United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

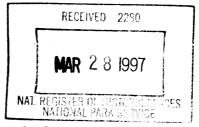
Section numb	er Page			
	SUPP	LEMENTARY LISTING	RECORD	
NR	IS Reference Number:	97000369	Date Listed:	4/25/97
	pine Elementary Schoo operty Name	<u>o1</u>	<u>Apache</u> County	<u>AZ</u> State
<u>N/.</u> Mu	<u>A</u> ltiple Name			
Pl: sui no	is property is listed aces in accordance wibject to the following twithstanding the Natural the nomination documents.	th the attached and exceptions, exceptions, exceptions.	nomination doc clusions, or a	umentation mendments,
	2 R. Lougin		4/25/97	
/ Si	gnature of the Keeper	: :===================================	Date of Actio	n =========
Amo	ended Items in Nomina	ition:		
Cri	teria Consideration A: The Alpine School prope a resource constructed a its primary significance f history. In addition to its focal point for local civic history.	nd used by a religious i rom historical importan religious use, the chap	nstitution (LDS Chuce in an area other el building served a	ırch) that derive than religious ıs an important

This information was confirmed with the Arizona SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment) NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



OMB No. 1024-0018

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.

1. Name of Property	
historic name: Alpine Elementary School	
other names/site number: Alpine LDS Ward Chap	pel
2. Location	
street & number: County Road 2052, #11 & #12 city or town: Alpine vicinity: _N/A_ state: Arizona code: AZ county: Apache	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
nomination request for determination properties in the National Register of Historic Place 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property recommend that this property be considered significated for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official ARIZINA STATE PARKS State or Federal agency and bureau	storic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this on of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering es and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I ificant nationally statewidex_ locally. (See continuation
for additional comments.)	
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	

4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the left.	r	fusigi 4/25/94
Signature of Keeper		Date of Action
======================================	****************	
Ownership of Property (Check as n private _x_ public-local public-State public-Federal		
Category of Property (Check only o _X_ building district site structure object	ne box)	
Number of Resources within Prope	erty	
Contributing Noncontributing 2_ buildings sites structures		

6. Function or Use			
	Enter categories from instructions EDUCATION SOCIAL RELIGION	s) Subcategory:	School Meeting hall Religious facility
Current Functions (E Category:	Enter categories from instructions EDUCATION SOCIAL) Subcategory:	School Meeting hall
7. Description			
	ication (Enter categories from in		
foundation: roof: walls: other:	gories from instructions) STONE/Limestone METAL/Corrugated sheet meta STONE/Limestone OTHER: Modern noncontributo	ors are of prefabi	
8. Statement of Sign	======================================	:======================================	
Register listing)	Register Criteria (Mark "x" in on	e or more boxes	for the criteria qualifying the property for National
	sociated with events that have in	_	contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
C Property embo	odies the distinctive characteristic	cs of a type, peri	od, or method of construction or represents the ts a significant and distinguishable entity whose
D Property has y	rielded or is likely to yield informa	ation important ir	prehistory or history.
A owned B remov C a birth D a cem E a reco	ons (Mark "X" in all the boxes that by a religious institution or used yed from its original location. applace or a grave. betery. constructed building, object, or structed building, object, or structed building, object, or structed building, object, or structed structe	for religious pur	

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION SOCIAL HISTORY	
Period of Significance 1930-1947	
Significant Dates 1930 1938-1939	
Significant Person N/A	
Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Architect/Builder 1930: unknown	
1938-1939: Alexander & Burton, architects; Charles Bryant Whiting, contractor	
Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS)	
Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS) ===================================	
Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS)	
Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS) 9. Major Bibliographical References	

Alpine Elementary School Apache County, Arizona

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5

UTM References (See accompanying USGS map for point references)

Zone 12 672000E 3746600N

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Alpine Elementary School is shown as the broken line on the accompanying map entitled "Survey, Alpine Elementary School, 1996" (Figure 2). The boundary encompasses approximately 2.5 acres.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the land parcel associated with the Alpine Elementary School. Included within the parcel boundary is a complex of buildings consisting of two contributors (a school and a former chapel) and two noncontributors (two modern, prefabricated modules).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Pat H. Stein

organization: Arizona Preservation Consultants date: January 1997 street/number: 2124 N. Izabel St., Suite 100 telephone: (520) 214-0375

city or town: Flagstaff state: AZ zip code: 86004

Based in part on draft nominations prepared by Georgina Reis, School Board Member, in 1995.

