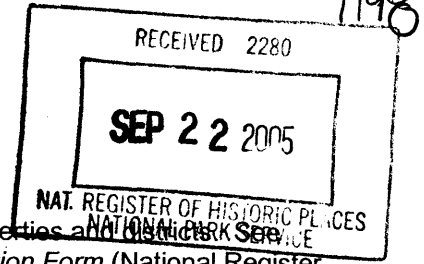


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Alma Ward Meeting House

other names/site number Mesa Fourth Ward; Producers Ins. Co.; Mesa Campus; Faith Tabernacle Church; The Center for Educational Advancement; Rouch's Schoolhouse Restaurant; Hope Covenant Church; Landmark Restaurant

2. Location

street & number 809 West Main Street not for publication
city or town Mesa vicinity _____
state Arizona code AZ county Maricopa code 013 zip code 85210

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.)

James W. Gammon AZSHPD 19 SEPTEMBER 2005
Signature of certifying official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

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): _____

Jane McClelland 4/4/06

=====

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Religion Sub: religious facility
Social meeting hall; civic

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade Sub: restaurant

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals -- Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof metal - aluminum
other - built up

walls brick
stucco
aluminum

other wood

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.)

- 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)

Community Planning & Development
Social History

Period of Significance 1908-1953

Significant Dates circa 1908
1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Joseph Rogers Standage (builder)

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

(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: City of Mesa; Landmark Restaurant; Mesa Southwest Museum; Mesa Public Library

=====

10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property .60

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>12</u>	<u>421093</u>	<u>3697616</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

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

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Elizabeth Wilson

organization Wilson Preservation date September 3, 2005

street & number 508 W. Parkway Blvd. telephone 480/296-6185

city or town Tempe state AZ zip code 85281

=====
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 Don and Candy Ellis

street & number 809 West Main Street telephone 480/962-4652

city or town Mesa state AZ zip code 85201
=====

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

Narrative Description

Summary

The Alma Ward Meeting House is a Colonial Revival Style building located at the southwest corner of Main Street and Extension Road in Mesa, Arizona. The two-story Meeting House is the most prominent and only contributing building among three that were constructed on this property as part of a Mormon Church complex in the early twentieth century. The property was subsequently used as an insurance office and then became the first Mesa campus for the Maricopa County junior college system. For the past 30 years it has primarily been used as a restaurant. Other elements of the property include an Amusement Hall building, a building used for Boy Scouts meetings, a canvas-covered patio, and a parking lot, which are all immediately south of the main Meeting House. The property's surroundings have evolved with the growth of the City, changing from a sparsely developed rural area on the town's outskirts to its present suburban environment characterized by busy arterial streets and multiple commercial and residential building types.

The exterior walls of the Meeting House's modified "T" plan are brick and stucco and the intersecting gable roof is finished with metal panels fashioned to resemble concrete shingles. Simple wood window pediments, cornices, and shutters help define the building's style, which was redesigned as part of a 1937 expansion and remodel. The interior plan reflects its historical use as a meeting house for worship, education, civic and social activities with primary spaces that include an entrance hall and a voluminous chapel auditorium as well as secondary classroom and meeting rooms, which have had few alterations.

Setting

The Alma Ward Meeting House sits near the front of a flat .60 acre rectangular lot, with the short building axis on Main Street. The building's main entry faces Extension Road. The setting is suburban, with grass lawns, low shrubs, and trees between the buildings and the adjacent arterial roads. The streets have concrete curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. A low decorative metal fence encloses the yard in front of the buildings and patio. A large paved parking lot south of the complex is accessible from Extension. The southern and western property boundaries are marked with a high block wall. Signage is a recent structure located on the northeastern corner of the property at the street intersection.

The Meeting House was one half mile west of the Mesa town limits when construction began sometime between 1908 and 1910 to serve a growing congregation of families settling in an area further west of the property, along Alma School Road. The setting was typically rural, with farmhouses and agricultural plots. A large extension canal and a smaller ditch on either side of Extension Road were lined with cottonwood trees that grew so large they touched in the middle. Railroad ties were laid across part of the canal to provide parking space. As the town grew in population and size, the rural setting gradually gave way to a more suburban appearance as commercial and residential growth moved out from the original townsite. In addition, Main Street was part of U.S. Highway 60, a popular travel route for the emerging automobile-oriented tourism trade. The open canal and ditch were enclosed, and the roads were paved. In 1949 the town annexed land that included the Alma Ward complex, officially incorporating it into the city limits. By the 1950s a steady pattern of infill commercial development, including a number of tourist-oriented motor courts, characterized the stretch of Main Street around the Alma Ward property and this pattern is still evident today.

Concomitant with the town's rising population was the growth of the Alma Ward congregation and complex. In

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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

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1926, an Amusement Hall building for plays, dancing, and other social activities was constructed behind the Meeting House. Grass and shrubs were also planted at this time to beautify the grounds. The Boy Scouts constructed a third, smaller building on the property in 1933 for their meetings. These three buildings framed a cement slab patio used for dances and other events during the hot summer months.

Between 1910 and 1950, Mesa's population increased tenfold. The ward decided to build bigger quarters at another location to serve the needs of their growing congregation. Their new chapel was completed in 1953, and the following year the original Alma Ward complex was sold to Producers Life insurance Company. In 1963, Mesa Community College opened their first campus on the property. Few alterations were made to the setting by either occupant, except for the installation of a sign structure at the northeast corner of the property in 1954, which was remodeled in 1982. Two residential properties south of the complex were razed to create additional parking space when the property became a restaurant in the 1970s. A stand-alone carport shelter was constructed south of the Boy Scouts building in the 1970s. In 1986, a canvas and metal frame canopy was added over the open patio, obstructing the view of the Boy Scout building's main facade. In addition, more recently, two small storage sheds have been erected on the property.

Meeting House Exterior

The Meeting House building is two stories, including a full street-level basement. The plan is an asymmetrical "T" with the long axis in the north-south direction. The main entry is at grade on the east end of the building's east-west section. In 1937, this section was added to the original building as part of a major expansion and remodel, which more than doubled the size of the Meeting House. The building's original north-facing entry was enclosed by the new addition, becoming an interior entry to the chapel auditorium. The original exterior staircase was removed at that time. The building's Mission Revival facade was also removed. The new addition was designed in the Colonial Revival Style, a popular choice for churches from the early to mid twentieth century. In 1988 the current owners constructed an addition on the west side, where the two building axes intersect, to accommodate a bigger kitchen. The addition's small scale and its rear location make it unobtrusive and nearly invisible from public view.

The foundation of the original building is constructed with concrete below grade, and the exterior bearing walls are built with rock face cement blocks, which were clad in a smooth painted stucco as part of the 1937 renovation. Bricks laid in a stretcher bond pattern are used in the construction of the exterior walls of the 1937 building section. Brick quoining decorates the corners, a feature often seen on Colonial Revivals. The rear kitchen addition is constructed with a concrete foundation clad in smooth stucco. The exterior walls are wood frame, with wood clapboard siding.

The intersecting medium-pitch gable roofs of the Meeting House are sheathed in lightweight metal panels that simulate shingles. This material was applied directly over the original wood shingles in 1988. A plain boxed eave cornice terminates with short horizontal returns at the gabled ends, a common feature of the Colonial Revival Style. Additional stylistic ornamentation is achieved with large circular ventilators at the apex of the gable ends. The roof of the rear addition is flat and sheathed with a built up material. A rooftop spire was added to the building as part of the 1937 renovation and was subsequently removed. The removal date is unknown.

The main building entrance is found in one of a pair of tall, semicircular openings that punctuate the east end of the 1937 addition. The original double entry doors, transom window, and fanlight were replaced in the 1970s, though the original opening was preserved. They were again changed out in 1989 with the current single door flanked by raised side panels, with a fixed rectangular beveled light transom and fanlight above. The second opening was also

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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

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refitted in 1989 with complementary fixed beveled lights at grade, raised wood panels, and a fixed beveled transom and fanlight above. Classical molded trim surrounds decorate each opening, which are original. The arched openings, classical surrounds, door paneling, transoms, and fanlights are all features typical of the Colonial Revival Style.

Secondary entrances to the main building level are located at the south and rear sides through modern, flush doors. The lower level is accessible from a short stairway on the exterior of the building's central section, at the south end. The original wide entry door, with a large panel of privacy glass over two raised wood panels, remains intact. A second, lower-level entrance with a modern metal door is on the south side of the 1988 kitchen addition.

