

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places 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 Meeks/Green Farmstead  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Approx. 40 North 400 West N/A not for publication  
city or town Parowan N/A vicinity  
state Utah code UT county Iron code 021 zip code 84761

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] 2/22/94  
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 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Beth Boland Date of Action 4/15/94

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Meeks/Green Farmstead  
Name of Property

Parowan, Iron County, Utah  
City, County, and State

### 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>4</u>     |                 | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
| <u>1</u>     |                 | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| <u>5</u>     | <u>0</u>        | Total      |

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling  
AGRICULTURE / agricultural outbuilding  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: hewn-log cabin  
OTHER: log barn  
OTHER: frame granary  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone (piers)  
walls Log (cabin and barn)  
WOOD (plank -- granary and lean-to's)  
roof METAL (cabin only)  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Meeks/Green Farmstead  
Name of Property

Parowan, Iron County, Utah  
City, County, and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Health/Medicine

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Period of Significance

1851-1862

1851-1943

\_\_\_\_\_

### Significant Dates

1851

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Architect/Builder

Priddy Meeks(?) / builder (cabin)

James Green(?) / builder (out-buildings)

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

Meeks/Green Farmstead  
Name of Property

Parowan, Iron County, Utah  
City, County, and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 3.67 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 3/3/8/4/8/0 4/1/8/9/7/4/0  
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

BEGINNING North 0°32'18" West, 122.0 feet along the West line of 400 West Street from the Southeast Corner of Block 59, Plat B, PAROWAN CITY, Utah; thence South 89°25'00" West, 80.96 feet parallel to the South line of said Block 59; thence North 0°32'18" West, 28.0 feet; thence South 89°25'00" West, 151.0 feet; thence North 0°30'21" West, 315.63 feet along the Center line of said Block 59; thence North 74°10'39" West, 241.58 feet; thence North 0°28'56" West, 131.0 feet along West line of said Block 59; thence North 89°28'25" East, 463.46 feet along the North line of said Block 59; thence South 0°32'18" East, 542.40 feet along the East line of said Block 59 to the point of Beginning.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries describe the property currently owned by Parowan City Corporation and include all of the structures associated with the Meeks/Green Farmstead and much of the area likely farmed by Meeks and Green.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles M. Shepherd/Architectural Historian and Kurt Wall/Preservation Intern  
organization Utah State Historic Preservation Office date July 1993  
street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801)533-3500  
city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84101-1182

### 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/or 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 Parowan City  
street & number 5 South Main Street (P.O. Box 576) telephone (801)477-3331  
city or town Parowan state UT zip code 84761

**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.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Section No. 7 Page 1

Meeks/Green Farmstead, Parowan, Iron County, UT

**Narrative Description**

The Meeks/Green Farmstead is located four blocks west of Main Street in Parowan, Utah. The community of Parowan is situated in southwestern Utah on a high valley plain (altitude is approximately 6000 feet) at the edge of the Hurricane Cliffs which form the northwestern edge of the Markagunt Plateau rising steeply to the east. The valley is used extensively for agriculture, primarily pasture, and the production of alfalfa and other grain. The area surrounding the Meeks/Green Farmstead is part of the original townsite but is only lightly developed with houses (both historic and modern), outbuildings, and some farming and livestock areas.

Four buildings and farming or ranching structures comprise the historic resources of the Meeks/Green Farmstead (see site plan). The c.1851 cabin is located in the southeast corner of the site. The original property perhaps extended south to Center Street as the cabin faces south toward the nearby, non-historic fence and a c.1925 house (not included in the nomination). The hewn log cabin with half dovetail notching is 20 feet by 16.25 feet in plan. While most of the filler strips of wood between the logs remain, very little chinking is present. A later, floorless, vertical plank lean-to addition on the rear is 12 by 30 feet in plan, open on the west end, and was apparently most recently used for farm vehicle and equipment storage. The cabin rests on stone and wood piers resulting in a very short crawlspace beneath the cabin. On the south (primary) elevation, a central door opening is flanked by a pair of evenly spaced windows. Some original door and window trim is still in place. The remains of the window sash indicate the double hung windows were a six-over-six configuration. Vertical planks were apparently present at one time on at least the west wall of the cabin where the lower portion of the adobe brick firebox is visible on the exterior.

On the interior, the cabin is in significant disrepair. Most of the lath and plaster on the ceiling is missing. The log walls may have been whitewashed originally and, at a later time, approximately 1x6 inch planks were installed as furring strips with another (now missing) wall covering or treatment. A plank floor remains in place. On the west wall, a tall, classically-inspired, fireplace mantle and surround remain in front of a deteriorated firebox. Besides the main door and front windows, the only other opening in the cabin is a single door to the north, lean-to addition.