Additional Documentation

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location (Figure 1).

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources (Figure 2).

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property (Photos 1 through 5).

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) (None included).

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name: Alpine Elementary School District #7

street & number: County Road 2052, #11 telephone: (520) 339-4570

city or town: Alpine state: Arizona zip code: 85920

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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		Apache County, Arizona

DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY

The Alpine Elementary School is a complex of buildings consisting of: a two-room schoolhouse built in 1930; a Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS/Mormon) church built in 1938-1939 and used as the public school's multi-purpose building and gymnasium since 1987; and two prefabricated modules that house offices, a learning laboratory, and a library. The two-room schoolhouse is a one-story, side-gabled, red limestone building with white limestone quoins and a sheet metal roof. The former church is a one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled, white limestone structure with a composition shingle roof. The schoolhouse and former LDS church both possess good integrity and contribute to the historic character of the Alpine Elementary School. The two prefabricated modules do not contribute to the historic character of the property because of their modern dates of construction (c1976-1979).

Location and Setting

The property is located in Alpine, Apache County, Arizona, 57 miles south of the county seat of St. Johns and 4 miles west of the Arizona-New Mexico state border line (Figure 1). Settled by ranchers in the mid 1870s, the locality was sold to Mormon colonists in 1879 (Barnes 1960:3; LeRoy and Wilhelm 1982:89; Granger 1983:13). In 1898, the colonists, then numbering about 17 families, platted the "Alpine Townsite." It resembled other Mormon townsites of Arizona in having wide streets and large, square blocks with four lots per block (concepts borrowed from church founder Joseph Smith's "City of Zion" plan). It differed from them in physical setting. Located approximately 8,000 above sea level, the Alpine Townsite was the highest Mormon colony ever attempted in Arizona (McClintock 1985:186). Its land consisted not of flat grassland or juniper woodland -- so characteristic of other LDS settlements in Arizona -- but rather of rolling ponderosa pine forest. Despite unfavorable odds occasioned by an unusually short growing season, the townsite's pioneers succeeded in growing oats, hay, barley, wheat, and potatoes. According to several sources (including Barnes 1960; Granger 1983; and McClintock 1985), the community gained fame as the highest locality in the United States where farming was successfully practiced ("prosecuted," as McClintock phrased it). The Alpine Elementary School is located within the eastern edge of the Mormon townsite and on land immediately adjacent to it (Figure 2). Situated on a knoll, the property overlooks the rest of the village.

Description

The property consists of a two-room schoolhouse, a former LDS ward chapel, and two prefabricated modules, as described in the following paragraphs.

Two-room schoolhouse: This building was constructed in 1930 as a two-room elementary schoolhouse and still functions as such. This side-gabled building is of one-story with a rectangular plan and symmetrical massing (Photos 1 and 2). It has a concrete foundation, red limestone walls of uncoursed ashlar construction, and contrasting quoins of white limestone at the building corners; the limestone for this building as well as the ward chapel came from a quarry approximately 3 miles south of town (Whiting 1994). The roof is sheathed with mostly original galvanized, corrugated

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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sheet metal, patched with the same material above the front entry gablet. The main entry, facing east, has a vestibule with stone piers supporting a concrete arch capped with a keystone. The rear entry, facing west, has a similar arch. The front and rear entries each have wooden double-doors. Each door half has three panels and three vertical lights. Like the doors, the 2-over-2 and 4-over-4 double-hung windows are original.

The architecture of the schoolhouse reflects no strong stylistic influence. Knee-braces, decorative wooden shingles below gable ends, and the three-light panel doors suggest a minimal Craftsman/Bungalow influence, while the rounded arches of the front and rear entries are vaguely reminiscent of Victorian Romanesque/Romanesque Revival architecture of the late nineteenth century. The architect/builder is unknown.

The interior contains two classrooms, a coatroom, and two small restrooms. The classrooms can be joined or divided by means of an original wooden sliding partition door. Doors connecting the classrooms with the coatroom and restrooms are original panel doors with transoms.

Changes to the building have been minor and have affected mostly its interior. The building originally had outhouses and did not receive indoor plumbing and restrooms until the early 1940s. Wood-burning stoves, cased in tin tanks so the children would not singe themselves, were originally located in each classroom; the school now has central heating. Carpeting was added in modern times, and original chalkboards were replaced with mylar boards. The only exterior changes have been the painting of the front entry arch, the addition of a covered walkway on the building's north side, and the patching of the tin roof. The building thus retains a high degree of historic integrity.