A symmetrical fenestration pattern characterizes the Meeting House, which is also typical of the Colonial Revival Style. The upper level windows have vertical, rectilinear openings. Smaller basement windows are at street level, with square openings. Most of these openings are intact, with the exception of seven upper and three lower windows on the building's rear west façade, which have been covered by the kitchen addition or infilled with plywood and mechanical equipment in the 1970s and 1980s. The original wood sashes remain in most locations. The building's upper windows were fitted with fixed lights in the early 1980s, replacing the original double-hung windows. On the north side, the street level double-hung windows have also been replaced with single fixed lights. Original 1/1 wood double-hung windows at street level on the main east façade are intact. Wood shutters flank the upper story windows and plain pediments have been added overhead, providing additional Colonial Revival ornamentation.

Meeting House Interior

The basic floor plan and historically important interior spaces are largely intact. In addition, the Meeting House still retains many of its original interior features. The entry foyer is at street level. From this foyer, a wide interior stairway ascends to the main floor. A narrower stairway descends to the basement. A foldaway wheelchair ramp has been attached to the wall adjacent to the main level stairway. The former chapel auditorium is the major primary space on the main floor. This room was the library when Mesa Community College used the building. The Landmark Restaurant now uses it as their main dining room. The auditorium's historic spatial qualities, characterized by a large, open area and high, 13-foot ceilings, are intact. The floor originally sloped to the south but was leveled in the 1950s. Two secondary rooms that were used by the congregation for meeting space are located off a wide corridor opposite the auditorium entry and are now used as a salad room and additional dining space. In the 1970s, the west end of the upstairs corridor was enclosed to accommodate a kitchen.

The basement is divided into various smaller rooms that were originally used by the congregation – and later the community college - for classrooms, meeting space, bathrooms, and a kitchen. The largest room at the northeast corner, off the lower level foyer, is now used for dining and retains its original spatial qualities. A duct has been affixed to the ceiling, running the length of the room. Two smaller rooms, accessible through a short hall, are also intact. Additional rooms open off of a long hallway in the original building section, from the lower level foyer. Originally there were five separate classrooms and a mechanical room. In 1986, two of the dividing walls between classrooms were removed to create three larger spaces for dining, and the mechanical room was also slightly reconfigured to accommodate a larger ADA accessible women's restroom. All of the original ceiling heights and entries into these rooms from the hall were retained. The lower level exit at the end of the hallway also remains unchanged.

Many of the interior features have been preserved. The interior walls are plaster on lath. Wallpaper has been

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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

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applied to some of these walls and others are painted. Virtually all of the original wood trim around the doors is intact as is most of the window trim. Many rooms also still retain their original crown molding, including the former auditorium. More recently, wood wainscot paneling and chair rail trim has been applied to some of the dining room walls and decorative trim has been added around the doors and windows in the former auditorium. Recent vintage decorative wood grills have also been affixed to the interior windows in one of the former ground floor classrooms. Most of the interior doors are original. The entry doors into the basement classrooms are distinctive, with vertical patterned privacy glass upper panels, which allows outside light to enter the downstairs hallway. Acoustical ceiling tiles have been applied to most of the ceilings. These tiles are believed to date to the 1937 renovation. The former lower level classroom at the southwest corner of the building still retains its bead board ceiling.

Amusement Hall (noncontributing)

The Amusement Hall was constructed immediately south of the Meeting House and outdoor patio in 1926. Originally used for plays, socials, and other entertainment, the building is now used for special events by the Landmark Restaurant. The building is one story with a partial basement completely below grade. The rectilinear plan is oriented east-west with the front façade and double entry doors facing Extension Road. A second entry on the north side opens onto the patio. The Amusement Hall was originally constructed in the Mission Revival Style. However, the building's exterior was extensively modified in the 1970s. Its distinguishing curvilinear shaped gable façade wall was removed in 1977. In addition, the building's adobe brick walls, originally sheathed in stucco, were covered with horizontal aluminum siding. A small entry porch was also added to the building in the 1970s. The building's original wood shingle roof has been clad in the same simulated shingle metal material that is found on the Meeting House. The interior of the Amusement Hall is well preserved. The building's open plan and raised stage are intact. Its distinctive curved plaster ceiling and hardwood maple floors are also original.

Boy Scouts Building (noncontributing)

The last building constructed on the Alma Ward property was the Boy Scouts building, completed in 1933. It is designed in the Mission Revival Style using adobe bricks clad in stucco. The building's rectilinear plan is oriented with its broadside toward the patio, between the Meeting House and Amusement Hall. In 1963, a small addition was constructed on the front of the building by the college for storage. In the 1980s, service windows were installed in this addition for food service. The building's roof form is flat and sheathed with a built up material. In 1986, a canvas and metal frame canopy was constructed over the patio. This canopy is attached to the front façade of the Boy Scouts building, visually blocking its main stylistic element, a curvilinear parapet wall that rises above the roofline. The main entry door into the building has 10 lights and is flanked by narrower side panels, also with 10 lights each. This door replaces the original entry doors. A secondary entry with a modern door is on the building's north side. The interior plan is one open room. A fieldstone fireplace is original. Decorative chair rail molding has been added to the walls.

Integrity

Location and Setting

The Alma Ward complex and Meeting House maintain historic integrity with respect to location and setting. The buildings and other features of the property are in their original spots. The grounds have not changed appreciably over time. Though a few small structures and outbuildings have been tucked around the buildings,

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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

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the property retains its historic character. The relationship between the three original buildings has been preserved, and the historic landscaping elements, including the vegetation, patio slab, and walkways, are still present. The area surrounding the property reflects the town's growth in the first half of the twentieth century, with a mix of commercial and residential properties from that period.

Design, Workmanship, and Materials

The form, plan, interior spaces, and Colonial Revival Style of the Meeting House continue to reflect the historic function, technologies, and aesthetics of the building when it was used as a church. The brick and stucco wall materials and ornamental wood elements were common in building designs from the 1930s. Ornamental details such as the boxed eave cornices at the gabled ends of the roof, and the arched openings, classical surrounds, transoms, and fanlights around the entry door and window opening on the main entry façade are evidence of the aesthetic principles of Period Revival architecture and early twentieth century craftsmanship.

The original Mission Revival Style of the Amusement Hall was changed in the 1970s. The curvilinear parapet wall on the front façade was removed, and a gable roof form was constructed over the building. An entry porch was also added. The original stucco-clad adobe bricks have been covered with aluminum horizontal siding. These alterations modify the design, and the physical evidence of the materials and workmanship.

The Mission Revival Style of the Boy Scouts Building has been obscured from public view. A canopy over the original patio slab blocks the building's curvilinear parapet façade wall, which is a character-defining feature of the design.

Feeling and Association

The physical features of the Alma Ward Meeting House continue to convey the property's historic character. The building retains the design, materials, workmanship, location, and setting that communicate the feeling of life in the first half of the twentieth century. The Meeting House is the place where the town's early Mormon settlers worshiped, and where they gathered for social and civic activities. It is also the place where the first post-secondary education classes in the East Valley were held.

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Section 8 Page 6

Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary of Significance

The Alma Ward Meeting House is locally significant under National Register criterion "A" for its historical association with community life and development patterns in Mesa, Arizona, from circa 1908 to 1953. The Mormons constructed the Meeting House sometime between 1908 and 1911. This group was instrumental to the town's early settlement and subsequent growth, and their theocratic society placed the Church in a central position in spiritual and secular activities. The Alma Ward Meeting House functioned as a place of worship, as well as a locus for civic and social events, which included both Mormons and non-Mormons from the community. The Meeting House also marked an expansion in the physical area associated with the city and was indicative of broader population growth taking place at the time. In 1937, the Meeting House was enlarged and redesigned as part of a deliberate building effort initiated by the Church to get people off government relief and back to work.

Criterion Consideration A

Though the Alma Ward Meeting House was a religious property, its primary significance derives from its direct association with the broader patterns of history related to community life and physical development in Mesa during the first half of the twentieth century. As such, the property falls within criterion consideration A and is nominated for its historical importance and not for its association with Mormon religion *per se*.

History and Significance of the Alma Ward Meeting House

An early newspaper article reports that work commenced on the Alma Ward Meeting House in 1910. Histories from Mona Rogers and Mason Davis, both members of the congregation, indicate the building was dedicated the following year. The Meeting House was constructed for \$5,500 by church members to serve the surrounding area of settlers who were associated with Mesa's third wave of Mormon pioneers. The ward raised some of the money, and the main church in Salt Lake City, Utah contributed the remaining funds.

