

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Forster Hotel

other name/site number Forster, Ralph & Margaret, House

2. Location

street & town 176 N. 100 West ☐ not for publication

city or town Mendon ☐ vicinity

state Utah code UT county Cache code 005 zip code 84325

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

12-31-07
Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

2-19-08

Forster Hotel
Name of Property

Mendon, Cache County, Utah
City, County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ public-local
☒ private
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	4	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	4	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Hotel

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls STONE, WOOD SHINGLE

WOOD & ALUMINUM SIDING

roof WOOD SHINGLE

other

Narrative Description

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

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

Narrative Description

The Forster Hotel located at 176 N. 100 West in Mendon, Utah, was built in two major phases, the original construction in 1870 and a substantial expansion in 1913. The building was originally a 1½-story central passage-type house constructed of stone. In 1913, a shingle frame superstructure was built around the house enlarging it above and to the rear. Craftsman and bungalow elements were used to inform the design of the 1913 expansion. In 1989, the main floor level of the 1913 expansion was covered in vinyl siding. At the time the porches on the secondary elevations were enclosed as a one-story wrap-around addition with new doors and windows installed. This new addition modified the lower level of the rear elevations and has minimal impact on the overall historic integrity of the house. The upper floor shingled area was not modified. Neither was the stone section, which is visible on the main level of the façade. The roof is covered in wood shingles in good condition.

Historic photographs show the original stone house with a simple gable roof ridgeline parallel to the street and Greek Revival-style cornice returns. It measured 40 by 19 feet. The stone section is constructed of random rubble masonry with ashlar quoins at the corners. The walls are 16 inches thick. Extra mortar was used to fill the irregularities in the masonry with a concave centerline to indicate the mortar joints. There was a lean-to addition in the rear and two chimneys (demolished in 1913). The façade was divided into five bays with a central entrance. The original wood casings, lintels and sills are intact, but the two-over-two, double-hung windows were replaced with one-over-one windows between 1913 and the 1960s.¹ The glass in the half-glass paneled door, sidelight, and transom, probably date from the 1989 remodel. The stone masonry is also visible on the north (no openings) and south elevations (one window).

The bungalow porch, built in 1913, features a half-height wall and piers covered in stucco. There are three flattened elliptical arched openings, two larger arches flanking a smaller central arch. Above the central arch is a box balcony with similar arched openings on three sides. The balcony has a simple gable roof. The main roof, as built in 1913, consists of intersecting hipped sections with a small dormer in the rear. The roof has exposed rafters typically of the craftsman movement. Three brick chimneystacks were built in 1913, two flanking the central hall (demolished circa 1989) and one toward the rear (extant). The original materials of the 1913 addition are currently only visible on the upper level. The west (façade), north and south elevations of the addition were sheathed in square-butt shingles and the rear (east) elevation was sheathed in drop-novelty siding (both painted white historically and currently). The majority of windows were tall one-over-one, double-hung wood sash windows. There is a door to the balcony. The 1913 addition measured approximately 25 feet deep by 36 feet wide. It was built flush with the north elevation. The footprint included two enclosed porches to the north and south, and a stoop in the rear. Sometime between 1982 and 1989, the stoop was enclosed. In 1989, the one-story, wrap-around addition was built to enclose the north porch, as well as bring the south wall flush to the line of the original stone wall. The footprint was extended approximately 9 feet to the rear. The addition was covered in white vinyl siding. The windows are double-hung vinyl windows. There is a pair of full-glass doors on the south elevation and a half-glass door on the rear, both with concrete steps.

¹ Different window materials from different eras suggest the windows were replaced on an as-needed basis.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

On the interior, the house has 3,560 square feet of living space divided between the two floors. The original stone portion is divided into two nearly equal square rooms separated by a central hall and stair. The two rooms were used as a sitting room/parlor and bedroom. Two more bedrooms were on the second floor. Although, the house had been used as a hotel and residence since its construction, the 1913 addition was designed to facilitate a larger group of hotel patrons. In the front portion of the addition, a full-width dining room was built with double doors leading to the kitchen in the northeast corner and a pantry/storeroom to the south. Five bedrooms and a bathroom were added to the second floor in 1913. The family living quarters were in the rear and the guest rooms were in the front. The rear portion of the interior was modified and updated during the 1989 addition, but the remainder is in good historic condition.

The Forster Hotel currently sits in the middle of a 0.50-acre parcel. The original parcel consisted of two lots with a total acreage of 2.5. Around 1993, the property immediately around the Forster Hotel was divided and sold separately. Two historic wood plank barns (circa 1910) located east of the hotel were originally associated with the Forster family, but are currently on a separate parcel and therefore not included in this nomination. A circa 1900 wood granary, which sat near the north side of the hotel, was also associated, but was demolished circa 1985. A historic garage was located southwest of the hotel, but that was also demolished (also circa 1985) and all that remains is the concrete base. The only outbuildings currently on the property are two minor non-contributing metal sheds, and one non-contributing altered wood shed. There is also a non-contributing large, two-car garage covered in vinyl siding on a concrete base, built in 1989, which sits directly behind the hotel. The landscape consists of mostly lawn with a few mature trees. There are numerous shrubs planted near the hotel. A sidewalk leads from the street to the front door. There is currently no driveway as the razed historic garage was built next to the street.