LDS ward chapel: Constructed in 1938-1939 as the Alpine LDS Ward Chapel, this building was acquired in 1987 by the Alpine Elementary School and is now used as the public school's multi-purpose building and gymnasium. The one-and-a-half-story building is cross-gabled with asymmetrical massing (Photos 3 and 4). It has a concrete foundation and partial basement; hammer-dressed, random ashlar, white limestone walls; and roof sheathing of composition shingle. A shallow, recessed front porch is supported by bandsaw-cut wooden arches. The front door is notable for its solid batten construction and wrought-iron hinges (Photo 5). Decorative (non-structural) stickwork flanks the front entry and is also present on the east and west gable ends. Notched rafter ends grace each eave as well as the shed roof on the half-story's dormer. Most windows are metal casement with wooden sashes. The gable-front portion of the building has a single portal window and four metal casement windows with arched tops. The only non-original window occurs at the southeast corner, where a metal casement has been replaced in modern times with an aluminum slider. The aluminum window and the addition of a reinforcing concrete footer are the only noticeable changes to the exterior since the building was constructed. The building therefore retains a high degree of integrity and contributes to the historic character of the school property.

The building was the work of Alexander & Burton, a Phoenix-based firm that designed several LDS churches in the 1930s and 1940s. Its works included the Phoenix 3rd Ward Chapel (1938) and the St. Johns LDS Church (1938) (*Arizona Republic*, February 6, 1938). Alexander & Burton's LDS buildings were based very loosely on American Colonial style architecture (James Woodward, personal communication). In the case of the Alpine Ward Chapel, the architects seem also to have been influenced by the Stick style of Victorian times (McAlester and McAlester 1991:254-261). Trademarks of Alexander & Burton's LDS churches were portal windows and high towers; the Alpine church lacked the latter feature.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Anache County Arizona

In its Alpine work, the architectural firm introduced the scissor truss to the community (Whiting 1994).

The builder was C. Bryant Whiting, a Springerville contractor, whose bid was just under \$17,000. His timely completion of the building -- his first large-scale project -- and the high quality of his work helped Mr. Whiting establish a good reputation in the construction trade. His other works would come to include: an addition to the Navajo County Courthouse (Holbrook); additions to the St. Johns and Round Valley high schools; and the First Interstate Bank and the Ramada Inn (both in Springerville). Mr. Whiting also became a prominent religious and civic leader. At various times he served as St. Johns Stake Mission President, Second Councillor, and Stake President, as Bishop of the Eagar Ward, and as President of the Arizona Temple. He served terms as Apache County Deputy Assessor, Arizona State Highway Commissioner, and Rotary Club District Governor. Mr. Whiting had the distinction of being the only Republican to serve in the State Senate in 1937, when B. B. Moeur was Governor (Whiting 1988 and 1994).

The interior of the former church includes a partial basement (which originally housed a coal-burning furnace), a small attic (the half-story, which now contains an HVAC system), and the main story. The interior changed remarkably little during its conversion from a church to a school multipurpose building and gymnasium. The chapel room (containing the portal window) gained built-in cabinets; a sliding wooden door dividing the chapel room from the church assembly room was left in place. The assembly room became the school's assembly hall, and gained maple flooring so that it could also serve as a gymnasium with basketball court. Two small rooms at the southwest corner were combined into one large Home Economics Room/Cafeteria. A bathroom was added to the northeast corner, and carpeting was added to much of the building. A former church office at the southeast corner became a kindergarten classroom through the simple addition of carpeting. Original three-panel doors were retained throughout the interior. A handicap-accessible bathroom was added within the western end of the building.

Prefabricated modules: Two prefabricated, trailer-like modules of woodframe construction with flat roofs are situated to the rear of the two-room schoolhouse. They were added c1976-1979 to expand the school. The southern module functions as the principal's office, secretary's office, nurse's station, and music room. The northern module contains the library and learning laboratory. The modules are considered noncontributors in this nomination because of their modern dates of manufacture.

