as Vernal, in 1878 and more settlers followed the next year. After the White River Utes rebelled against their agent, Nathan Meeker, in 1879 in the so-called Meeker Massacre, and the subsequent deaths of soldiers and Utes, the residents of the Bench, following the advice of sympathetic Indian leaders, moved their cabins into a central location inside a fort in a square facing inward. The fort was U-shaped and located on what is now Main Street.⁸ People began to move their cabins from the fort in 1880 and by 1882 the fort was torn down. In 1884 the area where the fort was located was named Ashley Center. The town was surveyed and laid out in the typical Utah grid pattern in 1885 and businesses were established there.

Gilsonite, a hydrocarbon, was discovered on nearby Indian lands in 1886 and was one of the first commercial mining activities in the Vernal area. Two years later, after intense lobbying, the “Gilsonite strip” was removed from the reservation and available for mining. Efforts were made to break up the Uncompahgre Reservation just south of Vernal in the 1890s. These efforts were successful and the reservation was opened to homesteading in 1897 and to mineral claims in 1903. The Uintah Reservation was opened to homesteading in 1905. The availability of mineral leases and the opening of reservation land to homesteading, led to Vernal’s greatest boom time in the early twentieth century. The necessity to transport Gilsonite to markets was responsible for the only railway in the county, the narrow-gauge Uintah Railway. A freight station was built in Vernal in 1905 in anticipation of the railroad coming to town. It was hoped that the railway would handle the export of minerals and the import of building supplies and goods for settlers. The railroad never approached closer than fifty-five miles to Vernal and the station still stands on Main Street.

Vernal was prosperous in the first decades of the twentieth century. The needs of the miners and the new settlers to the area provided local markets and made local agriculture profitable. The increased wealth in Vernal was seen in more elaborate house styles and larger houses as well as the volume of houses built during the first decades of the twentieth century. As the boom began to end, the beginning of the war in Europe served to keep agricultural and mineral prices high. The Ashley Field was the first major producer of natural gas in the country in 1925. Natural gas was provided to the city of Vernal in 1929. Dinosaur National Monument was established in 1915 and tourism was seen as a potential business area. Vernal’s location on the Victory Highway supported four hotels, many restaurants, including the Victory Highway Café and the Bon Ton Café, and auto-related businesses as well as several blacksmiths in 1928.

Washington School

Formal educational instruction the Uintah Basin began in 1874 when a school was established on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation for the Ute Indians. The first school in Vernal was organized in 1879 when the

⁷ Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS.

⁸ Doris Karren Burton. *A History of Uintah County: Scratching the Surface*. Utah Centennial County History Series. Uintah County Commission. (Salt Lake City, UT: Utah State Historical Society, 1996), 88.

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Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

community moved their cabins together to create a fort due to conflicts with the Utes. The school was held in the cabin of C.C. Bartlett until a separate cabin was constructed in November to house the school. Up until 1914, when all schools were consolidated under the Uintah County School District, there were some twenty-two separate districts, the result of a widely dispersed, rural population. Over the years, districts were restructured frequently—if one district disbanded, its district number was given to a newly formed district. Each district was autonomous with its own set of trustees, which made the decisions for that particular district. It wasn't until statehood was achieved in Utah, that educational reforms were put into place that helped assisted in organization and funding.⁹

Vernal's school district # 2 purchased the land for the Washington School from Alfred P. Anderson in August of 1895. Construction of the building began almost immediately and it was built by donated labor in the fall of 1895. The bricks were made on the Davis Merkley property and were laid by Archie Weeks.¹⁰ Its use as a school building was brief; after only two years the building was closed because the trustees was felt that it was too far for the children on the east side of the town to walk, highlighting the inherent problems of education organization in the Uintah Basin at that time. Closing the Washington School further exacerbated the problem with overcrowding of Vernal schools, a problem that continued until 1900 when a two-story brick building was constructed to the north of the 1888 Central School at 250 South Vernal Avenue (demolished in 1971).¹¹ The school board owned the property where the Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall was located until 1913, when it was sold to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints¹² for \$50.

Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall

The LDS Relief Society was originally established in 1842 when the Mormon Church was headquartered in Nauvoo, Illinois, although it was dormant for several years. Once the Mormons were settled in Utah, the organization was reestablished in the 1850s by a few groups of woman, and became church-wide in 1867 as an official, permanent organization of the LDS Church for all of its adult female members. The Relief Society is a charitable, educational and religious sisterhood with a centrally developed religious educational program that provides lessons for weekly meetings. In early Utah, the Relief Society played a significant role in providing social services to the community. They produced clothing, quilts, and other household goods, assistance to the needy, healthcare, and spiritual encouragement. Generally an autonomous organization, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries many Relief Societies had their own buildings or halls. The buildings were used to provide a separate meeting place for activities of the women of the church. The organization raised money for the construction of the Relief Society hall through various fund-raising projects, although male church members typically donated labor, cash, and construction materials. The practice of a separate building for the Relief Society was abandoned after the turn of the twentieth century as Church policy changed and larger ward

⁹ Burton, 248-250.

¹⁰ Henry Schaefermeyer. "The Old Brick Building at 268 No. 500 West." Unpublished manuscript available at the State Historic Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society.

¹¹ Burton, 253.

¹² LDS or Mormon.

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Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

meetinghouses were constructed that contained a room for them.¹³ The LDS church implemented this building as a Relief Society hall from 1913 until 1928, which was fairly late, although not surprising because of the remoteness of Vernal.

The Vernal Relief Society organization was established in 1880 with Anna K. Bartlett as the first president. The auxiliary organization “promoted the health and welfare of the community”¹⁴ and was active during World War I in homefront activities to support the troops. These activities took place during the years that the building was used as a Relief Society hall. Although not originally constructed for this use, this is the only known Relief Society hall in Vernal.

The Davis Family

John N. Davis purchased the property including the schoolhouse/Relief Society hall in 1928, and again the use of the building changed, this time to a residence. John Davis was a civic and religious leader in Vernal, serving as bishop of a Vernal LDS ward since 1909, as mayor pro tem in 1922, and as a representative to the Utah State House from 1907 to 1911. He was listed in the 1928 *Utah State Gazetteer* as a “sheep raiser.” After his death in 1931 his estate passed the title to his son, Carl G. Davis. Elva Eaton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Eaton, and Carl G. Davis married in 1926. Carl and Elva lived in the house for some time between 1933 and 1944. Elva Davis appeared in the society column in the *Vernal Express* during this time. Carl Davis was a coach at the high school following his own successful basketball career there. The Davises sold the building in 1944 to move to Colorado for Carl Davis’ position as a county agent.

Henry And Helen Schaefermeyer

Henry J. Schaefermeyer bought the property in 1944, although he didn’t intend to use the building as his primary residence for long. He built the workshop/garage first in 1945, and then began construction of a new house. He cut the lumber in the surrounding hills and had it milled into 4 x 4s that were used to construct his house, which he did with the help of Ben Luck and Sigurd Swenson.

Henry J. Schaefermeyer was born in Hayden, Colorado, in 1906 and moved to the Uintah Basin in 1917 with his family in two covered wagons driven by his parents on the eight-day trip. He attended Wilcox Academy in Vernal until it closed in 1924 and graduated from the first Uintah High School in 1927. He married Helen Hemstreet in June of 1934 in Vernal.

He had many jobs during his long career. During his lifetime he sold produce in downtown Vernal from his truck garden, owned and operated a Chevrolet dealership, “Basin Chevrolet,” from 1935 to 1945, worked at a

¹³ “Mormon Relief Society Buildings in Utah, 1870s-1910,” *Mormon Church Buildings in Utah, 1847-1936*, Multiple Property Submission, 1988. Copy on file at the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

¹⁴ Burton, 234.