The Forster Hotel is one of the largest extant historic buildings in Mendon. It stands out in its rural neighborhood of older homes and agricultural outbuildings. Historically the building was used as a residence and hotel between 1870 and 1930, but has been primarily a single-family residence since that time. The building is currently vacant and up for sale. The Forster Hotel is in good condition and a contributing historic resource in the Mendon community.

Forster Hotel
Name of Property

Mendon, Cache County, Utah
City, County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION & SETTLEMENT

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1870 -1957

Significant Dates

1870, 1913

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builders: possibly Robert Crookston & Ralph Forster (1870)

Builders: Worley & Nelson Contractors (1913)

☒ 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:

Mendon Historic Preservation Commission

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 1

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Forster Hotel, built in 1870 and expanded in 1913, is locally significant under Criteria A and C for its association with the nineteenth and early twentieth-century agricultural community of Mendon, Utah. Under Criterion A, the building is associated with the early settlement of Mendon and was built by Ralph Forster, one of the first permanent settlers in the Cache Valley. Ralph Forster and his wife, Margaret McCulloch, made the stone house their home, but also used it as one of two early hotels in the settlements, which is its primary significance. Ralph and Margaret's children expanded the hotel in 1913. For over forty-five years, the Forster Hotel served the community providing accommodations for railroad workers, traveling salesmen, theatrical companies, and weekend visitors to the Mendon horse races. Although, it has been a single-family residence since the 1940s, the house is still known as the Forster Hotel by current Mendon residents. It is a local landmark and one of the largest extant historic buildings in the community. The building is significant under Criterion C as a unique example of an early Mendon traditional stone house expanded using the bungalow-craftsman style into a substantial full-service hotel. Both the original stone building and the expansion, as built by Logan contractors, Wesley and Nelson, display a high degree of craftsmanship. Although somewhat modified on the rear elevation in 2002, the Forster Hotel retains much of its historic integrity and is a contributing resource in Mendon, Utah.

History of Mendon

The community of Mendon was settled in 1859 more than a decade after the arrival of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon Church) to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, and about the same time as other settlements in the Cache Valley. Before that time, Native American Shoshoni used the valley for hunting and camping. Fur trappers were also frequent visitors to the area. Mendon is located eight miles west of Logan and five miles north of Wellsville, on the foothills of the Wellsville Mountains. Although Mormon settlers brought cattle to the area in 1855 and William Gardner built a cabin on the banks of Gardner's Creek, the settlement was not built until the spring of 1859, when several families, mostly immigrants from England, Scotland and Denmark, moved from the Salt Lake Valley to built cabins and a fort along present day Center Street. On December 19, 1859, the Mendon Ward of the LDS Church was organized by church leaders Orson Hyde and Ezra Benson, who named the community after his Massachusetts birthplace. A pine log school/meetinghouse was built in 1860 and a post office established in 1861 (both demolished).

On October 29, 1863, county surveyor, James Martineau drew the first town site plat, laid out in nine square blocks with a central square. Construction was immediately begun on a rock meetinghouse, which was completed on the town square in 1864. The remaining blocks were divided into eight rectangular lots measuring ten by twenty rods. The streets were six rods wide. The Mendon town site followed the "plat of Zion" recommendations espoused by LDS Church leader Brigham Young, which appeared in variations throughout the Intermountain West. Mendon was a typical Mormon settlement, with residences congregated within the town site (for security and socialization) and farm acreage in the outlying areas. Each town lot usually had a single-family dwelling uniformly set back from the street. Animal shelters and agricultural

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

storage, along with vegetable gardens and orchards, were built at the rear of the large lots. By the mid-1860s, the log cabins were moved from the fortification to the town lots and numerous rock homes were under construction. By the late 1860s, the town had a saw mill, a grist mill, a hotel, and a general mercantile.

