

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JAN 08 2004

# 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 nominated, 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 Palmer, A.Z., House

other name/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number: 26 E. Center not for publication  
city/town: Taylor vicinity  
state: Arizona code: AZ county: Navajo code: 017 zip code: 85939

### 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).

Thomas W. Sawani Arizona 26 January 2004  
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 3/16/04  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation  
 Stone  
 walls  
 Stucco  
 roof  
 Wood Shingle  
 other

Narrative Description

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Commerce

\_\_\_\_\_

Exploration/Settlement

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

\_\_\_\_\_

1905-1924

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

\_\_\_\_\_

1905

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Palmer, Alma Zemira

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Palmer, A.Z., House**

Name of Property

**Navajo County, Arizona**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property <1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	12	583660	3813920	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 Robert G. Graham, AIA

organization Metropolis Design Group, LLC date July, 2002

street & number 2601 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. #308 telephone (602) 274-9777

city or town Phoenix state: AZ zip code 85004

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 instruction, 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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Palmer, A.Z., House  
Navajo County, AZ

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### SUMMARY

The A.Z. Palmer House is a one-story Folk Victorian dwelling located at the northwest corner of Center and First Streets in Taylor, Arizona. The house is on its own parcel in a low-density neighborhood with a rural character. The home has a rectangular footprint and a symmetrical design featuring a wood-shingled, hipped roof with gable dormers over the center entry porch, supported on stuccoed brick walls and sandstone foundations. Restrained wooden decorative elements occur at the gables. The interior of the house is also symmetrically arranged, with bedrooms and recessed porches flanking the central common living spaces. Several alterations have been made to the house that alter the exterior appearance somewhat, but the original design can still be discerned. The interior has also been modernized, but the original floor plan is apparent and most details are intact.

### DESCRIPTION

The A.Z. Palmer House is located in Taylor at the corner of Center and First Streets, one block from the historic A.Z. Palmer & Sons Store at the center of town at Main and Center Streets. The house is set on a rectangular parcel of land measuring about 100 by 130 feet. The land associated with the House was originally much larger, possibly as much as the whole block, following the subsistence farming pattern of development in Taylor. The House faces the east-west running Center Street, which has three street trees and a concrete sidewalk adjacent to the property. The house is surrounded by grass lawn and has a vinyl picket fence along the street sides. A concrete walk leads from the street to the entry. At the rear (north) side of the house, an asphalt drive leads to a modern carport shelter and the attached garage addition. A small wooden shed also appears in the back yard. Historically, the street system in Taylor was dirt or gravel with no sidewalks. The modern picket fence is in character with the residential neighborhood.

The house originally had a rectangular footprint measuring 40 feet wide and 45 feet deep, to which a modern garage has been added at the northeast corner of the house. The house had a recessed front entry porch and smaller recessed side porches. The front entry has been infilled with a contrasting material (board and batten siding) and the side porches have been infilled and stuccoed to match the exterior walls. Most of these alterations were made circa 1950. The walls are of one-foot-thick brick, which was originally left exposed but is now stuccoed. Fenestration was originally two-over-two, double-hung wood sash with projected stucco sills; one original window remains at the west side while the others have been replaced with simple one-over-one, single-hung aluminum units. The most distinctive feature of the home is the roof, which appears largely intact. The basic form is a gable-on-hip of medium pitch with gable dormers over each of the three original recessed porches. At the eaves, there is a shallow overhanging soffit set off by wide painted trim at the wall surface. Each gable has a decorative element suspended from the ridge and wide vergeboards with Colonial turned down ends. The gable surfaces are generally sheathed with wood shingles to match the roof. The front entry gable has a painted wooden semicircular fan ornament at its center. The west side gable has an Eastlake-style bull's eye ornament in a horseshoe-shaped opening with wood siding. The east gable is similar but is missing the Eastlake ornament. The original front entry door has been reused at the west side entry; the door is a Victorian wood panel door with a single glass light and carved ornament applied above and below the light. The added garage subordinates its design to the original house. Located discreetly in the rear, it is lower than the house, is stuccoed to match, and has a simple gabled roof that interlocks with the house mass.