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			Apache County, Arizona

SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY

The Alpine Elementary School is significant because it contains buildings that were the center of village life in Alpine during the late historic period. The buildings served varied social and educational functions. In the two-room schoolhouse, Alpine children since 1930 received their grade 1 through 8 education. The schoolhouse also functioned as the community's meeting hall -- hosting clubs, events, civic activities, and even religious services -- until 1939. In that year, the adjacent ward chapel was completed. The spacious assembly room of the latter building quickly assumed the civic and social functions formerly assigned to the schoolhouse. The Alpine Elementary School property is therefore nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for the important role it played in the education and social life of a small Mormon village from 1930 (the date of construction of the schoolhouse) through 1947 (the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register). Its level of significance is local.

Criterion A: Social History and Education in Alpine, 1930 to 1947

The roots of the Alpine Elementary School property can be traced to 1879, when a rancher named Anderson Bush sold his land in Bush Valley to Mormon colonists named William Maxwell and Frederick Hamblin (Barnes 1960:3; LeRoy and Wilhelm 1982:89; Granger 1983:13). Maxwell and Hamblin moved to the valley with fellow colonists Abraham Winsor and William Grant Black and were joined before the end of the year by James C. Owens, Joseph Cluff, Sidney Worsley, and James Black Owens. The movement of these Mormons into Bush Valley continued a process of colonization from Utah into northeastern Arizona Territory that had begun earlier in the 1870s (Peterson 1973; McClintock 1985).

The Mormon community quickly became assimilated into the hierarchy of the church. James Black Owen, acting as its first Presiding Elder, was succeeded later in 1879 by Frederick Hamblin. The Bush Valley colony moved from branch to ward status within the church on September 26, 1880, when Apostles Erastus Snow and Brigham Young, Jr., installed A. Noble as its first Ward Bishop. The Bush Valley colony was officially renamed Alpine when a post office opened there in 1885 (Theobald and Theobald 1961:82). The stake affiliation of the Alpine Ward was transferred in 1887 when St. Johns separated from the Eastern Arizona Stake and absorbed nearby wards such as Alpine into the new St. Johns Stake (LeRoy and Wilhelm 1982:35 and 90).

Like most other Mormon colonies, Alpine was agricultural. William Maxwell and Frederick Hamblin donated water from nearby San Francisco River for the benefit of the farmers. Using irrigation and dry-farming, the pioneers succeeded in growing good crops of grain and potatoes. In the 1900 census, the heads of 16 of Alpine's 17 households listed their occupation as "farmer" (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1900). According to Granger (1983) and McClintock (1985), Alpine gained a reputation as the highest locality in the United States where farming was successfully practiced.

Education was an important concern to the farming community. On January 4, 1882, the villagers held a meeting to discuss building a school. They followed Stake President Erastus Snow's advice and decided to erect it on the town's

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highest point of land. Contributing labor to the effort, the brethren used logs to build the 20 by 20 ft schoolhouse. Completed in 1882, it was expanded to 40×20 ft in 1885 (LeRoy and Wilhelm 1982:91).

In historic Alpine, there was little clear distinction between church and state; the school also served as the LDS church. The practice of holding religious ceremonies in a public school was not uncommon among the smaller wards of the Eastern Arizona and St. Johns Stakes. For example, the same arrangement prevailed in Erastus, a Mormon colony approximately 50 miles northwest of Alpine (DeGlane 1981; LeRoy and Wilhelm 1982).

Alpine lost three school buildings in succession before it gained the stone schoolhouse seen in the village today. The 1882/1885 schoolhouse burned by accident in the 1910s when three youngsters lit a fireplace that had been filled with pine boughs used for decorations in a celebration. The boughs were dry and consumed the log structure in a matter of minutes. The townspeople began constructing a new school/church building in 1916 and completed it in 1917. The new woodframe structure had a recreation hall, two classrooms, and a stage. It cost \$4,000 and could hold 300 people --more than the entire population of Alpine. This building survived only two years before people noticed smoke issuing from its south end following a lightning strike. The building smoldered, burst into flames, and was quickly consumed. In the aftermath of the fire, the community erected a temporary schoolhouse of rough-hewn lumber (LeRoy and Wilhelm 1982:91-93).

To replace the temporary building, the people of Alpine in 1930 erected the stone schoolhouse seen on the property today. Its cost was approximately \$4,800. Completed in the summer, the building formally opened to classes in the fall. Grades 1 through 4 were taught in one of its rooms and grades 5 through 8 in the other. Its early teachers included, at various times, Zella Noble, Elizabeth Muir, Jennie Whitmer, and Alton Montierth; the upper-level (grades 5 through 8) instructor usually also doubled as principal. Its enrollment during the historic period was usually fewer than 30 pupils and rarely exceeded 40. Students continuing their education past the elementary level were bussed to the Round Valley High School, approximately 20 miles north (*Tourzona*, August 22, 1930; *St. Johns Observer*, August 28, 1930; *The Round Valley Press* 1930-1937; Arlene Saline, personal communication).