The city of Mendon was incorporated on April 1, 1870. Within a year, the LDS Church-owned Utah Northern Railroad began work on a rail bed over Collinston Hill into Mendon. The first depot was built on the town square (demolished). At the time, the population of Mendon was 427. Within a decade, the community moved beyond subsistence farming beginning with irrigated wheat production shipped to external markets. The narrow gauge rail line was widened in 1890 and a new depot built on the northeast edge of town (demolished). As shipping services improved, the agricultural economy of Mendon diversified to include alfalfa, sugar beets, dairy cows, and draft horses. The town had several important construction projects, most on or near the town square: Mendon Co-op (1873, demolished), Presbyterian chapel school (1883, demolished), Hyrum Stauffer store (1889, demolished), dance hall (1896, demolished), brick schoolhouse (1899, demolished), and John Anderson store (1901, demolished). The population of Mendon peaked in 1890 at 547. A spur of the Oregon Shortline Railroad (later Union Pacific) was built north to Mendon from Hyrum to complete the southern Cache Valley loop. The most important civic project of the period was the construction of a culinary water system in 1912. In 1914, Mendon high school students began attending classes at the South Cache High School in Hyrum.

In 1916, the community was changed dramatically when the electricity came to the city as part of the Utah Idaho Central Railroad's interurban electric rail line. Within a short time, most of the residents in the community had electricity in their homes. The rail line also made traveling to Hyrum easier for Mendon's high school students. A period of economic growth occurred after the completion of the UIC; however, Utah's agricultural depression of the 1920s and the national depression in the early 1930s slowed the growth of the community. Mendon's population remained steady with an average of 450 in the decades between 1910 and 1940. In 1947, the UIC discontinued service, although the freight line of the Oregon Shortline (UP) continued in operation. Agriculture remained the economic base through the 1950s and 1960s. The population was at its lowest in 1970 with a total of 345. Beginning in the 1980s, the economy of Mendon has shifted from a local agricultural economy to a bedroom community for residents employed in Logan and elsewhere in the Cache Valley. The population has steadily increased to approximately 2,000 in 2006.

History of the Forster Hotel

The Forster family settled in Mendon in the fall of 1859.² Ralph Forster was born in Uphall, Scotland, on October 4, 1822. He and his twin brother Robert were born to Mathew and Ann Leishman Forster. Sometime before 1850, Ralph Forster married Margaret McCollough. She was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on May 26, 1828. In the summer of 1854, Ralph and Margaret Forster, with their first son, Robert (born in Scotland in 1850) immigrated to Utah. They had five more children born in Utah: Margaret (born 1855), Mathew (1860), who was the first Anglo child born in Mendon, Elizabeth Ann (1863), Isabella (1864), and Jemima Rachel (1867). Ralph Forster was deeded Lots 3 and 4, Block 8, of the Mendon's town site plat. His brother Robert

² The name Forster appears in records with several variant spellings, most commonly Foster or Forester.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

Forster, who came to Utah with his family in 1866, was deeded land nearby on Lot 2 of Block 11 just to the north.

It is unclear when the Forster family moved from the Mendon Fort, but the stone house was completed before 1870. Ralph Forster was listed as a farmer on the 1860, 1870 and 1880 census enumeration of Mendon, but oral and local histories record that Ralph and Margaret Forster also ran a hotel in their house, an enterprise that was continued by their children into the first quarter of the twentieth century. The Albert and Jane Baker House built in 1867 and located across the street at 173 N. 100 West, was also an early hotel, but only for a few years.³ The first patrons of the Forster Hotel were associated with the railroad. Workers constructing the Utah Northern Railroad stayed there. In 1873, when the railroad changed its route, employees laying the new track would stay at the Forster Hotel for 50 cents a bed. After the completion of the railroad, numerous passengers and employees would continue to stay at the Forster Hotel. Oliver Taylor, who was adopted by the Forster family, recalled the hotel in its heyday:

The Forster Hotel met the needs of Mendon, Cache Valley, as a railway center for over forty-five years. As the Narrow Gauge Railroad, so called in 1870, came across the mountain from Tremonton into Mendon and turned eastward to Logan, it would stop at the depot to unload freight and mail. Passengers, along with station agents, would go to the Forster Hotel to spend the night. The owners, Ralph Forster and his wife, Margaret M. . . . took great care in making their boarders feel relaxed and at home. Margaret, along with her daughters, Margaret, Elizabeth Ann, Isabella, and Jemima, prepared the meals. They were all good cooks and the food prepared was well worth the 25 cents that was charged.⁴

Prior to 1907, the train depot was located on the Mendon town square, only a half a block from the Forster Hotel. Even after the depot was moved east of town, the hotel was still within walking distance. The depot for the electric rail line, the Utah-Idaho Central Railroad (Mendon Station), which was built in 1916 at the northeast corner of the town square, was particularly convenient to the Forster Hotel. The Forster family continued farming and built a large barn behind the hotel. They were probably able to produce most of the food served at the hotel on the family farm. They also built a stable where they raised dray horses.

In addition to farming and the hotel business, Ralph Forster served in many leadership positions in the community, including the vice-president of the Mendon branch of the Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI). Ralph Forster died on February 8, 1893 and Margaret M. Forster died on May 30, 1898. They are buried in the Mendon Cemetery.