To the north of the cabin is a c.1910 gable-roofed frame granary. This small, "inside-out" structure has sawn planks nailed horizontally on the inside of the exposed vertical studs. While it was last used as a chicken coop, it is common period construction for a granary. It is connected by a series of fences (round, wooden post and rail; post and wire; and sawn plank) to a small, free-standing, shed-roofed structure that is open to the south. Also built of sawn planks, this outbuilding may date from the 1930s and was likely used for the feeding or protection of animals. A plank feeding trough for horses or cows is located to the northwest.

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Meeks/Green Farmstead, Parowan, Iron County, UT

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To the northwest of the feeding trough is a barn, 24 by 21.5 feet in plan, made of round logs with saddle notching also c.1910. While there is a large opening on the east side of the structure for animals or equipment, the logs are widely spaced with no evidence of chinking or other covering such as planks. The primary goal of this structure was likely storage of hay or other feed. An inside feeding trough could have existed on the west side of the barn where one log is missing about three feet above grade. A short lean-to addition with only rafters remaining from the shed roof, is located to the north side of the barn and is built of the same log construction. It may have functioned as an animal holding pen.

Behind the string of outbuildings (to the north and east) is a deep gully which drains to the north. This was apparently the original stream channel, which has now be changed to flow parallel to 400 West Street. The remainder of the site has been cultivated, but now lies fallow.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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Section No. 8 Page 3

Meeks/Green Farmstead, Parowan, Iron County, UT

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Meeks/Green Farmstead has two main areas of significance: agriculture and health/medicine. As Parowan's sole surviving pioneer-era farmstead, the site is an integral element of the town's early agricultural history. The agricultural outbuildings, attributed to James Green, a later owner, augment the historic significance of the site. The site's original occupant, Dr. Priddy Meeks, was a prominent member of early Parowan as both a physician and a civic leader. Most importantly, as the town's first physician, Meeks and his house played a central role in the practice of early medicine in Parowan.

Parowan, southern Utah's first settlement and county seat of Iron County was settled on January 13, 1851, one year after nearby iron ore deposits had been discovered and less than 3-1/2 years after Mormon pioneers arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake, approximately 230 miles to the north. LDS Apostle George A. Smith was in charge of the Iron Mission that established Parowan. Many subsequent settlements in southern Utah were established by residents of Parowan.

Priddy Meeks arrived in Parowan on May 8, 1851, part of a large contingent sent from Salt Lake City to strengthen the five-month-old Parowan settlement.<sup>1</sup> The Meeks cabin was built no later than 1853, for it reportedly appears on a map of Parowan drawn in that year. Although no evidence exists indicating conclusively that Meeks built the house, it is known that he later built houses in nearby Kane and Washington counties. The agricultural buildings on the lot, however, were apparently built after Meeks left Parowan in Autumn 1861. One of Meeks' children or grandchildren deeded the property to James Green in June 1904,<sup>2</sup> who likely built most of the existing agricultural outbuildings and features including the barn and granary, the rail fence, feed trough, and free-standing lean-to. All the structures on the site, both outbuildings and the cabin/residence, are important landmarks and reminders of Parowan's pioneer era, particularly because they are among the few surviving examples of early Parowan agricultural architecture. The Meeks/Green Farmstead is a living reminder of Parowan's roots.

Besides being one of the town's two physicians (by 1861), Meeks was also a prominent civic leader. Both Meeks' association with Latter-day Saint leaders, particularly the founding prophet, Joseph Smith, and his medical skills and position endowed Meeks with enough prestige that he was appointed to Parowan's first city council on May 16, 1851.<sup>3</sup> A Thomsonian, or herbalist, medical practitioner, Meeks was

X See continuation sheet

<sup>1</sup>Priddy Meeks, Journal of Priddy Meeks, 1.

<sup>2</sup>Parowan City Recorders Office.

<sup>3</sup>Luelle Dalton, History of Iron County Mission and Parowan, 40.

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Meeks/Green Farmstead, Parowan, Iron County, UT

respected as a physician, particularly because early Latter-day Saints harbored considerable distrust of traditional doctors and because Joseph Smith, the Saints' martyred leader, had stated that Thomsonian medicine was inspired of God.<sup>4</sup> An inventory of Meeks' cabin, developed from his journal, indicates that his house was also his office and storehouse, for he kept many herbs and the instruments necessary for their preparation at this house.<sup>5</sup>

Ironically, Meeks' medical beliefs ultimately led to friction with Parowan's other doctor, Calvin Pendleton, and resulted in Meeks' departure from Parowan. In early March 1861, the two physicians disagreed on the proper treatment of a patient. When Pendleton's opinion prevailed, Meeks became angry and stormed out of the patient's house. In Autumn 1861, after both private and public rebukes from an ecclesiastical leader, Meeks and his family moved to Washington County in extreme southwestern Utah.<sup>6</sup>