Joseph Rogers Standage was chairman of the Building Committee in charge of the work. Histories by Joseph Leonard Standage and his wife, Rosemary Babbitt Standage, state the building was constructed in 1908 and that Joseph Leonard worked for his father, Joseph Rogers Standage, on its construction. Local church officials dictated its multipurpose plan and Mission Revival Style design. The plan - which included a chapel auditorium upstairs, and secondary classrooms and meeting space downstairs - reflected its intended use for worship, education, civic, and social activities. Church officials relied on standardized plans from the group's headquarters in Utah, adapting them to their needs in the Mission Revival Style, which was emerging as a popular design for churches in the Southwest. Typical of construction methods in the early twentieth century, many of the building's materials were made on site. The rock face blocks and bricks used in the foundation and exterior walls were fashioned with a cement block machine owned by Joseph Standage.

Dances were often held in the upstairs chapel, in spite of the challenges posed by the auditorium's sloping floor. When it was hot, dances were also held outside on the cement slab patio behind the Meeting House. Non-Mormons from the community were invited, and these balls were commonly organized as fundraising events.

The Meeting House was modernized in the 1920s with the installation of electricity. In 1926, the growing congregation constructed a Social Hall behind the Meeting House, following the Mission Revival Style of the main

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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

building. The congregation raised half of the \$7,000 construction costs and the Latter Day Saints (LDS) church authorities in Salt Lake City provided the remaining half. A grand opening ball was hosted by the ward to help raise funds for curtains and other furnishings and to beautify the grounds with grass and shrubbery. The Social Hall was used for recreational purposes, and over the years a number of plays and ice cream socials were hosted for the benefit of the congregation and greater town community.

In 1932, the Boy Scouts began construction of a third building on the Alma Ward property, which was completed in 1933 and used for their meetings. Like the others, this building was also designed in the Mission Revival Style, with a rudimentary curvilinear parapet wall made with adobe bricks that the Scouts handmade on site.

The complex continued to evolve with the growth of the town, bringing more members to the Alma Ward area. In 1937, the ward began construction on a new addition to the Meeting House, which doubled it in size. The new addition housed more classrooms and Relief Society rooms. A natural gas, central heat plant was also installed. In addition, the building was redesigned in the Colonial Revival Style, reflecting an architectural style that was common for churches of the period. This effort was undertaken as part of a concerted LDS relief program that included building improvements and new construction in order to create employment for idle church members and get them off government relief. The project took two years and cost \$16,000, with 40 percent of the cost borne by the local ward and the remaining 60 percent supplied by the central church organization. As with their earlier expansions, the Ward Building Committee raised some of the funds by sponsoring a benefit dance for the community.

The boundaries of the geographic area served by the Alma Ward changed in 1920 and again in 1946 as the town's population increased. The Church periodically made these adjustments to ensure that Ward membership stayed between 300 and 600 people. In spite of these ward divisions, the Alma Ward complex eventually became too small to continue serving the needs of the growing congregation. In 1952, ground was broken at another location for a new complex and the original Alma Ward property with its Meeting House, Social Hall and Boy Scouts buildings was sold to Producer's Life Insurance. The sloping floor in the Meeting House auditorium was leveled but few other changes were necessary to adapt the buildings for their new use.

Post-1953 History of the Alma Ward Meeting House

Producer's Life Insurance operated from this location for ten years. In 1962, the Maricopa County Junior College District was formed. This event signaled the first expansion of the junior college system beyond a single campus. Three extension campuses to Phoenix College were planned, including a southeast campus that would accommodate freshman level students from Mesa, Tempe, Chandler, East Scottsdale, and Gilbert areas. The "Mesa Campus" leased the former Alma Ward property and opened for classes in the fall of that same year with over 600 students and 20 faculty members. With no tuition fees for Maricopa County residents, the junior college district system was instantly successful, and the Mesa Campus was strained for space from the beginning. By 1965, more than 1,200 students were enrolled at the Mesa Campus and plans were underway to secure a larger, permanent campus. The institution's status as an extension campus changed when the governing junior college district officially created Mesa Community College (MCC) as a separate college to serve the growing East Valley. The following year, in 1966, MCC moved from the Alma Ward property to their own, permanent location at Southern and Dobson Roads.

After MCC left, the Faith Tabernacle Church used the property again for religious purposes until 1972. The Center for Educational Advancement also used a portion of the complex from 1967 to 1970. In 1972 the property was sold and became Rouch's Schoolhouse Restaurant. To accommodate its new use, a kitchen was constructed at the

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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

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west end of the main floor in the Meeting House. In addition, the curvilinear parapet wall on the Amusement Hall was removed in 1977 and horizontal aluminum siding was applied to the exterior walls of the building. In 1981, the Ellis family purchased the complex and opened the Landmark Restaurant. In their early years of operation, they also leased rooms to the Hope Covenant Church. The kitchen was enlarged in 1988 with a new addition at the west end of the Meeting House. To date the Landmark Restaurant continues to use the former Meeting House, Social Hall, and Boy Scouts buildings for dining and other special occasions.

Historic Contexts

Mormon Influence on Physical Development Patterns and Community Life in Mesa 1877-1953

The construction of the Alma Ward Meeting House circa 1908 is associated with the Mormon influence on physical development patterns and community life in Mesa between 1877 and 1953. The Mesa area was initially settled by a group of 84 pioneers who arrived by covered wagon in 1877. These pioneers were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) seeking to establish a new colony. They founded their agricultural settlement close to the Salt River in a community first known as Utahville, then later as Lehi. Their colony subsequently became part of the town of Mesa. These Mormon (LDS) settlers immediately began construction on an irrigation canal from the Salt River to provide water for their agricultural activities, which they called The Utah Ditch.

A second group of LDS pioneers arrived from Utah and Idaho the following year and chose a settlement location south of Lehi on flat table of land, which they called Mesa. This group of pioneers started a second irrigation canal from the Salt River, known as the Mesa Canal. That same year, a section of land that was suitable for a townsite was selected and officially deeded to the community. Families received portions of the original townsite land based on the value of labor and materials they contributed to the construction of the Mesa Canal. After the final homestead certificate within the townsite was issued in 1881, residents petitioned the County for incorporation and Mesa was officially incorporated as a town on July 15, 1883.

Between 1878 and 1883, a regular influx of Mormon colonists continued to arrive and settle around the townsite, gradually building out the community of Mesa. Mormons in Utah and other Western communities were encouraged by news of the fertile farming land available along the Salt River. Another group of 50 settlers arrived in 1879, and smaller groups also came.

In 1880, a third large group of Mormons, headed by William N. Standage arrived. Because most of the best land in the townsite was already taken, they decided to establish a community one mile west of the town around what is now known as Alma School Road. They received permission to extend the Utah canal to their location. The area was called "Stringtown," because the homesteads were in a string that paralleled the new Utah Extension Canal they constructed.

From the beginning, the Mormon settlers influenced community development patterns in Mesa. The Mesa City townsite followed an 1833 plan by LDS leader Joseph Smith. His plan was originally created for the proposed City of Zion that was planned near Independence, Missouri. However, persecution forced the Mormons to migrate west. Most of the new towns that were subsequently established by the Western pioneers followed Smith's plat design, which called for streets 132 feet wide on a one square mile grid. Each block contained eight rectangular lots one and one-quarter acre in size. Though Smith's plan called for three public squares, only two were included in the plat of Mesa. The townsite plan was ringed with blocks on all four sides that were one lot deep.

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Mesa's early buildings were simple and often provisional. They were constructed with the limited lumber that was available and more commonly, with adobe bricks. In 1879, the town's Mormon pioneers opened the first school in a shed. Classes were taught from there until 1882 when an adobe school building was constructed. The pioneers also built a number of residential and commercial properties. In addition, the Mormons constructed other buildings in and around the town for worship, meetings, recreation, social, and civic activities.

The organizational structure of the Mormon Church dictates the formation of membership units known as wards and stakes. A ward is the local congregational unit in the LDS church, with membership in each one ranging between 300 and 600 people. Members of each ward live within prescribed geographic boundaries. Stakes are an intermediate unit of organization between LDS Church headquarters in Salt Lake City and the local wards and are typically comprised of between five and twelve wards.

There were originally three wards in the community – the Lehi Ward, Mesa Ward, and Alma Ward - each associated with the three groups of pioneers that settled in and around Mesa. These wards were part of the Maricopa Stake, which also included other wards from surrounding areas.