Robert Forster became the head of household after his parents' death. He continued to run the hotel with his sisters, primarily Margaret, Isabella and Jemima. None of the four siblings ever married. The four are listed together on the 1900 census in Mendon, along with a cousin, Guy Raymond. The younger brother, Mathew M. Forster, was serving an LDS Church mission in England at the time. In 1901, he returned to Mendon bringing

³ A National Register nomination for the Albert and Jane Baker House has been prepared. The house was modified on the exterior in the 1950s. It was residential only after the early settlement period.

⁴ Oliver Taylor, as told to Valerie Larsen, [1985].

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 4

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

Oliver Taylor with him to live with the family. The property had been deeded to Mathew Forster after his mother's death. He deeded the property to his brother Robert Forster in September 1904. Mathew married Caroline "Carrie" Malena Sorenson (1866-1925) in November 1904. They moved to Salt Lake City where Mathew worked as a motorman for the Salt Lake Electric Streetcar Company. His sister Elizabeth Ann Forster also moved to Salt Lake City where she worked as a jail matron for several years. She married George F. Reid (1866-1924) around 1910. Oliver Taylor is listed as an adopted son with the four siblings on the 1910 census where he is helping Robert Forster on the family farm. Isabella Forster was employed as a stenographer at the time, so the hotel work likely fell to Margaret and Jemima.

Robert Forster served as the mayor of Mendon between 1899 and 1905. He was instrumental in bringing culinary water and electricity to the town. In 1913, the same year Mendon residents began to petition their city administration for electricity, the Forster Hotel was enlarged and expanded. Through the years, the Forster Hotel boarded numerous traveling salesmen or "drummers" as they were called. Oliver Taylor remembered several of the "quack doctors whose medicine shows were a source of entertainment" staying at the hotel.⁵ Once or twice a year, the hotel would be filled with cast members of a traveling troupe in town to perform. As early as 1881, when a half-mile circular track for horse racing was constructed, large crowds would ride the train to Mendon. The Forster Hotel was a "favorite haven for weekend visitors to the Mendon horse races."⁶ The hotel had several large shade trees on the north side of the property where the Forsters held lawn parties for their friends and guests. Oliver Taylor particularly remembered the croquet matches played on the lawn under the large trees on the north side of the hotel.

On the 1920 census enumeration, the Forster siblings are still listed together. Robert was a farmer, Margaret gave no occupation, and Isabella and Jemima are listed as salesladies for a general store. Elizabeth Forster Reid and her husband George are living next door. Oliver Taylor, at the time a railroad employee, was living nearby with his wife, Ethel. In 1929, Robert Forster deeded the property to his sisters. He continued to farm, but the hotel operations appear to have decreased as the Forster family reached retirement age. At the time of the 1930 census, Elizabeth Reid, a widow, is listed in the same household with her siblings. She died on August 22, 1933. Mathew Forster returned to Mendon after Carrie's death in 1925. He died there on November 21, 1935. Margaret Forster died on June 16, 1942.

The Forster family was known in the Mendon community, not only for their economic and social contributions, but for their longevity. Robert Forster died at the age of ninety-two on January 26, 1946. Isabella Forster died on September 11, 1956 at the age of ninety-one. Jemima Rachael Forster died at the age of 101 on December 15, 1968. The sweet little old lady in the big house, often called Aunt Jemima, was known to invite neighborhood children for a "second breakfast" of pancakes on the back porch of her big house.⁷ She was buried in the Mendon Cemetery next to her parents and siblings. At the age of 100, Jemima R. Forster deeded the property to Oliver and Ethel Taylor, who in turn deeded it to Frederick Oliver and Melba B. Taylor. The Taylor family sold the property to Paul and Nola Murray in 1987. The Murray family remodeled the rear of the

⁵ Oliver Taylor, as told to Valerie Larsen.

⁶ Sorenson, 159.

⁷ Sorensen, Rodney, J. "Mendon and My Aunt Jemima," unpublished paper, 1995. Mendon City History website.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 5

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

former hotel in 1989. They divided the property and sold the house with half an acre of land to David and Tamera Jensen. In May 2007, it was sold to the current owners who have put it up for sale.

Architecture

The building of stone houses in Mendon may have been a response to a speech given by LDS Church leader, Brigham Young, during a visit to the Cache Valley In June 1860. Young asked the assembly, "What are you going to build with? Log buildings do not make a sightly city. We should like to see buildings that are ornamental and pleasing to the eye, as well as convenient and commodious."⁸ Mendon residents had failed to find suitable clay for adobe or fired bricks in the area. Lumber was difficult to procure and the early sawmills could barely produce enough wood for shingles, rafters, and flooring. On a return visit to the Cache Valley in 1864, Brigham Young asked, "Why not quarry rock and build stone houses and make rock fences?"⁹ A canyon in the nearby Wellsville Mountains provided a rock quarry. The stone, a metamorphic, quartzitic-sand variety, was easily quarried by local residents, but proved difficult to work. Isaac Sorensen recorded that it took 400 perch to erect a two-story home and the effort was considered "a great amount of work to do in one year."¹⁰