The dispute with Pendleton highlights the Meeks/Green Farmstead's second area of significance, health and medicine. The Thomsonian method Meeks practiced relied entirely on concoctions of herbs and roots for its curative efficacy. Indeed, Meeks recounted in his journal dozens of botanical treatments for a wide range of disorders, including dropsy, ulcers, black canker (cancer), various skin diseases, intestinal disorders, rheumatism, and accidental amputations.<sup>7</sup> While living in Salt Lake City, Priddy Meeks, LDS Apostle Willard Richards, Dr. William H. Morse, and Dr. Phineas Richards established the Society of Health, intended to be a school to train practitioners in Thomsonian medical practices.

Problems loomed, however, for herbalists such as Meeks. The Thomsonian method with deep roots in rural, folk medicine, was the preferred medical treatment among early Saints, and enjoyed the blessing of the Saints' leaders, as noted above. As the nineteenth century wound to a close, however, and as newspapers, magazines, and mail-order catalogs, penetrated remote rural locations such as Parowan, folk medicine began to lose ground to the new, more "scientific," and professionalized medical skills discussed and advertised in these sources. The Meeks-Pendleton dispute becomes more significant when viewed against this background, and turns the Meeks/Green Farmstead into a tangible reminder of an important development in the history of medicine in Parowan and Utah, as in the country as a whole.

X See continuation sheet

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<sup>4</sup>John Heinerman, Joseph Smith and Herbal Medicine (Manti: Mountain Valley Publishers, 1975), 11-15; Meeks, 47.

<sup>5</sup>Sharadee Bradfield. Dr. Priddy Meeks' Life History and Parowan Cabin Research Study. (Senior History Project, Southern Utah University). 1991.

<sup>6</sup>Joseph Fish, The Life and Times of Joseph Fish, Mormon Pioneer (Danville: The Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1970), 76-77; Meeks, 1.

<sup>7</sup>Meeks, Journal. Interestingly, Meeks' third wife (like many Utahns in the nineteenth century, Meeks was a polygamist), Mary Jane McCleave, became a midwife, replacing her husband after his death.



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Meeks/Green Farmstead, Parowan, Iron County, UT

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As an early agricultural site and a monument to the passing of folk medicine in the nineteenth century, the Meeks/Green Farmstead is an important Parowan landmark. Built by a prominent pioneer, it is the last surviving pioneer-era farmstead in Parowan, a town whose fortunes are still substantially tied to agriculture and animal husbandry. The Meeks cabin also stands as a testimony to old traditions of rural folk medicine and to the emerging hegemony of professional medicine in nineteenth century Parowan.

Four buildings on the Meeks/Green Farmstead, as well as the rail fences, are contributory to the significance of the site. Although weathered and suffering somewhat from lack of maintenance, the c.1851 Meeks cabin and the c.1910 granary, lean-to, and barn all retain their architectural integrity. With the exception of the rear addition and changes to the interior of the cabin walls, all of the buildings are relatively unaltered.

Priddy Meeks never officially owned the land where the cabin and farmstead are located. The first recorded transaction is dated December 7, 1876 when the land was granted to Mayor Edward Meeks from the U.S. government. In 1877, title was given to Susan Meeks and her husband Astra [their relationship to Priddy Meeks is unclear]. In June 1904, the land was deeded to James Green who held the title until it was transferred to the Home Owners Loan Corporation in June 1936, the midst of the Great Depression. In 1945 Sanford and Zona Topham obtained title to the property. In 1990 the city of Parowan purchased the Meeks cabin and a major portion of the farmstead from Zona Topham with the goal of preserving the site and developing a historic, working farm. In conjunction with a family organization of descendants of Priddy Meeks, the city plans to restore the cabin to its c.1860 appearance in time for Meeks' 200th birthday in 1995. The outbuildings would be maintained and a working historic farm developed as part of this restoration.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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Section No. 9 and Photos Page 6

Meeks/Green Farmstead, Parowan, Iron County, UT

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**Bibliography**

Bradfield, Sharadee. Dr. Priddy Meeks' Life History and Parowan Cabin Research Study. (Senior History Project, Southern Utah University). 1991.

Carter, Thomas 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.

Dalton, Luella. History of Iron County Mission and Parowan.

Fish, Joseph. The Life and Times of Joseph Fish, Mormon Pioneer. Danville, IL: The Interstate Printers and Publishers, 1970.

Heinerman, John. Joseph Smith and Herbal Medicine. Manti, UT: Mountain Valley Publishers, 1975.