The interior is arranged with three rooms and the one recessed porch flanking each side of a central spine consisting of the entry porch, parlor, and hall. The plan was deliberately arranged to provide easy access to the original outdoor privy from any room in the house. The parlor in the front was convenient to the entry porch to receive visitors, and the more private hall, used for kitchen and dining, was located to the rear. A fireplace between these two rooms was oriented to the hall. Both side porches also connected to the hall, as well as to adjacent bedrooms. This simple plan became obsolete over the years, and alterations were made to accommodate indoor plumbing as well as dedicating some of the bedrooms for

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Palmer, A.Z., House  
Navajo County, AZ

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modern kitchen and dining rooms. The parlor was expanded into the recessed entry porch to create a larger Living Room. The original Hall was partitioned to provide an indoor Bathroom. One interior Bedroom was expanded into the east side porch by removing a brick wall. The other side porch was simply enclosed with the relocated front door and two windows. The fireplace was reversed, so that it faces the Living Room. Modern kitchen cabinetry and fixtures were added to one Bedroom and an opening door between rooms was enlarged to provide an archway into a Dining Room. Despite these changes, the original floor plan is still evident, and most of the interior doors, woodwork, and wall surfaces have remained intact.

**ARCHITECTURAL DATA**

The A.Z. Palmer House is identified as a Folk Victorian style house. Folk Victorian homes represent stylistic elaborations of simple National Folk house forms. National Folk homes reflected traditional folk house forms but were usually constructed using light balloon framing covered with sheathing. The A.Z. Palmer house is of the "Front-Gabled Roof" subtype of the Folk Victorian style, reflected in the turned and jigsaw cut decoration and the symmetry of the façade.

**CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS**

A.Z. Palmer House

**NONCONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS**

None

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Palmer, A.Z., House  
Navajo County, AZ

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## NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### SUMMARY

The A.Z. Palmer House is significant under Criterion B as the only surviving residence and best extant property representing the life of significant person Alma Zemira Palmer. A.Z. Palmer was one of the founders of Snowflake and Taylor, Arizona. As proprietor of the A.Z. Palmer & Sons Store he was a prominent regional businessman. He was a civic and religious leader and was well known for his honesty, generosity, and candidness. A.Z. Palmer had the house built in 1905, residing there with his wife and family until 1924.

### CHRONOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

The A.Z. Palmer House was constructed in 1905 for A.Z. Palmer, his wife Alzada, and their family. They lived there until 1924, when it was passed to John Palmer. A.Z. Palmer died in 1925 and Alzada in 1936. Their grandson Roy bought the house for \$1,500 in 1941; the parcel at that time included most of the block. He has lived in the house since. The roofing was replaced in 1940. Historic photographs show that the house remained relatively unaltered through about 1950. During the early 1950s, the porches were altered and the exterior was stuccoed. The back garage was added and most windows were replaced in recent years.

### BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF A.Z. PALMER, 1853-1925

Alma Zemira Palmer was born on June 12, 1853, in Provo, Utah, the first son of Zemira Palmer and Sally Knight Palmer. The Palmers were Mormon immigrants to the Utah Territory. During Alma's childhood, the family was sent to settle Heber, Utah, and Panaca, Nevada. At 19 years of age Alma struck out on his own, establishing residence in Panguitch, Utah. It was there he met Alzada Kartchner. After a two-year courtship, they married on May 11, 1874.

In 1877, Alzada's father, William D. Kartchner, and all of his sons and sons-in-law were called by the Mormon Church to a mission to settle northern Arizona. Alma and Alzada braved a two-week trip over the "honeymoon trail" to Arizona, setting up a home initially at "Old Taylor" (not to be confused with present-day Taylor) near Joseph City on the Little Colorado River. Life there proved difficult, as the settlers could not establish a lasting dam site for diverting water to their fields. A.Z. Palmer soon resolved to find a better place to settle. He and William J. Flake traveled around northern Arizona and eventually found land to purchase from the Stinson Ranch, which became present-day Snowflake. The Palmers moved to Snowflake in August 1878, building the first log house there.

Palmer was ordained a High Priest in the LDS Church and set apart as an alternate member of the High Council of the Snowflake Stake. He remained in this position until 1895. While in Snowflake he also had the responsibility of looking after the Cooperative owned cattle and horses.

Virtually all of the Mormon pioneers of the settlement era were subsistence farmers living an agrarian lifestyle, which was made possible through diverting streams for irrigation. Alma and Alzada were typical of this pattern, and Alma always thought of himself as a farmer. However, soon after locating in Snowflake, Alma and Alzada's brother, Mark Kartchner, set up the first mercantile store in town. Later, they merged their business into the local co-op store, the Arizona Cooperative Mercantile Institution, or ACMI. They became dissatisfied with their part in the business and again formed their own store. Kartchner sold out his interest to Palmer in 1884, giving him full ownership of the business. A.Z. and Alzada Palmer continued live in Snowflake and to run the store there until 1895.