In Mesa's early years, these organizational entities were associated with specific buildings that included tabernacles, chapel meeting houses, auditoriums, and halls. The church's first major permanent structure in the town was the LDS Tabernacle, constructed in 1896 at the southeast corner of Morris and First Avenue, which served as a meeting house for stake activities. Mesa's early ward buildings were more modest than the tabernacle. The Lehi Ward met in a lumber meeting house constructed in 1892, which burned down in 1936. The Alma Ward congregated in a one-room brick building on Broadway Road built in 1885. Two small wood-frame classroom buildings were later added but space became so tight that many classes were held outside when the weather was good.

The success of the early Mormon agricultural colonies encouraged other economic development in the town, including new hotels, banks, and additional commercial enterprises. The expansion of economic opportunities also attracted non-Mormons to the community, though Mesa remained a predominantly Mormon settlement in these early years. By 1894, the area's population had grown to 648. Growth slowed as a result of a seven-year drought that began in 1898 and a devastating fire, which occurred that same year. In 1900, the population was 722.

When the drought struck, farmers in the Salt River valley lobbied the federal government to help build a dam as a way to preserve floodwaters for use during future droughts. In 1905, construction began on Roosevelt Dam, upstream from Mesa on the Salt River. Many new people moved to Mesa to work on the dam, and the population reached 1,700 in 1910.

LDS membership increased with the growth of the town's population. In 1910, both the Mesa Ward and Alma Ward announced plans to construct new buildings to accommodate their growing congregations. The Mesa Ward was the largest and most financially sound of the three early LDS congregations. By 1910, they had constructed an opera house, relief hall, and tithing house in the town. The new meeting house they proposed that year was projected to cost \$25,000 and planned to be the same size as the tabernacle. However, the Mesa Ward had grown so large that it became necessary to divide the congregation into two groups. In 1912, the newly formed Mesa First and Mesa Second Wards simultaneously constructed two permanent chapels.

In 1910, the Alma Ward followed through on their plans to construct a larger meeting house at Main Street and

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Extension. More modest than the building initially planned by Mesa Ward, the Alma Ward Meeting House cost \$5,500 to construct. Their new building included an auditorium for worship and social events, and enough classrooms so that everyone could meet indoors. They discontinued use of their original meeting house on Broadway Road, and the building gradually deteriorated before it was eventually torn down.

Mesa's economy prospered in the decade after 1910 and the population almost doubled, reaching 3,050 residents by 1920. This growth was prompted by the completion of Roosevelt Dam in 1911, which assured the area's farmers a stable and adequate water supply. Growth was further encouraged during World War I from 1914 to 1918 by demand for the newly discovered long-staple variety of Pima cotton that grew well in the Salt River Valley. The area's farmers commanded high prices for their cotton, which was used in clothing and the manufacture of tires. However, another economic downturn hit Mesa in the first half of the 1920s. A post-World War I slump was triggered by a dramatic decline in cotton prices, which also affected banking and sales profits in the town. By 1926 cotton prices had recovered to pre-war levels and farmers had diversified their crops. A branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad also came to Mesa. These developments encouraged an upswing in the economy and in 1930 the town's population reached 3,750. However, with the annexation of outlying subdivisions into the city in June 1930 Mesa's official population nearly doubled to 6,200.

As a result of the increasing population, the Church found it necessary to adjust ward boundaries and form new wards to accommodate their rising membership. In addition, a number of new buildings were constructed. In 1920 portions of Mesa First, Second, and Alma Wards were combined to create a new Mesa Third Ward. Alma Ward was renamed Mesa Fourth Ward. In addition to the meeting house buildings associated with each ward, the Mormons also constructed an auditorium in the town where they could host plays, socials, and other entertainment for larger crowds, which was known as Mezona Hall. A pool was constructed behind the First Ward chapel, which served as a recreational asset for the whole community. In 1926, the Mesa Fourth Ward constructed a separate hall for entertainment purposes adjacent to their meeting house. In 1927, the Lehi Ward built a new brick meeting house. By 1930, there was also a Mexican Ward, bringing the total number of wards in the community to six. In 1932, the Boy Scouts began construction on a small building for their meetings next to the Mesa Fourth Ward Meeting House. In 1934 the Mesa Second Ward began construction of a new chapel next to their original meeting house at Center Street and First Avenue.

In the first decades of the twentieth century, the LDS Church continued to strongly influence development patterns and community life in Mesa. The town remained the population center for Arizona's Mormons. As a result, in 1908 and again in 1912 requests were submitted to church officials in Salt Lake City to build an LDS Temple in Mesa. Temple attendance is an important part of Mormon religious activities, and church teachings encourage members to be married in a temple. If a temple were constructed in town than church members would no longer have to travel to Salt Lake City to be married. The outbreak of World War I interrupted the process, but finally in 1918 it was announced that an Arizona temple would be built in Mesa, which would serve the Southwestern United States and Mexico. In just one day, voluntary donations totaling \$112,000 were received after the church called for contributions to help pay for the new temple. Construction of the seventh LDS Temple took place in Mesa from 1922 to 1927 and cost \$800,000. Even before it was completed, the Mesa Temple became a major tourist attraction, with up to 900 visitors per day.

The Great Depression began with the stock market crash in 1929 and hit particularly hard in areas of the country that relied on manufacturing. With a diversified economy based on agriculture, transportation, and commercial activities, the Salt River valley avoided the worst effects of this depression. Nonetheless, the first few years were hard for Mesa, with limited money in circulation. After President Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated in 1933, he

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implemented a number of government-sponsored public works programs and Congress passed the National Housing Act in 1934. Both of these events stimulated construction and generated money for spending in local markets.

The LDS Church established its own churchwide relief program, which got underway in Mesa in the fall of 1936. The LDS relief program was designed to aid needy church members and get them off government relief. A food warehouse and clothing depot were established at Mezona Hall with labor donated by church members. Facilities were installed for canning vegetables, fruit and other food, and for mending shoes and clothing. Surplus crops were preserved for charitable purposes. Clothing and dry goods were collected and stored for future distribution. Various commodities were exchanged between wards in Utah, Idaho, California, and Arizona.

As part of their relief efforts, a church building construction and improvement program was also implemented. This program was planned to create employment for idle church members. Wages were paid in cash, food, and clothing. Shortly thereafter, the Mesa Third Ward began holding a series of chain suppers in various ward members' homes to raise funds to erect an amusement hall at the rear of their chapel meeting house. Three thousand dollars in improvements were also planned to redecorate and furnish the original Mesa Second Ward chapel and make it harmonize with the new chapel building constructed by the ward two years earlier. The Mesa First Ward chapel was also redesigned and modernized in a \$10,000 remodeling project that began in 1937. The Alma Ward chapel was redesigned in the Colonial Revival Style and enlarged as part of a \$16,000 improvement project undertaken by Mesa Fourth Ward that same year. In addition, the church began construction on a \$25,000 gymnasium and recreation hall in Mesa to serve the 6,800 members of the Maricopa Stake. The LDS Church in Mesa also constructed a new \$11,000 seminary building. It was typical for the wards to host community-wide balls and other social activities to help generate income to pay for their share of the costs associated with these new construction projects.

As a result of additional annexations and steady growth in the 1930s, Mesa was the sixth largest city in Arizona by 1940 with a population of 7,250. Membership in the LDS Church also continued to increase with the community's growth. The church's massive building construction and improvement program of the late 1930s made it possible to accommodate this new membership within the existing ward structure. When the United States entered World War II (WWII) in 1941 the federal government issued a moratorium on construction, and the availability of materials was severely restricted. These circumstances effectively halted the church's building program for the duration of the war.

The early post-WWII years marked the first suburban growth boom in the City. A new era of prosperity began as soldiers and war industry workers moved to Mesa with their accumulated wartime savings and started new families. The population more than doubled, and by 1950 Mesa was the third largest city in Arizona with 16,800 residents. This phenomenal growth was also reflected in the LDS Church membership, which skyrocketed both in Mesa and worldwide. It became necessary to once again divide Mesa's existing wards and create new wards. As a result of these changes, by 1952 there were twelve LDS wards in Mesa. Some of the wards, including Alma Ward, sold their original property and opted to construct new facilities at a different location in the city. The Alma Ward Meeting House property was sold in 1954 to Producer's Life Insurance.