From 1930 to 1939, the two-room schoolhouse also functioned as the community's meeting hall, hosting a variety of events, activities, and ceremonies. Its first event was the annual Old Folks' party, held in August of 1930 before the new building officially opened to classes. Local clubs, such as the Alpine Happy Homemakers, thereafter met in the building on a regular basis. The Works Projects Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps held meetings there to explain its local projects and enlist workmen during the New Deal. Still almost exclusively Mormon, the community also used the schoolhouse as its LDS church (LeRoy and Wilhelm 1982:93), holding religious services there as well as meetings of ancillary groups such as the Relief Society, Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association, and Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. The Relief Society often sponsored dances in the school to promote its benevolent efforts.

By the late 1930s, the Alpine Ward was sufficiently large and prosperous enough to undertake the construction of a ward chapel. In 1938, the community broke ground for the chapel on land adjacent to the schoolhouse. Alexander & Burton of Phoenix were the architects, and C. Bryant Whiting of Springerville was the contractor. White limestone for the building came from the same locality as the red limestone previously used in the schoolhouse. Crude blocks were transported to the site by team and wagon, then hammer-dressed by local workmen under the supervision of an Italian stonemason.

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Ward members tithed money or labor to assist the project. The Forest Service allowed the ward to cut 150,000 board-feet of timber for the building. The wood was processed at a sawmill that Bishop John Jepson owned. For decorative elements such as the milled arches at the front entry, Mr. Whiting used a bandsaw on wheels which he purchased in Clifton. The work was made considerably easier when the contractor replaced his iron-wheeled wheel barrows with rubber-tired ones. Mr. Whiting completed the work on time (in the spring of 1939) and within budget (just under \$17,000) (St. Johns Observer, March 18, 1939; Whiting 1988 and 1994). The first recorded use of the building occurred on April 30, 1939, when the Relief Society convened in the facility (St. Johns Observer, April 29, 1939).

Among the rooms of the new church was a spacious assembly room that assumed the civic and social functions formerly assigned to the schoolhouse. It became the community's meeting hall, the center of village life in Alpine during the late historic period. Aside from the schoolhouse and ward chapel, Alpine lacked other buildings large enough to serve in this capacity.

With a current enrollment of 29 pupils, the two-room stone schoolhouse continues to be Alpine's only elementary school. According to a former Superintendent of Schools, it is the oldest elementary school building in continuous use in Apache County (David Silva, personal communication). In contrast to the schoolhouse, the ward chapel has changed in function during the modern era. Membership in the Alpine Ward declined until the ward was dissolved in December of 1972 and made part of the Luna (New Mexico) Ward. No longer needed for religious services, the chapel was acquired by the Alpine Elementary School District in 1987 for use as the school's multipurpose building and gymnasium. Now an official part of the school, the building is used for kindergarten instruction, home economics classes, physical education, and sporting events. It also continues to serve as the community's meeting hall, enjoying a heavy schedule of use by groups including the Friends of the Library, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Action Alliance.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section __9_ Page _7_ <u>Alpine Elementary School</u> Apache County, Arizona

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Personal Communications

Arlene Saline, daughter of Zella Noble, former Alpine schoolteacher; January 7, 1997.

David Silva, former Apache County Superintendent of Schools and present Principal of Alpine Elementary School; November 22, 1996.

James Woodward, Woodward Architectural Group; January 7, 1997.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _Photos_ Page _9_ <u>Alpine Elementary School</u> <u>Apache County, Arizona</u>

Photographic Information

The following information applies to Photos 1 through 5:

- 1) Alpine Elementary School
- 2) Apache County, Arizona
- 3) Pat Stein
- 4) November 1996
- 5) Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, Phoenix

- 6) View west of two-room schoolhouse
- 7) Photo 1
- 6) View northwest of two-room schoolhouse
- 7) Photo 2
- 6) View northeast of former ward chapel (now the school's multi-purpose building and gymnasium)
- 7) Photo 3
- 6) View north of former ward chapel (now the school's multi-purpose building and gymnasium)
- 7) Photo 4
- 6) View north showing detail of front entry of former ward chapel
- 7) Photo 5