Sorensen's account and other records suggest that most of the stone houses in Mendon were built by the residents themselves. Two stonemasons from Logan, Robert Crookston and Robert Murdock, were called to supervise the masonry work on the Mendon meetinghouse, and may have provided technical advice or assistance to Mendon men building homes at the same time. The building of the chapel would have provided the local workmen with valuable experience and photographs of the now demolished chapel show masonry techniques similar to those found in the surviving residences. The masonry technique used on the meetinghouse is very similar to the Forster Hotel and one historian has suggested Robert Crookston may have helped Ralph Forster construct his home. The census records provide the names of two stone masons living in Mendon, Richard Mills and James Hannock, who may have been available for hire.

Four stone houses in Mendon have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the James Gardner House at 173 N. Main Street, built circa 1868 (NR 1982-02-11); the George W. Baker House, built in 1869, at 115 N. 100 West (NR 1893-02-10); the Samuel Baker House, built circa 1870, at 150 W. 200 North (1983-03-31); and the James G. Willie House at 97 N. 100 West, built circa 1866 (NR 1983-04-13). No other houses in Mendon have been listed on the National Register since these four in the early 1980s.¹¹

The appearance of stone houses in Mendon in the late 1860s made an impression on one early visitor writing for the *Deseret News*:

Mendon is one of the most thriving little settlements in all this north country. The people here are pre-eminently progressive. Three years ago I last visited this place. At that time, if my

⁸ *Journal of Discourses*, Volume 8, 79. Quoted in Carter, [2].

⁹ Quoted in Carter, [3].

¹⁰ *Ibid.* Quarried stone was measured in perch, a unit consisting of about 16½ cubic feet of stone.

¹¹ The Mendon Elementary School was listed on the National Register, but recently demolished. Nominations for three other stone houses are currently in process.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 6

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

memory serves me right, there were none but log houses in the settlement, now I can count upward of *twenty good substantial rock houses*. [Italics added].¹²

The total number of stone buildings in Mendon was between thirty and forty by 1890 when the popularity of stone masonry was replaced by brick and frame construction methods. Today ten recognizable stone houses remain to represent this early pioneer period. Five of these have been altered to some extent, but none as dramatically as the Forster Hotel. Prior to the 1913 expansion, the Forster stone house was similar to other stone houses in Mendon. The expansion altered the original house so completely that in many ways, the Forster Hotel as remodeled in 1913, resembles an oversized version of the two-story foursquare, which was popular in Utah's more urban neighborhoods after 1905. The craftsman and bungalow styles which influenced the 1913 expansion of the hotel were the most popular domestic styles in Utah between 1905 and 1925. A few modest one-story bungalows were built in Mendon during that period, but none that compare in detail and scale to the Forster Hotel. The 1913 remodeling was built by Worley and Nelson, a contractor firm from Logan. The transformation of the Forster Hotel is unique in Utah architecture, while there numerous stone houses that received bungalow porch makeovers in the early twentieth century, there are very few that had a full second story added. The Forster Hotel is the only example that has used a large super-structure, which nearly encapsulated the original. After its expansion in 1913, the Forster Hotel became an instant community landmark in the small rural town of Mendon.

Summary

The Forster Hotel is significant under Criteria A and C representing both the historical and architectural development of the Mendon community. The building and its remarkable history represent the lasting contributions of the Forster family to Mendon. The Forster Hotel was one of two residences also used as a hotel in the nineteenth century. The Baker House was only used as a hotel for a few years and Mendon never had a completely commercial hotel. The Forster was the only hotel to serve the community during both the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.¹³ Although the rear of the building has been altered, the façade is well-preserved and has its historic integrity from 1913, the heyday of the building's use as a hotel.

¹² *Deseret News*, December 17, 1870. Reprinted January 5, 1871.

¹³ Mendon has not had a hotel since the Forster Hotel went out of business.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 1

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

Bibliography

Architectural Survey Data for Mendon, Utah. Report produced by the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, 2007.

[Cache County Tax Cards and Photographs]. Available at the Cache County Assessor's Office.

[Cache Title Abstracts and Plat Maps]. Available at the Cache County Recorder's Office.

Carter, Thomas. "The Stone Houses of Mendon." Unpublished, TMs, [draft, 1983]. Available at the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss. *Utah's Historic Architecture: A Guide, 1847-1940.* Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1988.

[Family Search Database.] Maintained online by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Larsen, Valerie. Interviews conducted by author, Mendon, Utah, June-July, 2007.

Logan Daily Herald.

Mendon Historical Society website. Various links.