The Expansion of the Maricopa County Junior College System 1962-1966

The Arizona State legislature passed a law in 1960 outlining requirements for forming junior college districts in the State. These are tax-supported institutions offering post-secondary education. Their programs include transfer

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courses that parallel the first two years of university educational requirements as well as terminal vocational programs and a variety of other courses planned to meet the community's interests and needs. In 1962, voters approved a referendum to create a junior college district in Maricopa County. At that time, The Maricopa County Junior College District was only the third multicollge district in the United States. Prior to 1962, just one junior college campus existed in Maricopa County. This was the Phoenix College campus, located at Thomas Road and 15th Avenue in Phoenix, which was part of the Phoenix Union High School District. Both Phoenix College and the Phoenix Union High School District were interested in including the campus in a larger district of junior colleges. In addition, citizens in the eastern part of Maricopa County, and especially in the Mesa-Tempe-Chandler area, were eager to form a district and have junior college facilities available in their immediate area.

Following its approval by a more than two to one margin in the 1962 general election, the district became a legal entity in July 1963. The initial Maricopa County Junior College District Board had already formed shortly after the election. When a bond issue failed that would have permitted the district to purchase Phoenix College outright, the Board decided to lease the facilities from the high school district. They prepared a smaller bond issue for reconsideration, which ultimately passed. The Board also made plans to lease temporary facilities at three locations. Additional space was needed to accommodate the anticipated number of students enrolling at Phoenix College that fall and to serve students in the northeast and southeast regions of the Phoenix metropolitan area. To meet these needs, facilities were rented at the Jewish Community Center just north of the Phoenix College campus at Maryland and 17th Avenue, and at Camelback Road and 15th Street for the northeast extension campus, and in Mesa at Main and Extension for the southeast campus. Enrollment at the Mesa campus exceeded the space available in their original buildings (at the former Alma Ward Meeting House, Social Hall, and Boy Scouts Building) and the district also rented several other downtown facilities to accommodate all of the new students.

By September 1963 a junior college education was available to 6,000 students in Maricopa County. Almost immediately, the classrooms at the three extension campuses were filled to capacity. The Board soon began working on designs and developing master plans for both a northwest campus in Glendale, and a southeast campus in Mesa. The institutions' status as extension campuses changed when the governing junior college district officially created Glendale Community College (GCC) and Mesa Community College (MCC) as separate colleges. Consultants hired by the district recommended that the new college campuses be constructed to accommodate at least 5,000 students and that enrollment at Phoenix College be limited to 4,300 students.

In 1964, 9,390 students enrolled in the Maricopa County junior colleges. Because of a dire classroom shortage and an inability to renew their lease for parking and athletic facilities at the Mesa extension, the Board focused on building a permanent campus in Mesa by the fall of 1965. However, by the summer of 1965 it was apparent that the new MCC would not be ready to open for classes that fall. A bidding dispute had arisen over the construction of 40 portable units, which were needed at the new Mesa campus, since construction of the permanent buildings would not be completed until 1966. Therefore, the Mesa classes continued at their rented facilities for another year. Facilities at the Phoenix Jewish Community Center on Maryland and the Camelback facilities were also rented again, and GCC was forced to spend another year as a divided campus.

In the fall of 1966, the GCC and MCC campuses were finally ready and both moved from their leased facilities to new, permanent locations. The Glendale campus and buildings were inspected on August 30 and accepted, though a few additional items had to be completed before the final sign-off. At MCC, 29 portable buildings were needed on the new campus for the 1966-1967 year, but it too was ready for opening that fall. In 1966, total Maricopa County Community College District enrollment climbed to 11,839 students.

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The opening of Mesa's first junior college campus was an important event in the community's history, marking the expansion of a post-secondary educational system into the southeast valley. The importance of this event was recognized in 1988 at a 25-year anniversary celebration. The college returned to its starting campus at Main Street and Extension Road and hosted a reception for its faculty and staff at the Landmark Restaurant, which now occupies the property. Highlighting the ceremonies was the unveiling of a 25th anniversary plaque that has been placed on the building.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the property are the same as those for Tax Parcel Number 134-03-015-B represented as LOT 48 COM AT NE COR SW4 SEC 21 TH W 148.5F S 297F E 148.5F N 297F TO BEG EX N 50F RD & EX 10F X 10F TRI IN NE COR & EX E 40F RD & ALSO PT DAF COM W4 COR SEC 21 TH E 2377.11F S 1D 18M W 50.01F TO TPOB CONT S 1D 18M W 92.03F W 4.61F N 2D 12M E 92.07F E 3.15F TO TPOB P/F 01-0963733, in Section 21, Township 1N, Range 5E

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the entire parcel historically associated with the Alma Ward Meeting House, including the Amusement Hall and Boy Scouts Building.

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Photographer: Elizabeth Wilson
Date: March 28, 2004; April 11, 2004
Location of Original Negatives: Wilson Preservation
Tempe, AZ

-
- | Photo # | View to: |
|---------|---|
| 1 | Overall view of the northeast corner of Meeting House building at intersection looking southwest |
| 2 | Overall view of the south and east sides of complex with Amusement Hall and Meeting House looking northwest |
| 3 | Overall view of the Meeting House building's east façade looking west |
| 4 | Overall view of the Meeting House building looking southwest |
| 5 | Overall view of the Meeting House building looking southeast |
| 6 | Interior view of the Meeting House's former auditorium looking northeast |
| 7 | Interior view of the Meeting House's hallway in the basement looking south |
| 8 | Overall view of the Amusement Hall, and the covered patio in front of the Boy Scouts building looking west |
| 9 | View of the Boy Scouts building looking southwest |

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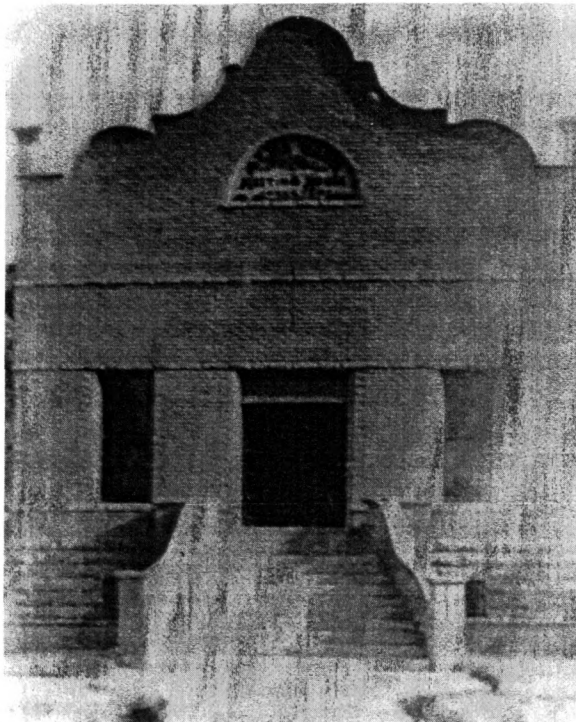
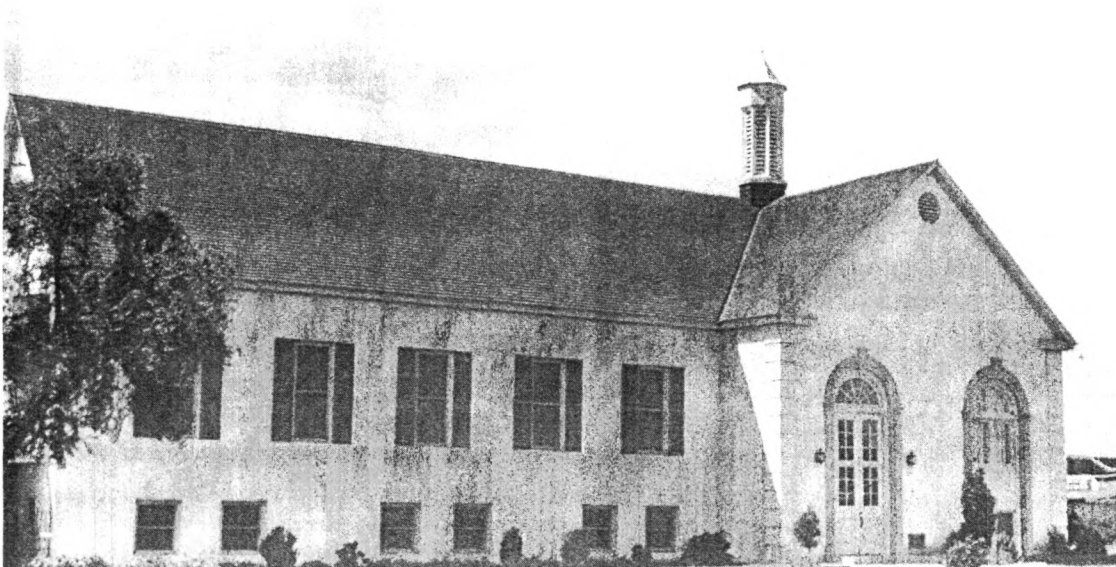


Photo ca. 1908-1911: Alma Ward Meeting House view from the north of main, south façade before major renovations and style change. Photo housed at the Landmark Restaurant.