Meeks, Priddy. Journal of Priddy Meeks. (Copy available at the USHS Library.)

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**Common Photo Label Information**

1. Meeks/Green Farmstead
2. Parowan, Iron County, Utah
3. Photographer: Charles M. Shepherd
4. Date: December 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1

6. View of farmstead from 400 West. Camera facing north-northwest.

Photo No. 2

6. South elevation of cabin. Camera facing north.

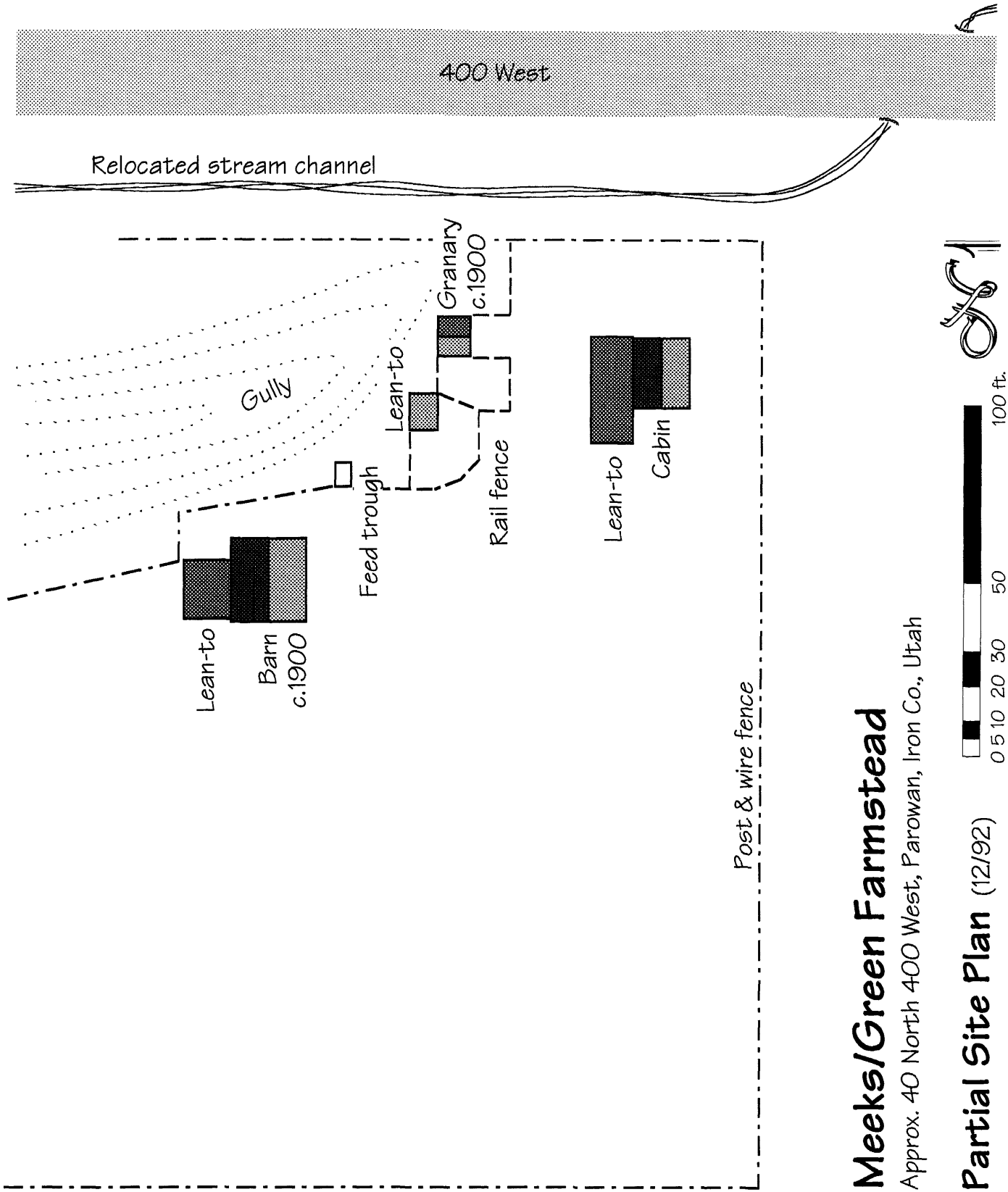
Photo No. 3

6. West and south elevations of cabin and lean-to addition. Camera facing north-northeast.

Photo No. 4

6. West elevation of barn with lean-to addition to the left and the Meeks cabin in the right rear. Camera facing north.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet



# Meeks/Green Farmstead

Approx. 40 North 400 West, Parowan, Iron Co., Utah

Partial Site Plan (12/92)

