

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received JUL 24 1987

date entered AUG 6 1987

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic FAIRFIELD DISTRICT SCHOOL

and or common

2. Location

street & number approximately 59 North Church Street not for publication

city, town Fairfield vicinity of

state Utah code 049 (UT) county Utah code 049

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Utah State Division of Parks and Recreation

street & number 1636 West North Temple

city, town Salt Lake City vicinity of state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Utah County Courthouse

street & number 176 South University Avenue

city, town Provo state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1967 federal state county local

depository for survey records HABS, National Park Service

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1898, the Fairfield District School is a one-story rectangular building with a stone foundation, hip roof, and an entrance/bell tower centered on the facade. Neither the small brick addition on the rear nor the somewhat deteriorated condition of the building significantly detract from its original integrity.

The building is one story, 46'5" x 34'8". It has brick bearing walls two bricks thick and a wood framed roof and floor. The foundation is made of rough stone fitted together. The bottom layer of stones is level and still intact. The brick on the exterior walls is buff colored with mortar joints matching the color of the dark salmon brick used for the trim. The brick is laid in stretcher bond. An arched recess at the base of the tower shelters the front entrance. The arch is formed of three radial soldier courses of dark brick and two projecting header courses of light brick. The dark brick has a rock face and forms a slightly battered wall from the spring line of the arch to the base of the tower. Just above the arch is a panel with the name "District School," and above that is another panel bearing the construction date, "1898." The square bell tower has round arched openings on the front and sides of the belfry with brick work like that at the entrance below. The bell tower has a bell-shaped mansard roof with stamped metal shingles. There are wooden brackets on the eaves surrounding the building.

On the interior, the building opens into a wide, shallow vestibule and cloak room. Doors at each end of the vestibule wall open into a single, large room with a stage area on the left in the north end of the building. In the rear or east wall are two central doors that lead into the brick addition on the rear. The interior walls are plastered. The plaster and lath on the ceiling has been removed (date unknown). The rafters and ceiling joists are in good condition, as are the floor joists and wood flooring.

Very few additions or alterations have been made to the building. The most notable is the small brick section on the rear that was added c. 1935. The addition contained restrooms above and a fuel and furnace room in the basement. Deterioration on the exterior is most evident on the north half of the east side where a small section of bricks below a window have fallen out. There are cracks in the mortar on other sections and there are some loose bricks in the arches and in other wall sections. Overall, however, the brick walls are in generally good condition. Other signs of deterioration include the rotted wooden steps at the entrance, broken windows and weathered window frames and sashes, and the warped and broken shingles on the main roof. The front door is the only original door remaining.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1898-1937 **Builder/Architect** Andrew Fjeld/unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1898, the Fairfield District School is significant for its role as the center of education in Fairfield during the early decades of the twentieth century. After replacing the original adobe schoolhouse, the building served as the only school in the town from 1898 until 1937, when it closed its doors as local students began being bused to a school in a neighboring community. The Fairfield District School is also architecturally significant as the most elaborate and expressive example of the Victorian Eclectic style in Fairfield. The vast majority of the buildings in this small town are vernacular houses, some with minor elements of the Victorian Eclectic style.

The Fairfield District School was constructed in 1898 by Andrew Fjeld, a builder from the neighboring town of Lehi. Hans R. Petersen from Fairfield was Mr. Fjeld's brick and mortar tender. This building replaced the 1878 adobe schoolhouse that was situated directly in front of the present building.

This school was constructed during a period when significant educational reforms were taking place and new, modern school buildings were being constructed throughout the state. The most significant piece of education legislation was the "free school" law of 1890, which, in addition to helping make schools free to the public, also established standards that a school must meet in order to receive territorial funds.¹ With the achievement of Utah statehood in 1896 came additional funds for school purposes.² Many of the older schools remaining in Utah date from that turn-of-the-century period of schoolhouse funding.