Photo ca. 1939: Alma Ward Meeting House, view from the southwest, showing new west main façade after renovations. Photo housed at Mesa Southwest Museum.



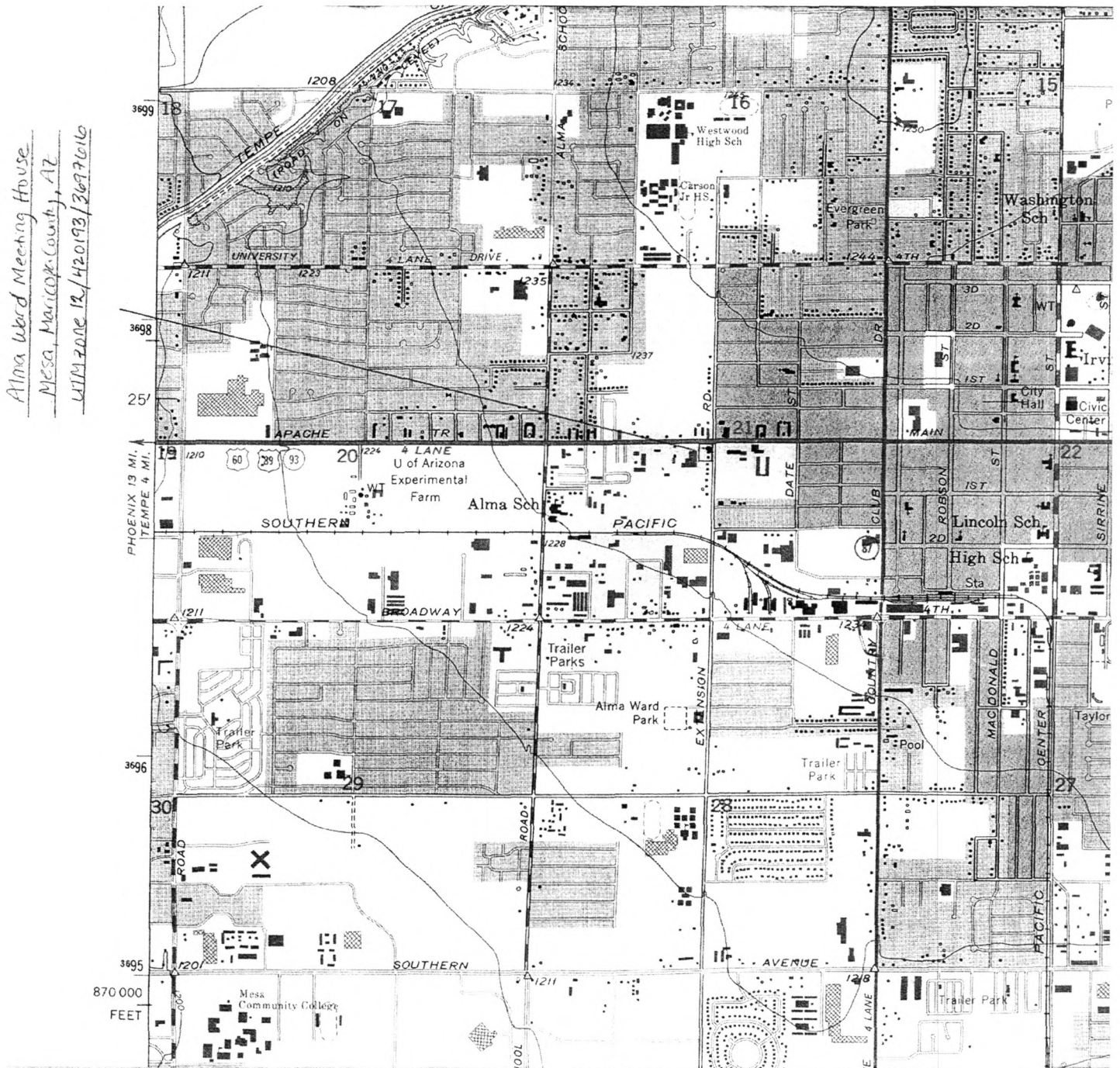
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USGS Map



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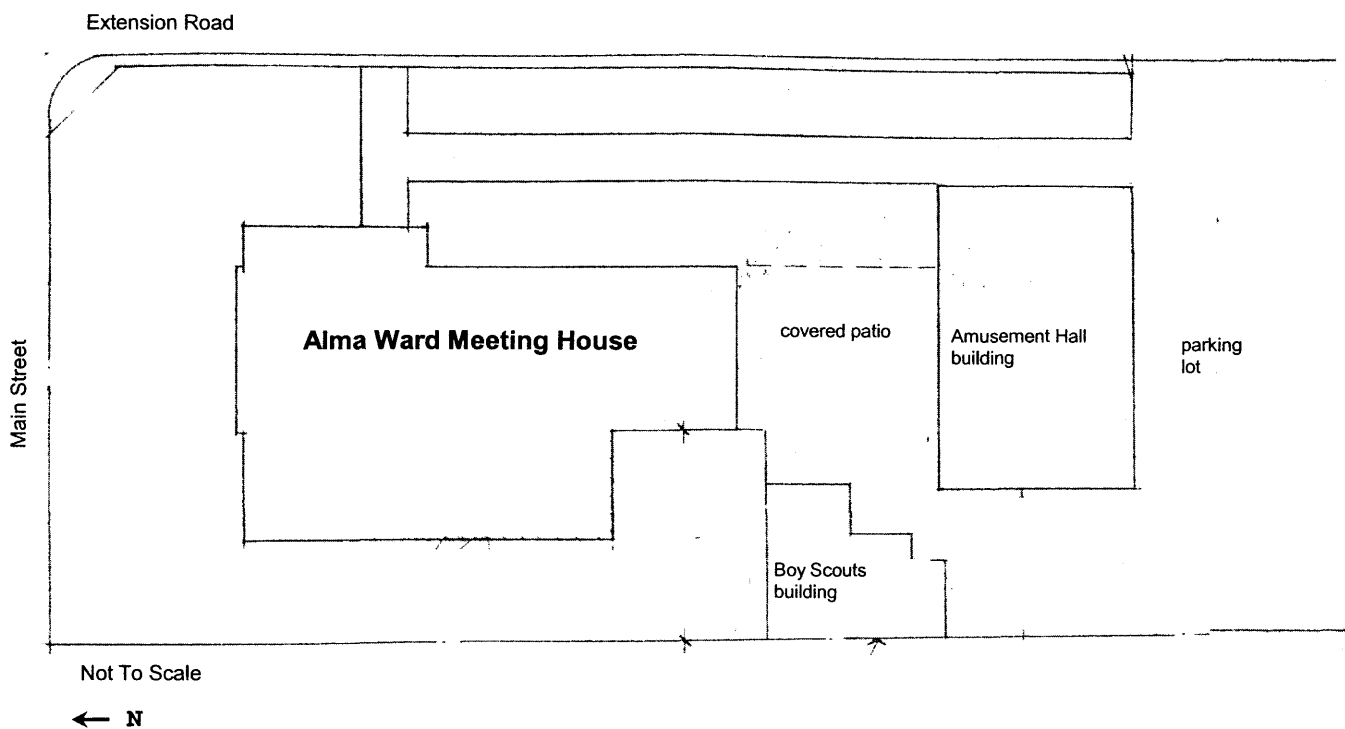
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Sketch Map



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*Supplementary
material*

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Photo 1 View of the property environment looking west



Photo 2 Overall view of the northeast corner of Meeting House building at intersection looking southwest



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Photo 3 Overall view of the northeast corner of the Meeting House building at intersection looking southwest

