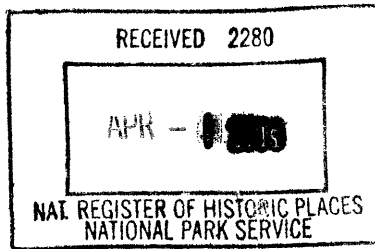


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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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: Fernley Community Church

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number 80 South Center Street not for publication N/A

city or town Fernley vicinity N/A

state Nevada code NV county Lyon code 019 zip code 89408

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility, meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Jones SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

3-19-03
Date

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

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 Register

 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Edson H. Beall

5/16/03

Joe

Signature of 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
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE auditorium

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT
walls STUCCO
other _____

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of 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 a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance 1932-1953

Significant Dates 1932

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>11</u>	<u>306700</u>	<u>4386320</u>	3	___	___
2	___	___	___	4	___	___
	___	See continuation sheet.				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elisabeth Mortenson and Vivian Lyons assisted by Michael A. "Bert" Bedeau/SHPO
organization Fernley Ladies Aid Society date 2/6/03
street & number P.O. Box 201 telephone _____
city or town Fernley state NV zip code 89408

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name Fernley Ladies Aid Society
street & number P.O. Box 201 telephone _____
city or town Fernley state NV zip code 89408

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Fernley Community Church, Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada

7. Description

The Fernley Community Church is located at 80 South Center Street in the rural town of Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada. The building faces east onto Center Street and is located approximately one half block south of the intersection of Center Street and U.S. Highway 50 Alt. in the heart of the community. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation and rises one story to a steeply pitched gable front roof finished with asbestos shingles. There is a slightly lower el located at the rear of the main volume of the building that also features a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The entire building is clad in stucco. The building is a very simple structures that exhibits no real elements of an architectural style.

The front elevation is dominated by an open entry vestibule that features a shallow arched entry opening, concrete stoop, and a gable front roof with a simple flat verge board. There is a rectangular opening in the porch gable end that contains a horizontal metal ventilation grill. The main front gable is finished as the porch gable with a simple flat verge board. There is an open belfry with a gable front roof located at the front gable peak.

The north side elevation features three double hung one-over-one sash windows plus an smaller six-over-one double hung sash in the rear el. All of these openings feature simple flat board trim. There is also a stucco and brick chimney located between the second and third windows. The south side elevation is identical to the north elevation save for the chimney and instead of a window in the el there is a secondary entry with a plain door and a concrete step. The rear of the building is unadorned save for two small fixed single hung one-over-one windows.

Integrity

The Fernley Community retains all of the integrity characteristics required for listing in the National Register. Although it is a moved building, the property derives its historical significance from the time of the move and following (1932-1954). As such the alterations made to the materials and location of the building in 1932 are integral to its significance and contribute to its overall historic integrity.

Criteria Consideration A.

The Fernley Community Church building is presently owned by a religious institution, the Fernley Ladies Aid Committee. However the property is not being proposed for listing on religious grounds. Rather, it is eligible for listing under Criterion A for its historical association with the general patterns of social life in the rural community of Fernley, Nevada during the mid-20th century. As such it should not be excluded from the National Register.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Fernley Community Church, Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada

8. Statement of Significance

The Fernley Community Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Specifically, this building played a central role in the social life of the small rural town of Fernley, Nevada during the mid-20th century. It was the venue for many of the activities that defined community life in Fernley during the 1930s and 1940s, and particularly was the site associated with the charitable efforts of the Fernley Ladies Aid Society.

Northern Lyon County is the site of the Fernley Sink—part of a larger alkali flat collectively known as the 40 Mile Desert. As such, it was not an area that attracted early Euroamerican settlement. Indeed, this area along the Overland Trail route was dreaded by émigrés as possibly the most forbidding portion of the trip to California. It is not surprising that there was little in the way of permanent settlement in this area during the nineteenth Century.

By the beginning of the 20th Century, however, the promise of a federal reclamation project began to hint at the potential for agricultural development in the region. As early as 1877, with the passage of the Desert Lands Act, the federal government was looking for ways to promote this vision of taming the arid west. The Desert Lands Act, applied to all western states except Colorado, allowed farmers to purchase 640 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre. Purchasers needed only to pay 25 cents per acre at the time of purchase and in three years prove the land had been reclaimed before paying the balance and obtaining a clear title. Abuse of the intent of the Desert Lands Act was common with large investors often accumulating more than a square mile of land.

In order to reform this system and create new irrigated lands in the West, Congressman Francis Newlands of Nevada introduced and engineered the passage of the Reclamation Act of 1902. The Reclamation Act created a revolving fund that would be replenished by the sale of public lands in sixteen western states. The construction of dams and irrigation systems were paid for with these funds. Irrigation and agricultural development of the arid West was to be an important element in ensuring national prosperity in the new century

In the Fernley area, the Reclamation Act provided funds to build the Derby Dam on the Truckee River and the Truckee Canal. This system would bring water from the Truckee River to the Fernley Valley, thereby opening a large district to farming. This area along the route of the new Truckee Canal, known as the Canal District and later as the Fernley District, immediately attracted homesteaders eager to cash in on government-provided water. The United States Reclamation Office offered land parcels of 80 to 160 acres per homestead. The Southern Pacific Railroad built a new line to serve this area in 1904 and laid out what is now the town of Fernley in the summer of 1905. That same summer, Derby Dam on the Truckee River was finished. The completion of the Truckee Canal supplied water to the nearby

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Fernley Community Church, Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada

8. Significance, continued

communities of Wadsworth, Fernley, and lands adjacent to the Carson River. The first water was supplied to homesteaders on February 5, 1906.