Prior to statehood, the educational system in Utah consisted primarily of two types of schools: Mormon and non-Mormon. Though education was a priority for the Mormons who settled the Utah territory in the mid-1800s, lack of funding, adequately trained teachers, and materials restricted the development of a successful, territory-wide educational system. Non-Mormon religious groups, such as the Presbyterians and Methodists, took advantage of that deficiency and established scores of schools throughout the territory as part of their missionary efforts among the Mormons. Those schools usually provided a better education than the Mormon schools. Passage of the "free school" law in 1890 and subsequent reforms established a viable public school system that eliminated the need for church-sponsored schools.

The Fairfield District School was built at a time when the town was flourishing due to extensive agricultural and sheep raising activities on the neighboring ranch lands. The town never did grow much beyond that point, so there was no pressure to expand the size of the school. A small addition was made on the rear of the school building in 1935 to accommodate restrooms on the main floor and furnace and utility rooms in the basement. The contractor for that addition was Niels Paulsen of Pleasant Grove

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cedar Fort, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	2	4	0	7	3	2	0	4	4	5	7	1	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Commencing 75 feet N of SW corner of Lot 3 Block 12 Plat A, Fairfield; thence E 12.5 rods to the E line of said Lot 3, N 131.25 feet, more or less to the N line of said Lot 3, W 12.5 rods to the NW corner of Lot 3, S 131.25 feet more or less to beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
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state		code	county		code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Ben White/Park Supt. of Camp Floyd-Stagecoach Inn State Park

organization Division of Parks and Recreation date April 1987

street & number Cedar Valley telephone (801) 768-8932

city or town Fairfield state Utah

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Max J. Evans

title Max J. Evans, State Historic Preservation Officer date April 23, 1987

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda D. McDonald date 8/6/87
Keeper of the National Register

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Continuation sheet

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The school was administered loosely under the "County Superintendents of Utah County," though the educational program in the district at that time was largely on a community basis. School consolidation in 1915 brought some changes to the school district, but did not significantly affect the operation of the Fairfield School. This consolidation occurred throughout the state in compliance with the consolidation act of the Utah Legislature in 1915.

Consolidation did have an adverse affect on the construction of a gymnasium adjacent to the school in 1915. The gymnasium was about half finished when the schools were consolidated and construction stopped, possibly because the district officials felt that such a small school did not warrant the expense of a new recreational building. (The contractor then was a Mr. Talboe of Provo.) Mr. Jack McKenna of Fairfield then offered to complete the building if each family in town would pledge \$250. Evidently enough families made good on their pledges for Mr. McKenna was compensated for his contribution and the gymnasium was completed. It was unique in that it was one of the few gymnasiums in Utah with a curved, decorative sheet metal ceiling. Both the school and the gymnasium were documented by the Historic American Building Survey in 1967.

As the population of the town fell off during the early twentieth century, the school and gymnasium received less and less use and were closed c. 1937. Thereafter, the buildings were used primarily for community and religious purposes, but when the local Mormon church leadership relocated to nearby Cedar Fort in 1963, both structures fell into disuse. The gymnasium was torn down in the 1970s, and the school building is currently vacant. The current owner, the Utah State Division of Parks and Recreation, has plans to renovate the building as a visitor center or interpretive historic site as part of the Stagecoach Inn State Park complex.

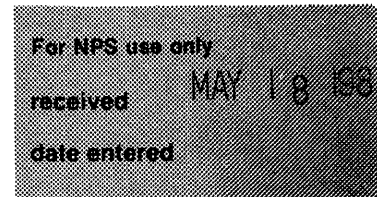
NOTES

¹John Clifton Moffitt. The History of Public Education in Utah (Provo, Utah: author, 1946), p. 136.

²Ibid., p. 265.