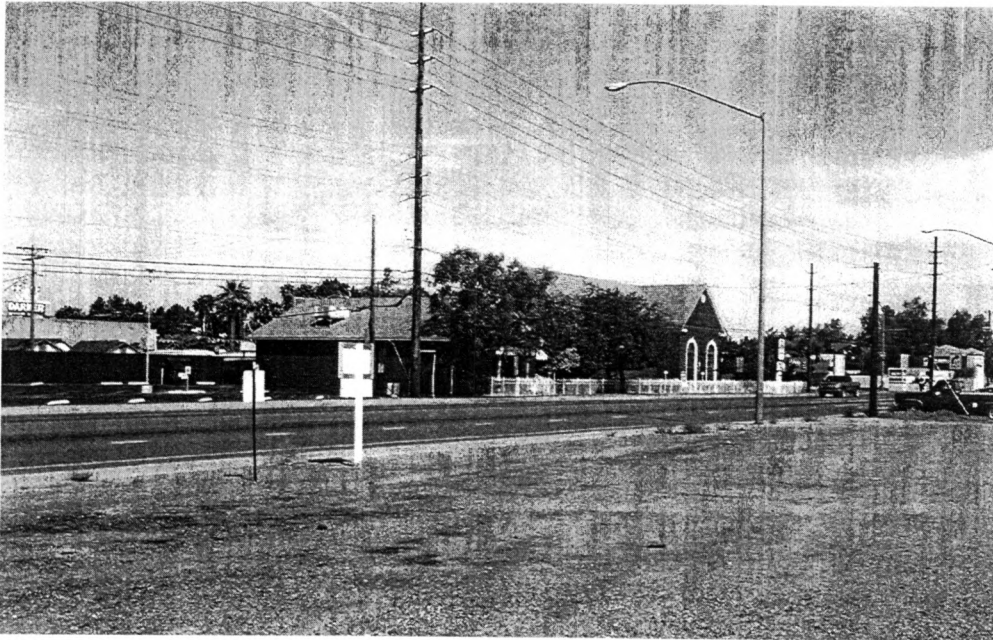


Photo 4 Overall view of the Meeting House building's east façade looking west



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Photo 5 Overall view of the Meeting House building looking southwest



Photo 6 Overall view of the Meeting House building looking southeast



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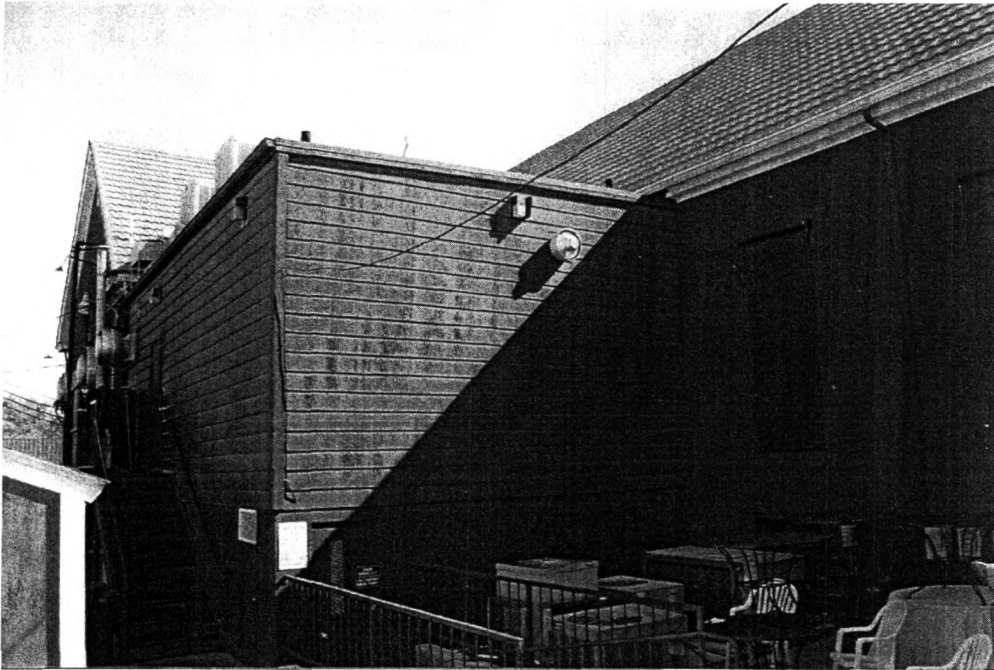
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Photo 7 View of Meeting House's rear, west facade



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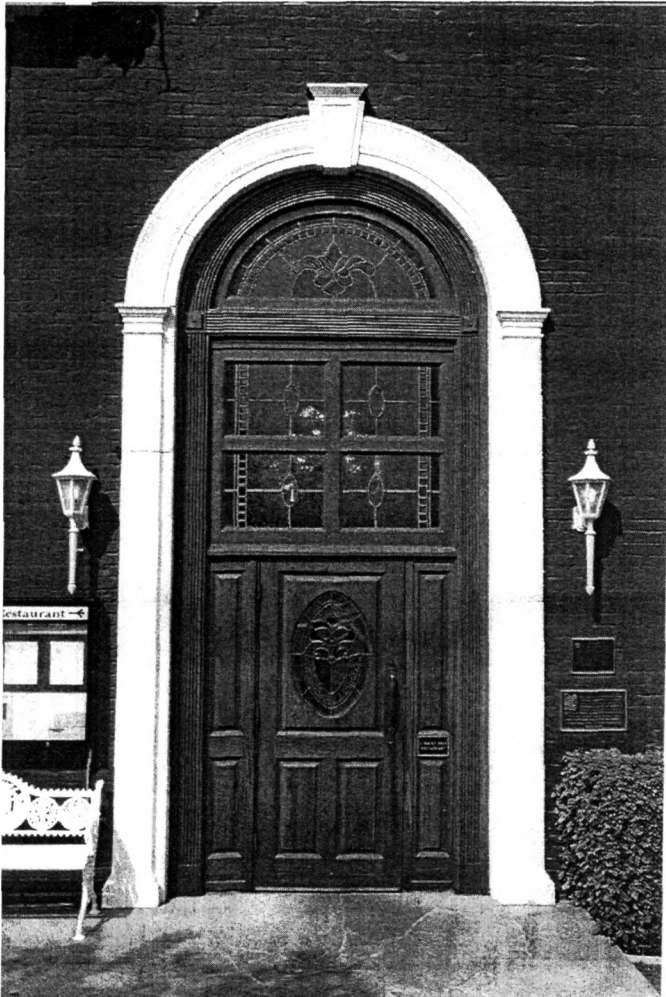
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Photo 8 View of the Meeting House's entry door looking west



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Photo 9 View of a typical basement window in the Meeting House looking west



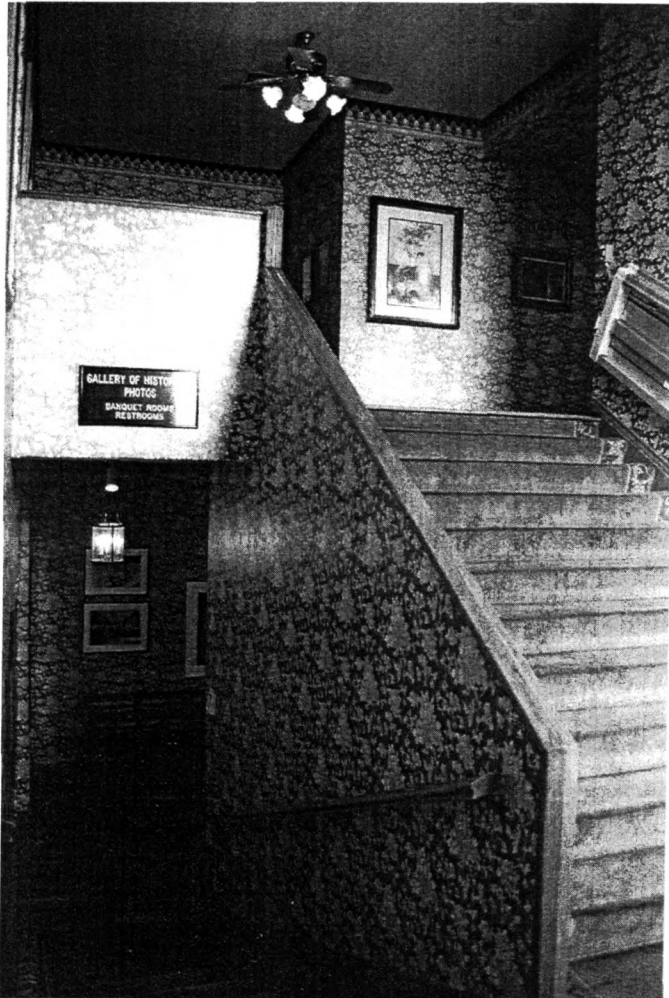
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Alma Ward Meeting House
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Photo 10 Interior view of the Meeting House's entry stairways looking west-northwest