In 1895, A.Z. Palmer bought out the Kay Store in Taylor, some two miles to the south, where he also bought a second wood-frame and log home. Ten years later, in 1905, a newer, more stylish home was built on Center Street one block off of Main Street. In Taylor, he continued his activities in the LDS Church, serving as a counselor to Bishop Zachariah B. Decker and Bishop James J. Shumway for 10 years, as well as serving the Church in many other ways. In 1914 or 1915 he built a new brick edifice for the A.Z. Palmer & Sons Store on the corner of Main and Center Streets. Palmer kept his

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Palmer, A.Z., House  
Navajo County, AZ

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previous store and used it as a warehouse until it was torn down. Palmer developed quite a good reputation in the community and also served much of the countryside for years to come. The Post Office was installed in the new Palmer store shortly after its completion, and both his sons Arthur and John filled the office of Postmaster until 1926. A.Z. Palmer continued in business at the store until his death.

In failing health, Alma and Alzada determined to move south to Mesa, Arizona, where they began another home. Alma moved to Mesa in 1924, staying with relatives pending completion of the house. He died on January 25, 1925, in Mesa and was buried in the Mesa cemetery. The Mesa home had not been completed prior to his death.

During his life, A.Z. Palmer was a highly respected individual in the region. He was deeply involved in civic and religious life. In the Mormon Church, he held the position of alternate high Counselor in the Snowflake Stake (1887) and was counselor to Bishop Zachariah B. Decker and Bishop James J. Shumway in the Taylor ward for 10 years. In 1959, Palmer was elected to the "Taylor Town Hall of Fame."

A.Z. Palmer was perhaps best known for his honesty, generosity, and candidness. There are numerous apocryphal stories detailing debts forgiven from families down on their luck, his kindness in giving fifteen cents worth of candy "for a penny or an egg," his business policies of always providing patrons with their money's worth "and a little more," and his fair treatment of Native Americans who came to trade at his store, among many others. As noted in "An Arizona Palmer Family History," "Hardworking, thrifty, and resourceful, it is said by some that he did more for the town of Taylor than any other man."

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The A.Z. Palmer House was the primary residence of significant individual Alma Zemira Palmer and his family from its construction in 1905 through 1924. During this time period, A.Z. Palmer was a leader in community and church life, and was proprietor of the A.Z. Palmer & Sons mercantile, which served surrounding ranches and reservations in addition to the Taylor/Snowflake area. The home was the center of family life for him and his numerous children and grandchildren. It was also the base of his farming operation. Palmer is a primary ancestor for scores of Palmer descendents still living in the area.

While the A.Z. Palmer & Sons Store of 1915 is also extant, that property has been altered, and represents only his mercantile business (as well as later businesses such as the Hatch Brothers Store), when in fact he saw himself as a farmer and family man first. The A.Z. Palmer House provides a better, more balanced representation of Palmer's life and significance to the community.

The A.Z. Palmer House is in its original location and retains its relationship to Center Street. Several very early trees remain in the front yard. The surroundings still have a rural character, although there are numerous new homes in the area. The house itself has been altered in several ways. The three recessed porches have been infilled, although the front porch can still be discerned because of contrasting materials; the exterior brick walls have been stuccoed; and most doors and windows have been replaced. The massing of the house and its roof structure are intact. The interior spatial organization can still be discerned and much of the interior trim and the doors have been preserved.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Navajo County, AZ

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Palmer, Arvin, Ed. ~~An Arizona Palmer Family History: Selected Sketches of Arthur Palmer and Evaline Augusta Gibbons Palmer and their Ancestors.~~ Taylor, AZ: Palmer Publications, 1994.

Palmer, Arvin and Lucille. ~~Taylor Centennial: A Historical Review.~~ Taylor, AZ: Taylor, Arizona Wards, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1978.

Palmer, Roy. Interview with Robert Graham, April 5, 2002.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Palmer, A.Z., House  
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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Portion of West Taylor Lot 17, beginning at the northeast corner of Lot 17; thence west 128 feet; thence south 134 feet; thence east 138 feet; thence north 134 feet to the point of Beginning.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

Current ownership boundary

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Navajo County, AZ

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The following information is the same for all photographs.

Photographer: Roberta Graham  
Date: April 5, 2002  
Location of Original Negatives: Metropolis Design Group, LLC  
2601 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. #308  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>View to</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	N	Façade and streetscape
2	NW	Side street façade
3	SE	Rear ¼ view
4	S	Rear facade
5	E	Detail of original front door (now at side porch)