Parker, Virginia. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Forster Hotel, Draft, 1982.*

Peterson, F. Ross. *A History of Cache County.* Utah Centennial County History Series, Utah State Historical Society. Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah State Historical Society, 1996.

Sorensen, Isaac. *Isaac Sorensen's History of Mendon: A Pioneer Chronicle of a Mormon Settlement.* Edited by Doran J. Baker, Charles S. Peterson, Gene A. Ware. Salt Lake City, Utah: Published by Cache County Historical Preservation Commission and Utah State Historical Society; Publishers Press, 1988.

United States Census Enumerations, *Mendon, Utah, 1860 - 1930.*

Utah History Encyclopedia, Allan Kent Powell, ed. Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1994.

Utah State Gazetteers, 1900 – 1928. Published by R.L. Polk & Co. Available at the Utah State Historical Society and the Marriott Library, University of Utah.

Willie, Paul. "Mendon's Stone Houses." Unpublished TMs, [2000]. Available at the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

Forster Hotel
Name of Property

Mendon, Cache County, Utah
City, County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.25 acres

UTM References

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

1 1/2 4/1/8/6/4/0 4/6/1/7/9/6/0
Zone Easting Northing

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

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

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

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

BEG 100 FT N OF SW COR LT 3 BLK 8 MENDON CITY SVY & TH E 132 FT TH N 165 FT TH W 132 FT TO E LN OF 100 W ST TH S 165 FT ALG ST TO BEG CONT 0.50 AC

Property Tax No. 11 - 018 - 0015

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The current boundary is that currently associated with the parcel boundary of Forster Hotel building and a portion of the original boundary.

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Korral Broschinsky, Preservation Documentation Resource

organization prepared for the Mendon Historic Preservation (CLG) Commission date November 29, 2007

street & number P.O. Box 58766 telephone (801) 913-5645

city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84158

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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

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

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

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

Property Owner

name/title Michael E. McAtee

street & number 4347 North 24th Way telephone (435) 512-1038

city or town Phoenix state AZ zip code 85016

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 1

Forster Hotel, Mendon, Cache County, UT

Common Label Information:

1. Forster Hotel
2. Mendon, Cache County, Utah
3. Photographer: Korral Broschinsky
4. Date: 2007
5. Digital images on file at Utah SHPO.

Archival Photographs (Printed using archival paper and ink at the Utah SHPO)