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Alma Ward Meeting House
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Photo 11 Interior view of the Meeting House's former auditorium looking northeast



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Alma Ward Meeting House
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Photo 12 Interior view of the Meeting House's hallway in the basement looking south



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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

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Photo 13 Interior view of a former basement classroom in the Meeting House looking north-northeast



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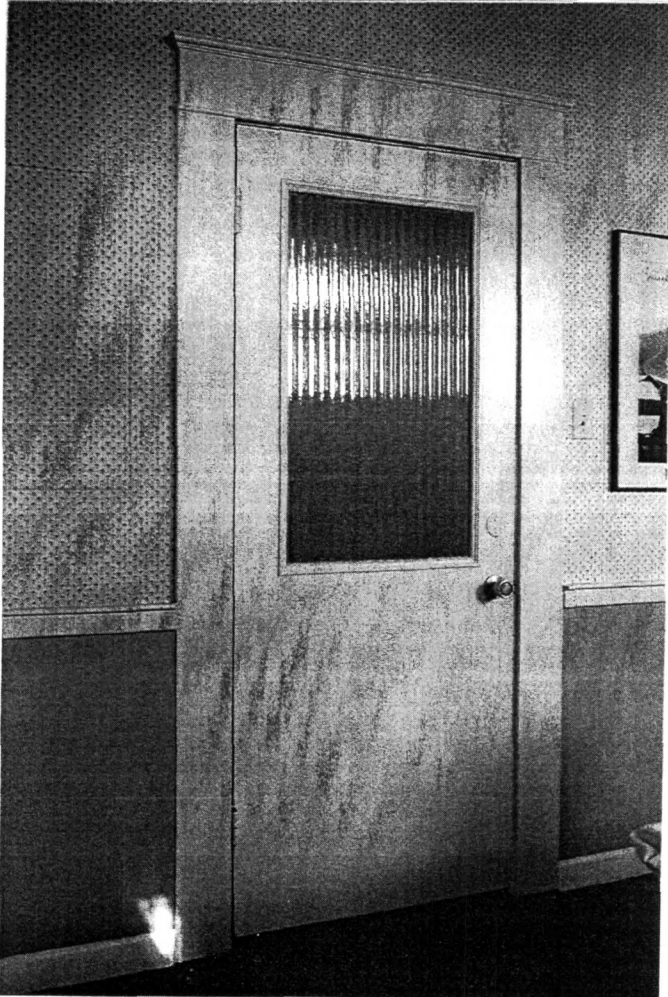
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Photo 14 Interior view of the original entry door into one of the Meeting House's basement classrooms looking east-southeast



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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

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Photo 15 Overall view of the Amusement Hall, and the covered patio in front of the Boy Scouts building looking west

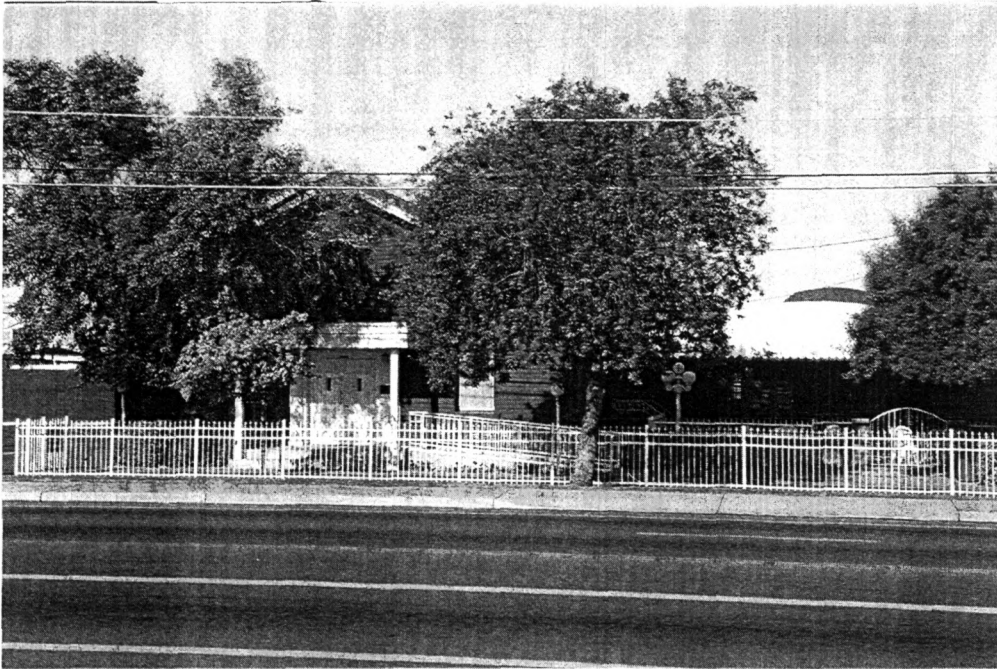
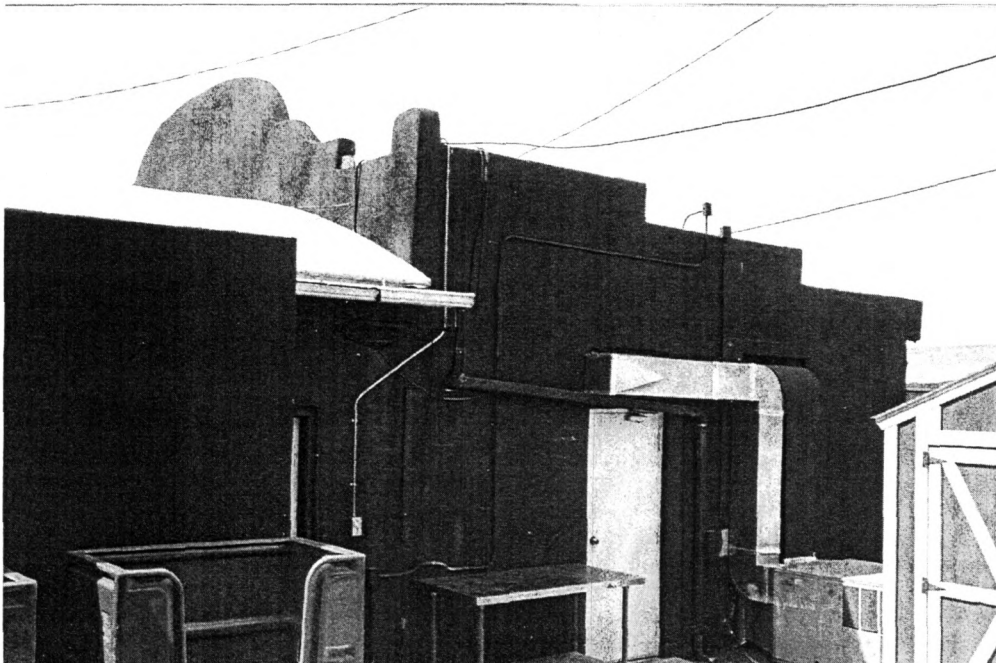


Photo 16 View of the Boy Scouts building looking southwest



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Alma Ward Meeting House
Maricopa County, Arizona

Photographer: Elizabeth Wilson
Date: March 28, 2004; April 11, 2004
Location of Original Negatives: Wilson Preservation
Tempe, AZ

-
- | Photo # | View to: |
|---------|---|
| 1 | View of the building environment looking west |
| 2 | Overall view of the northeast corner of Meeting House building at intersection looking southwest |
| 3 | Overall view of the south and east sides of complex with Amusement Hall and Meeting House looking northwest |
| 4 | Overall view of the Meeting House building's east façade looking west |
| 5 | Overall view of the Meeting House building looking southwest |
| 6 | Overall view of the Meeting House building looking southeast |
| 7 | View of Meeting House's rear, west façade looking northeast |
| 8 | View of the Meeting House's entry door looking west |
| 9 | View of a typical basement window in the Meeting House looking west |
| 10 | Interior view of the Meeting House's interior entry stairways looking west-northwest |
| 11 | Interior view of the Meeting House's former auditorium looking northeast |
| 12 | Interior view of the Meeting House's hallway in the basement looking south |
| 13 | Interior view of a former basement classroom in the Meeting House looking north-northeast |
| 14 | Interior view of the original entry door into one of the Meeting House's basement classrooms looking east-southeast |
| 15 | Overall view of the Amusement Hall, and the covered patio in front of the Boy Scouts building looking west |
| 16 | View of the Boy Scouts building looking southwest |