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

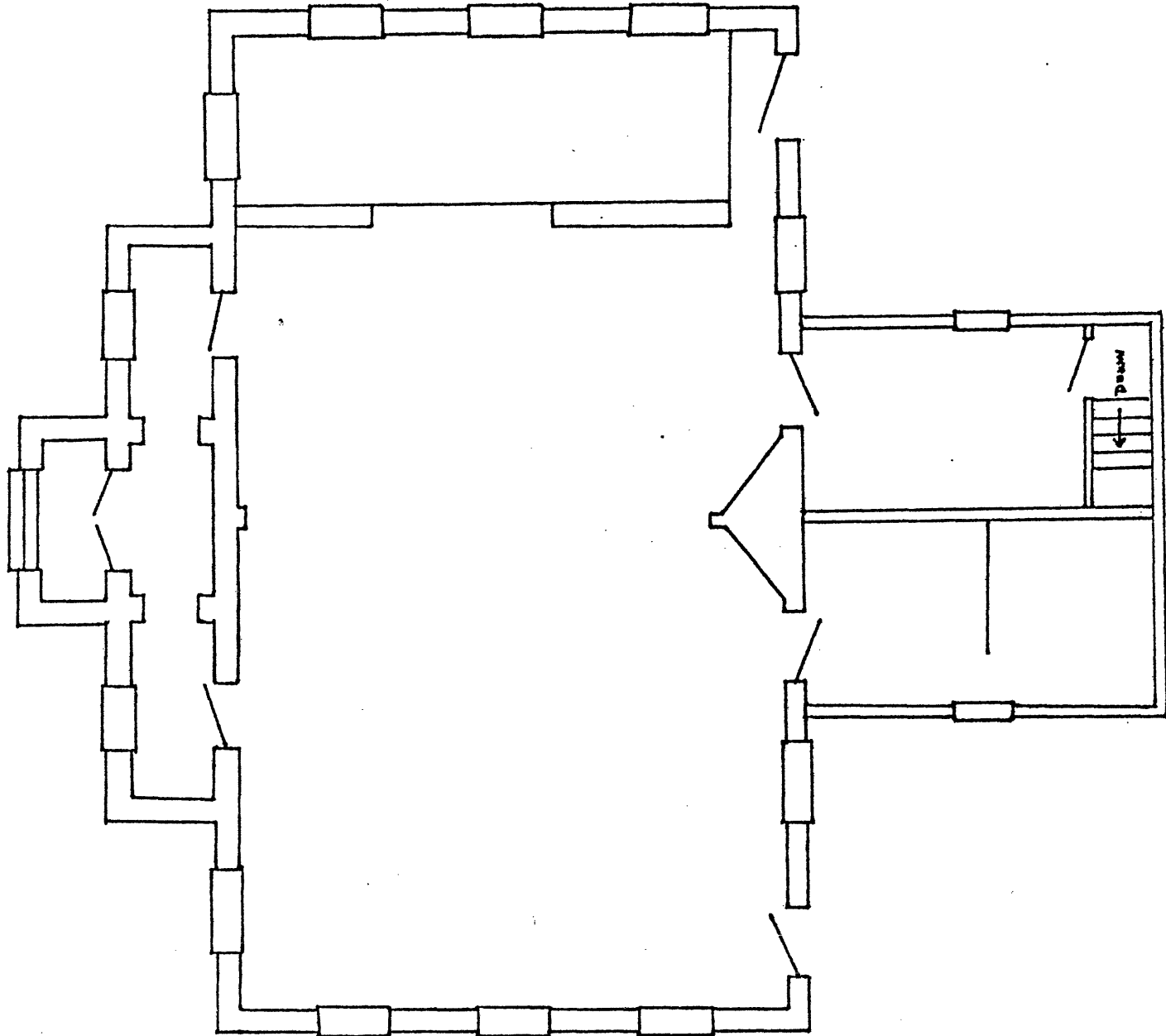
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Continuation sheet Item number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Memories That Live, Emma N. N. Huff, Compiler
2. Harold P. Fabian, "Camp Floyd State Park", (Salt Lake City; Utah State Parks and Recreation Commission, June 21, 1959).
3. Margaret Petersen McMillian, "Personal Information gathered on the Hans Ri Petersen Family," 1917/1940; Fairfield, and Lehi, Utah.
4. Burton, Alma Pexton, One Hundred Years of Education in the Alpine School District, PH.D. Thesis, University of Utah, August 1957.
5. In the Shadow of the Tall Mountain; Thoughts and Writings of the Cedar Valley School Master, Garth N. Jones, Brigham Young University Press 1979, Page 133-134; 145-152.
6. Moffitt, John Clifton. The History of Public Ecuation in Utah. Provo, Utah: author, 1946.



Scale Map of the Fairfield School