Photo No. 1

6. West elevation of house. Camera facing east.

Photo No. 2

5. South elevation of house and garage. Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 7

6. Historic photograph of house prior to 1913 addition. Camera facing southeast.

Supplemental Photographs

Photo No. 3

6. West and south elevations of house. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 4

6. West and north elevations of house. Camera facing southeast.

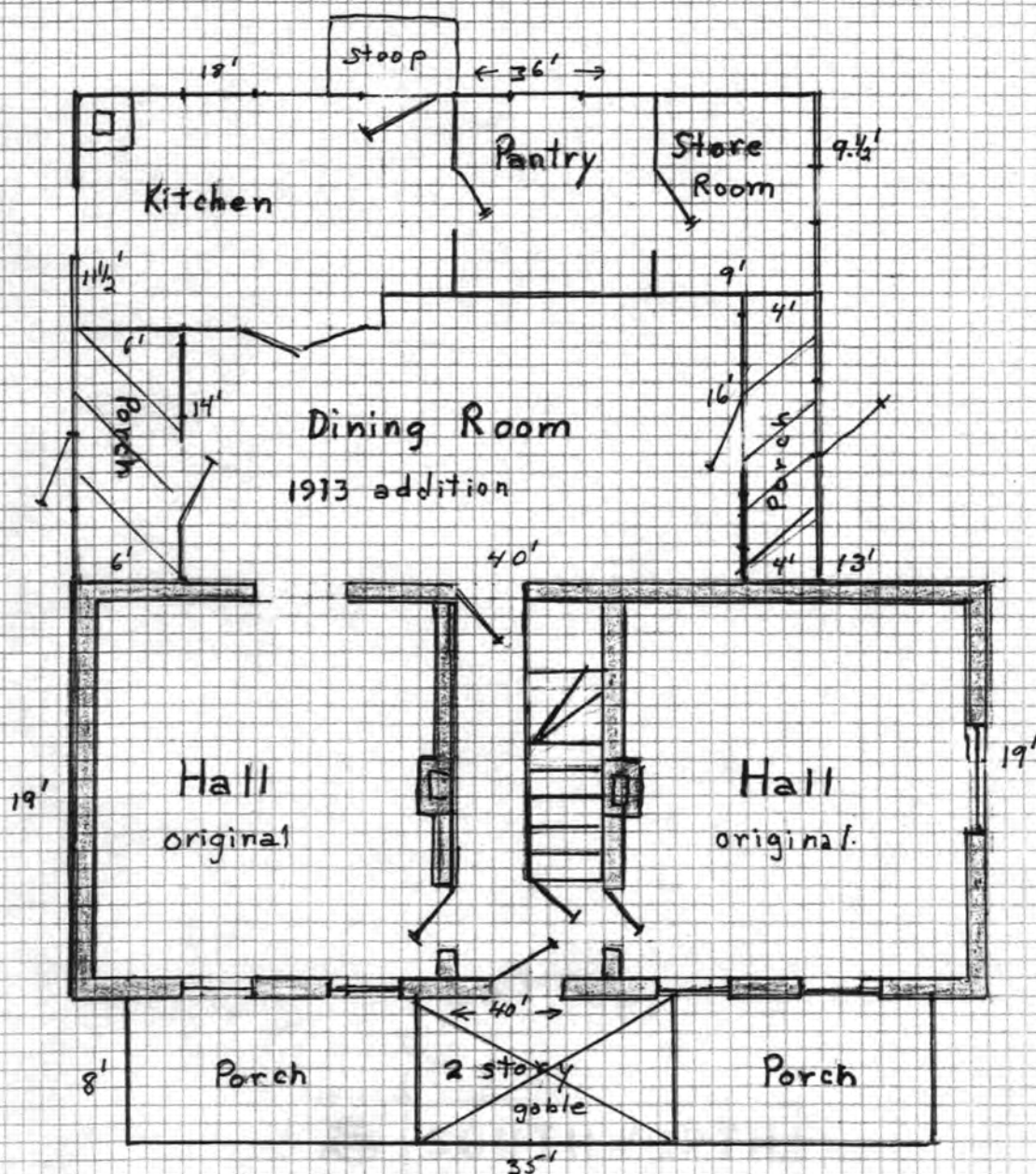
Photo No. 5

6. North and east elevations of house. Camera facing southwest.

Photo No. 6

6. East elevation of house and garage. Camera facing west.

FORSTER HOTEL MENDON, UTAH



Forster Hotel Mendon Utah
 ← N Post 1913 Floor Plan

Not drawn to scale.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Forster Hotel
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: UTAH, Cache

DATE RECEIVED: 1/08/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/30/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/14/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/21/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000058

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2.19.08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: ~~red in the~~
~~National Register~~