Despite initial enthusiasm for the Newlands project, settlers who took up land in the Fernley District were beset by problems. Water supplies were often insufficient—particularly during peak summer irrigation months. The alkali-laden soil proved difficult to work particularly when combined with drainage problems that required substantial investment to mitigate. The region prospered during the 1910s, particularly when agricultural prices skyrocketed during World War I. However, following the war there was a severe agricultural depression, preceding the national depression of 1929 by ten years. As a result, Fernley remained a small community, boasting a population of just over 400 for the entire district in 1930. This figure rose only to just under 500 by 1950.

One result of this limited population base was that Fernley never had a church. Members of all faiths met in private homes or, in the case of some denominations, made the arduous trek to the older community of Wadsworth, which had both Union Protestant and Catholic churches. This also meant the early residents of Fernley did not have the full benefit of the many social and charitable functions afforded by established church groups to their local community. Realizing that these desirable social institutions would only come to Fernley as a result of unified action, the Fernley Ladies Aid Society was established.

Women's groups have traditionally played an active part in a wide variety of spiritual, social, political, and charitable activities. Indeed, they were and continue to be, one of the key social institutions in the social life small communities across the West. Often these groups are affiliated with a particular church organization. The women of Fernley recognized that only a united effort would provide the critical mass needed to address that communities social and charitable needs in the face of the farm depression of the 1920s. As such, under the leadership of Mary Woodward the Fernley Ladies Aid Society was established in September 1927. Their constitution charges the Ladies Aid to, among other missions, promote the social welfare of the Fernley community and to hold public socials, entertainments, food sales, and other activities that will enable them to fulfill their mission. The organizing members, representing women from a variety of backgrounds, quickly determined that their first goal should be the construction of a building to house all manner of community spiritual and social functions. By 1930, the Ladies Aid had raised sufficient funds to acquire a town lot located on South Center Street. Now all they needed was a building.

What was to become the Fernley Community Church building was originally built in 1910 as a rural school house. It was located on the J. Richard McColloch ranch five miles east of Fernley. The East End School, as it was known, served the eastern portion of the district until construction of a new school in

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, 9 Page 4

Fernley Community Church, Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada

8. Significance, continued

Fernley was completed in 1922. The building stood mostly vacant until it was purchased by the Ladies Aid Society on February 3rd, 1932. On February 11th of that year, Sam White, a local builder and house mover, donated his services and the building was moved onto the Center Street lot. A variety of alterations were made to the building, including the exterior stucco coating, and it was finally dedicated for community use on May 22, 1932.

The Fernley Community Church did indeed serve as one of the social focal points of the Fernley community during the next several decades. Fernley remained a small rural community for the next 20 years. As a community with only 400 to 500 residents, including the surrounding farms and ranches, local venues for entertainment and social life remained limited. Over this period, the Fernley Community Church hosted every religious group known in the community. More importantly it was the site of uncounted community functions including: school activities, movies, socials, and meetings of every stripe imaginable. It has also housed all of the Ladies Aid Society functions and efforts to promote the social welfare of the greater Fernley community. To quote the text of a speech made by Barbara Picetti at the 21st Annual Ladies Aid Silver Tea fund raiser held in May of 1962, ". . . all the things that go to make up community life have occurred in that building."

Today Fernley is a rapidly changing community with well in excess of 13,000 people. Many of Fernley's historic buildings and rural institutions have disappeared. However, the Fernley Community Church building and the Fernley Ladies Aid Society continue to play their important role in promoting the social welfare of the community. As such, this building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

9. Bibliography

Armitage, Susan & Elizabeth Jameson eds., *The Women's West*, Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987.

Carlson, Helen S. *Nevada Place Names A Geographical Dictionary*. Reno, NV: University of Nevada Press, 1974.

Elliott, Russell R. *History of Nevada, Second Edition, Revised*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press 1987.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9, 10 Page 5

Fernley Community Church, Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada

9. Bibliography, continued

Hulse, James W. *The Silver State, Nevada's Heritage Reinterpreted*, Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1991.

Townley, John M. *Turn Their Water Into Gold - The Story of the Newlands Project*. Reno, NV: Nevada Historical Society, 1998.

Townley, John M. *Alfalfa Country: Nevada Land, Water & Politics in the 19th Century*.
College of Agriculture: University of Nevada.

Oral interviews with Elisabeth Mortensen, Vivian Lyons, Betty McCulloch Jackson, Janet Thuesen Struempf, Fernley, Nevada.

Constitution and papers of the Fernley Ladies Aid Society, Fernley, Nevada.

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 1, J.K. Johnson Addition to Fernley, NV--Lyon County Parcel # 20-033-03

Boundary Justification

The above noted constitutes all of the property historically associated with the Fernley Community Church

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photographs Page 6

Fernley Community Church, Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada

Photographs

Photograph 1

Property Name: Fernley Community Church
Property Location: Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada
Photographer: Michael A. "Bert" Bedeau
Date: January 2003
Location of Negative: State Historic Preservation Office
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada
Description: Front elevation, facing east

Photograph 2

Property Name: Fernley Community Church
Property Location: Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada
Photographer: Michael A. "Bert" Bedeau
Date: January 2003
Location of Negative: State Historic Preservation Office
100 N. Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada
Description: North elevation, facing southeast