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Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

bank as a real estate and live stock appraiser, and also worked for the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management among others. He has been a member of the Lions Club and the Fire Department since 1936, served as fire chief for ten years and recently retired after serving as a volunteer for 67 years with the fire department. He likes to collect antiques and uses the schoolhouse to store parts of his collection.

Architecture

The Washington School was constructed in 1895 in a transitional style combining Victorian Eclectic styling and Classical form. It was built with volunteer labor using soft locally produced brick in 1895. Classical styles were popular in Utah from 1847 to 1890 and Victorian styles from 1880 to 1910.¹⁵ The Classical influence is seen in the front-gabled low-pitched roof over a simple rectangular form with smooth exterior wall surfaces with regularly punctuated openings. Victorian styling is reflected in the arched window heads and the arched drip molding. It is architecturally significant for its craftsmanship, implementing locally produced brick, which was laid by volunteers, and constructed by interested citizens who wanted a school in that area of town.

The Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall is architecturally significant to Vernal as the only remaining school building¹⁶ from the "Early Settlement and Community Development Period (1879-1929)" in Vernal. It is one of only two contributing historic era school buildings in the community of Vernal. It is also the only known building used as a Mormon Relief Society hall in Vernal. This building in both of its early uses, as a school and a relief society hall, helps to define and symbolize aspects of the historic character of Vernal.

¹⁵Thomas Carter and Peter Goss. *Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940*. (Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah Graduate School of Architecture and Utah State Historical Society, 1991), 95 & 110.

¹⁶ The only other historic era school building extant, Central Elementary School, on 250 S. Vernal Avenue, is a c. 1942 PWA Moderne-style horizontal school (styles based on Utah State Historic Preservation Office terminology).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 1 Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

Bibliography

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- Uintah County. Recorder's Office. Title Abstract Books.
- Vernal Express*: various issues.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 2 Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall, Vernal, Uintah County, UT

Common Label Information:

1. Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Society Hall
2. Vernal, Uintah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Beatrice Lufkin
4. Date: December 6, 2003
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

6. North and west elevations of school building. Camera facing southeast.

Photo No. 2:

6. South and east elevations of school building. Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 3:

6. Vestibule door of school building. Camera facing west.

Photo No. 4:

6. West and south elevation of dwelling. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 5:

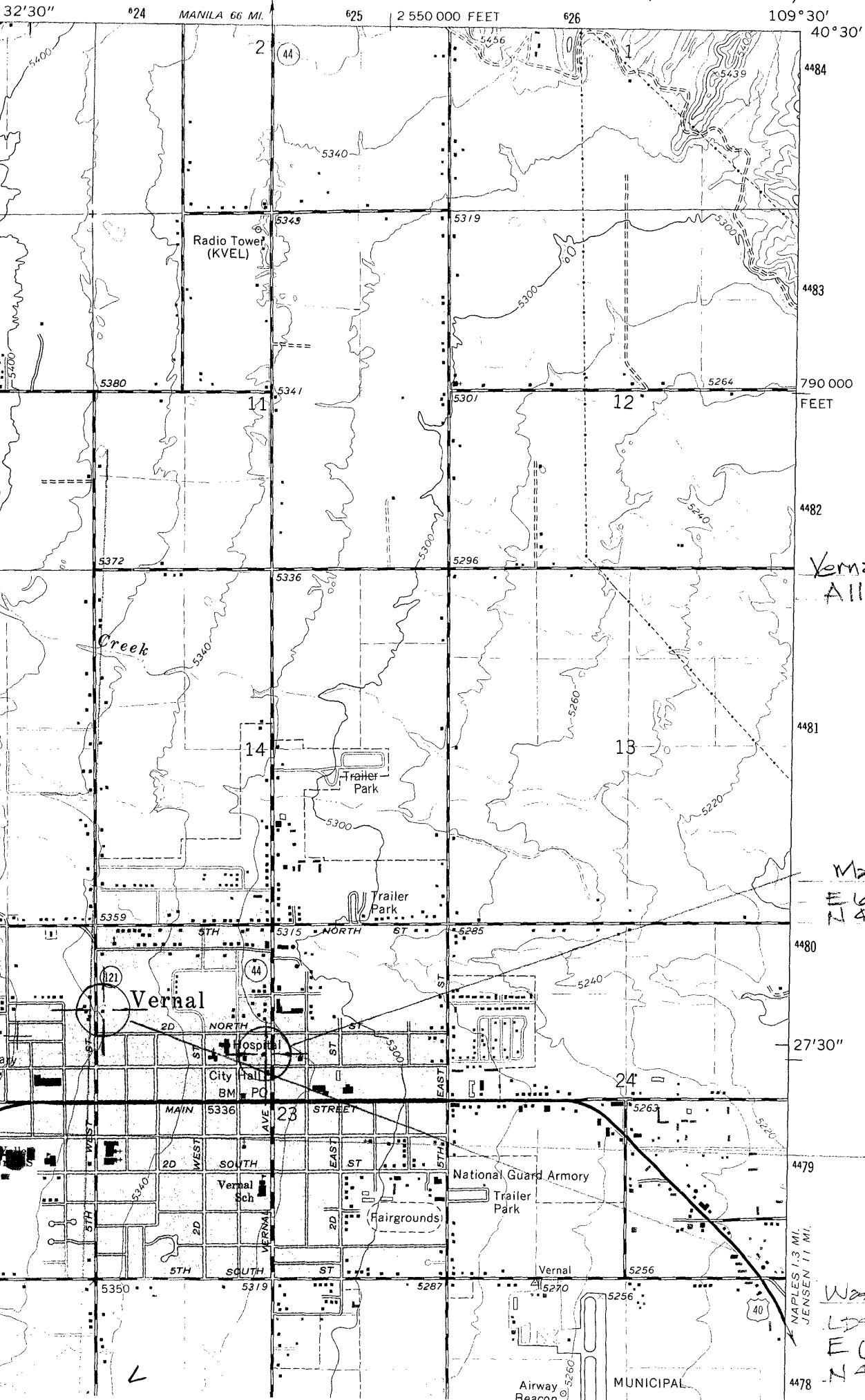
6. West and south elevation of log structure. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 6:

6. West and south elevation of workshop. Camera facing northeast.

UTAH - UINIAH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

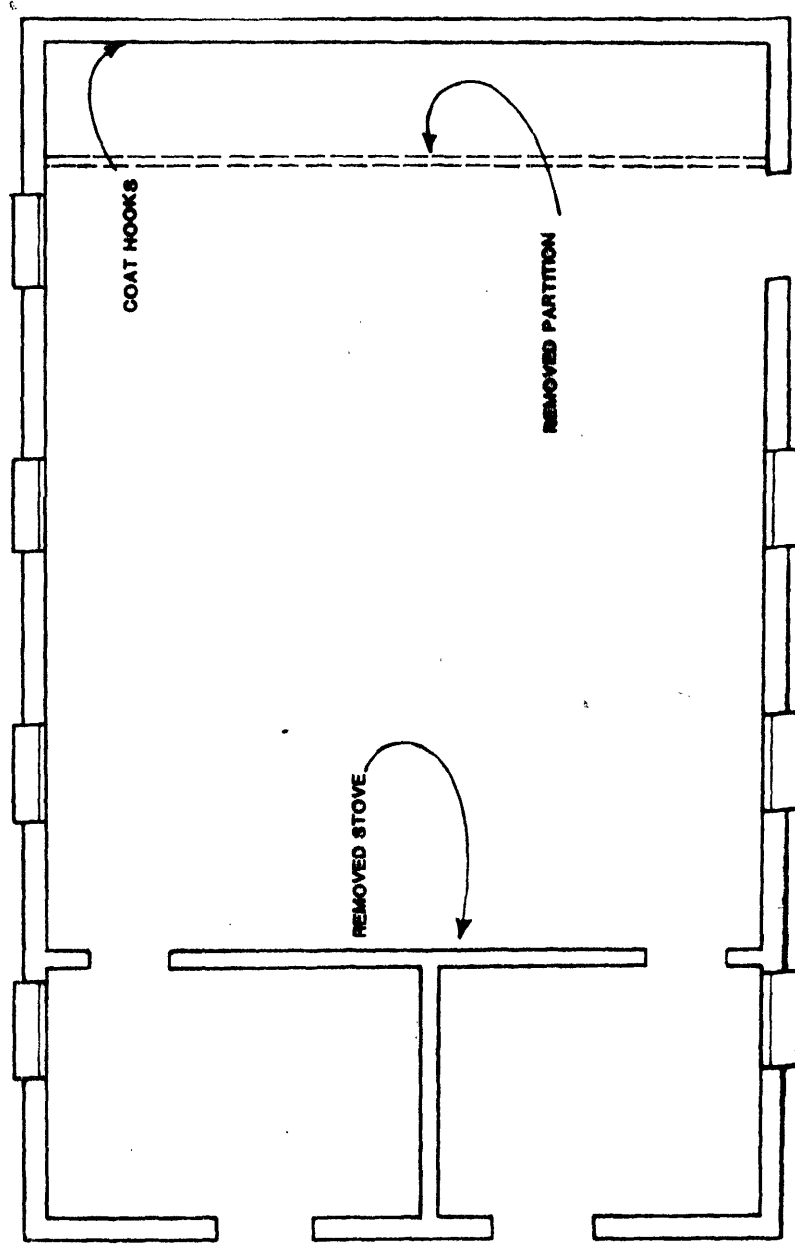
41-
DONKLE



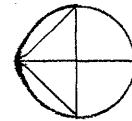
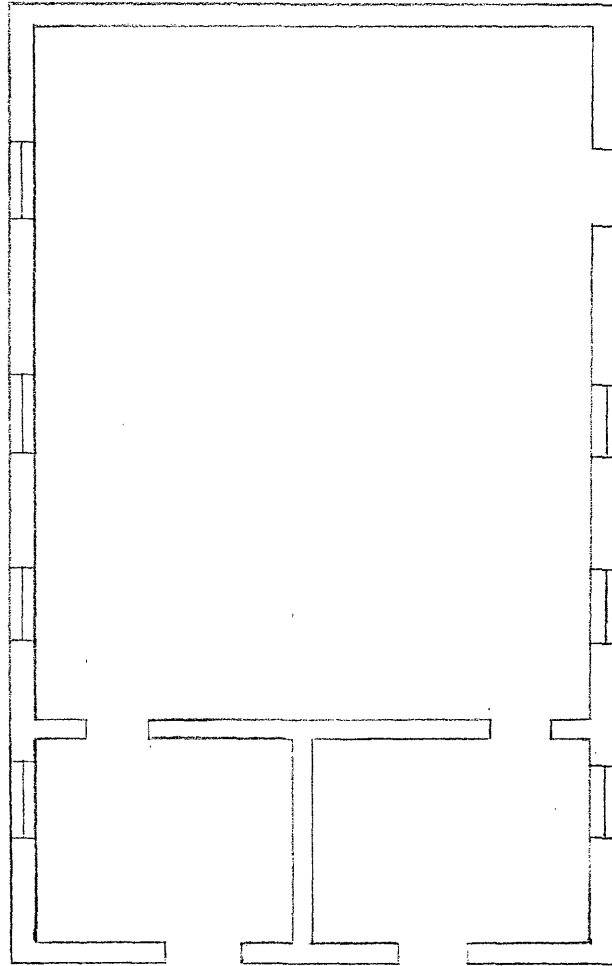
Vernal/Musser MPS
All Zone 12

Martin House
E 624800
N 4471600

Washington School /
LDS Relief Soc. Hall
E 623060
N 4479560



c. 1895
 Washington Elementary School / Vernal Rel. Soc. Hall
 (District No. 2) plan: 1987



Washington School/Vernal LDS Relief Soc. Hall
270 North 500 West
Vernal, Utah

B. Lufkin
2003