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



①

Forster Hotel

Mendon, Cache Co., UT



② Forster Hotel
Mendon, Cache Co., UT



FORSTER HOTEL

MENDON, CACHE CO., UT

PHOTO 3



FORSTER HOTEL

MENDON, CACHE CO., UT

PHOTO 4



FORSTER HOTEL
MENDON, CACHE CO., UT

PHOTO 5



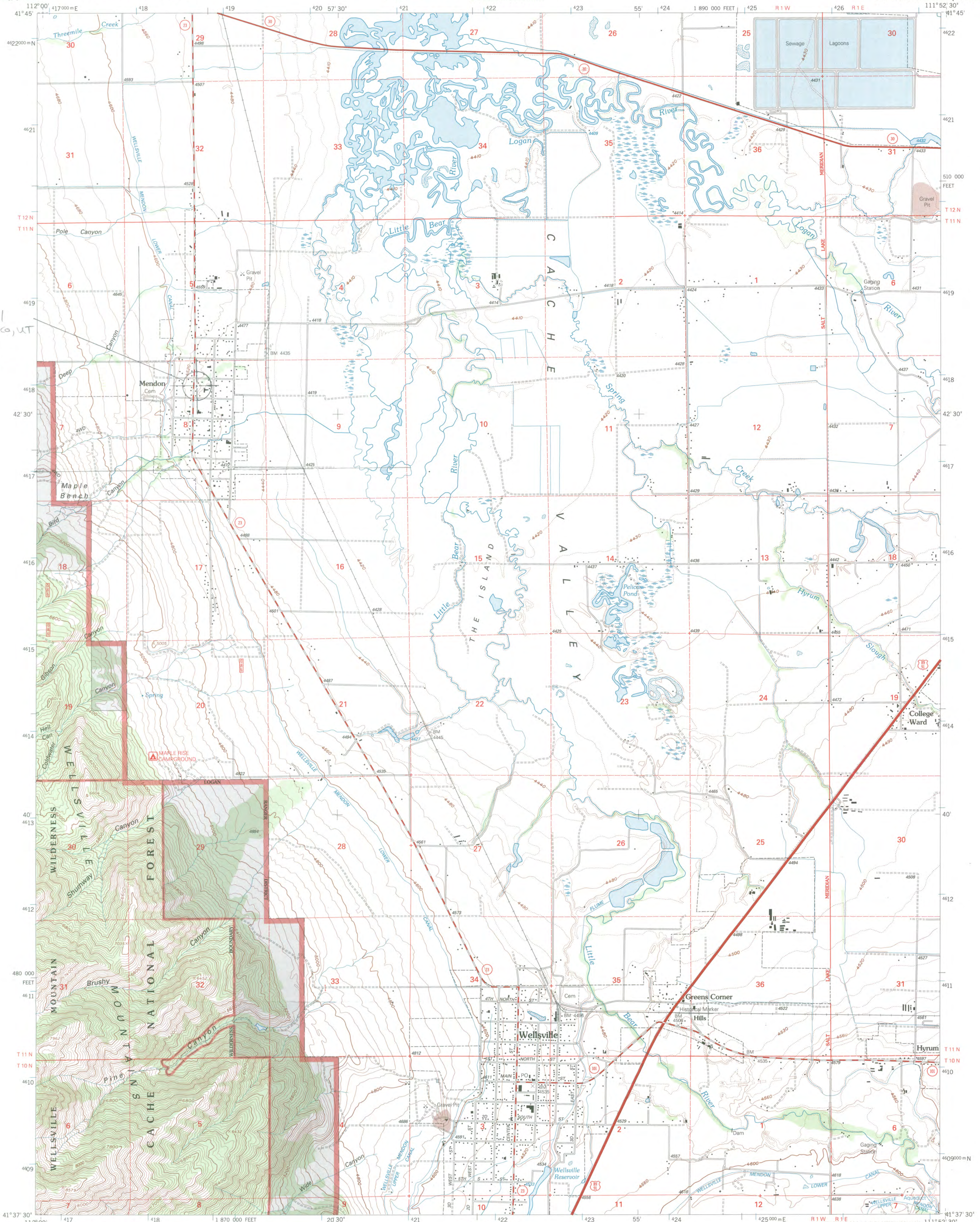
FORSTER HOTEL
MENDON, CACHE CO., UT

PHOTO 6



⑦ Forster Hotel - historic view
Mendon, Cache Co., UT

Forster Hotel
Mendon, Cache Co, UT
Zone 12
E) 418604
N) 4617960



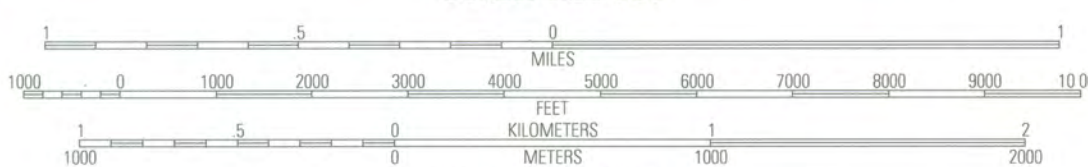
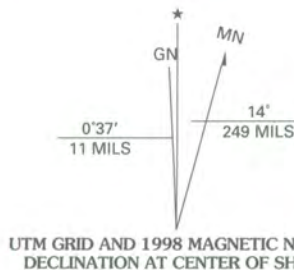
Produced by the United States Geological Survey 1986
Revision by USDA Forest Service 1998

Topography compiled 1962. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1997
and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current
as of 1998

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks:
Utah coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 12
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute
intersections are obtainable from National Geographic Survey NADCON software

Non-National Forest System lands within the National Forest
Inholdings may exist in other National or State reservations

This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are
subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check
with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private lands



CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UTAH

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Cutler Dam
4	5	2 Newton	
6	7	3 Smithfield	
		4 Honeyville	
		5 Logan	
		6 Brigham City	
		7 Mount Pisgah	
		8 Paradise	

- Interstate 5
U. S. 70
State 6
County 6
National Forest, suitable
for passenger cars 100
National Forest, suitable for
high clearance vehicles 100
National Forest Trail 304
- Primary highway
Secondary highway
Light-duty road
Composition: Unspecified...
Paved
Gravel
Dirt
Unimproved; 4 wheel drive
Trail
Gate; Barrier
4WD

WELLSVILLE, UT
1998

NIMA 3667 III NW-SERIES V897





State of Utah

JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Community and Culture

PALMER DePAULIS
Executive Director

State History

PHILIP F. NOTARIANNI
Division Director



TO: Janet Matthews, Keeper,
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Cory Jensen, National Register Coordinator
Utah State Historic Preservation Office

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 3rd day of January, 2008,
for the nomination of the Forster Hotel

to the National Register of Historic Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 3 Photograph(s) (archival)
- 4 Photograph(s) (supplemental)
- 1 CD-R w/Image Files
- 1 Original USGS Map
- 1 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)
- Pieces of Correspondence
- 1 Other Photocopy of historic photograph

COMMENTS: Please review

For questions please contact Cory Jensen at 801/533-3559, or coryjensen@utah.gov

UTAH STATE
HISTORY

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANTIQUITIES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
RESEARCH CENTER & COLLECTIONS

300 S. RIO GRANDE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101-1182 · TELEPHONE 801 533-3500 · FACSIMILE 801 533-3503 · HISTORY.UTAH.GOV