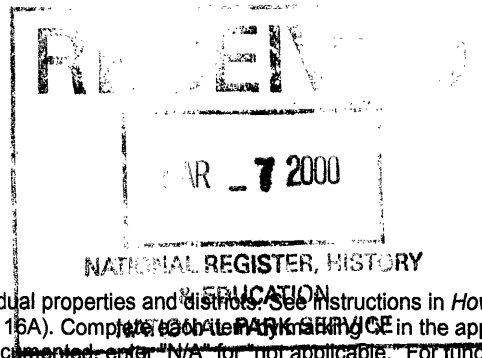


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 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 Cedar Fort School

other name/site number _____

2. Location

street & town 40 East Center Street

not for publication

city or town Cedar Fort

vicinity

state Utah code UT county Utah code 049 zip code 84013

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.)

Wanda M. A. DSHPD 2/11/2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that 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:) _____

Edson A. Beall
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4/6/00

Cedar Fort School
Name of Property

Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
City, County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 2 | Total |

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Victorian Eclectic
LATE 19TH & EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY
MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT 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

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)

ARCHITECTURE _____

EDUCATION _____

SOCIAL HISTORY _____

Period of Significance

1909-1940s _____

Significant Dates

1909 _____

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Matthew Gibbs & Sons (builder) _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Cedar Fort School
Name of Property

Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
City, County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.2 acres

UTM References

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

1 1/2 4/0/6/1/0/0 4/4/6/4/4/2/0
Zone Easting Northing

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

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

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

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

COMMENCING 89 DEG 33'44"E 148.77 FT FR NW COR BLK 7; S 88 DEG 4'01"E 124.50 FT; S 45'27"W 136.76 FT; S 42'04"W 137.11 FT; N 88 DEG 28'27"E 129.27 FT; N 88 DEG 33'33"W 143.90 FT; N 46'18"E 121.69 FT; S89 DEG 58'34"E 148.29 FT; N 50'27"E 147.94 FT.

Property Tax No. 10:021:0006

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those which were historically, and continue to be, associated with the property.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Polly Hart/Research Consultant
organization Utah County Historical Preservation Commission date January 21, 2000
street & number 355 Quince Street, PO Box 39 telephone 801/355-7203
city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84103

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 Cedar Valley School District, c/o Julie Sorenson
street & number PO Box 397 telephone _____
city or town Cedar Fort state UT zip code 84013

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

Narrative Description

The Cedar Fort School, built in 1909, is a single-story, two room building of brick construction on a stone foundation. The Victorian Eclectic style of the building features some Prairie School detailing, as was common for schools from the era in Utah. The schoolhouse retains many of its character-defining features, such as the large entrance bay with Romanesque arches, exposed cut stone foundation, original windows and doors (in front), a narrow belt course, and wide frieze. A large bell tower has been removed from the top of the entrance bay, and the bell now sits on a concrete block in front of the building. The low-pitched hip roof is covered with new, gray asphalt shingles, and the wide soffits are of painted beadboard. The transoms in all of the large double-hung windows have been boarded, but otherwise the openings match historic photographs.

The front (north) facade of this rectangular building has an open front entrance bay flanked by two tall windows on both sides. The front bay has a hipped roof with small gablet where the bell tower used to be. A large Romanesque arched opening leads to a wide double-door entrance with sidelights and large four-light transom. Tall, narrow Romanesque arched openings on the side of the front bay increase the airflow and light in the entry. The remaining windows throughout the original building have one-over-one wood sashes with segmental arches that are stylized similar to the arches in the bay. A power box is located at the left side of this facade just above the water table, and there is an electric loudspeaker box in the boarded up transom of the second window at the left.

The west facade features a centrally placed, exposed chimney flanked by tall segmental arched windows similar to those on the front facade. However, these openings have aluminum replacement sashes. The chimney has been removed down to the roof level. A square opening with segmental arch in the chimney below the water table, that appears to have been a coal chute, has been filled in with brick.

The south (rear) facade has multiple alterations. Six windows and a central entrance have been bricked up and two small additions have been constructed. The newer addition (c. 1980s) at the left is several inches to the right (east) of the detached gabled shed and serves as the new rear entrance. The gabled end of this concrete block addition has two openings: a single metal door with a ramp leading to it, and double metal doors with glass panes. A smaller, gabled, clapboard addition (c.1940s) serves as storage. There is an approximately three-foot square opening (now boarded up) in the sandstone foundation at the rear of the building to the right of the newer addition. An air conditioner box is located at the center of the rear roof pitch of the original building.

The east facade of the schoolhouse has a centrally placed, exposed chimney flanked by two windows on both sides, similar to the west wall. However, the windows on this side have aluminum replacement sashes. A drinking fountain has been attached to the wall to the left of the chimney just below the water table, and a spigot is located to the left of that. Two exhaust pipes project from the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 2

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

foundation next to the spigot, and are protected by a curved metal sheet. The yellow brick chimney on this side rises approximately four feet above the roof, and has been partially painted. A new metal cap with round pipe has been attached to the top.

The schoolhouse is located in the center of town. Two buildings appearing to date from the 1980s or 1990s are located to the east and south of the schoolhouse and serve as administration and current classrooms. A Dutch gabled shed has been built behind the west corner of the rear facade. A playground with slides and jungle gyms is located behind the historic structure. None of these buildings or structures contributes to the history of the building. The property, surrounded by a chain-link fence, has grass in front and to the west of the schoolhouse and pavement to the east and rear.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 1

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

Constructed in 1909, The Cedar Fort School is significant under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A it is historically significant as the only remaining two-room school house in Utah County, and one of a small handful in the state of Utah. It is a rare extant example of the many small schoolhouses that were built in the twenty years after the state legislature created the Free Public School Act in 1890 for the purpose of greatly increasing the number of schools in the state. It is architecturally significant under Criterion C for retaining its distinctive character-defining features on the principle facades. Its Victorian Eclectic style combines a mix of Romanesque Revival (popular in the late nineteenth century for institutional buildings) and the then newly emerging Prairie School style. This mix of styles was quite common in the state during the first two decades of the century. The building particularly contributes to the town of Cedar Fort, Utah, which retains few examples of its historic architecture.

Historical Significance

Cedar Fort

Located in western Utah County, Cedar Fort was settled in October 1852 by Alfred Bell. He came from Lehi, a Mormon settlement approximately fifteen miles to the northeast that had been established in 1850.¹ Searching for better pastures for his farm animals, Bell found a good supply of grass and streams in Cedar Valley. Soon after, Eli Bennett, Clayborne Thomas, and Allen Weeks were called by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint (Mormon or LDS Church) leader Brigham Young to help Bell settle the area. These four men and their families survived the winter of 1852-3 together, and early in the following spring, more families arrived at the new settlement.

Relations between the Native Americans and the Mormons had been precipitous from the outset, and shortly after the town had increased its population, hostilities forced the small group of settlers back to Lehi on April 27, 1853.² Two months later they returned to Cedar Fort, only to have to abandon it again on July 28th. On September 7th the settlers once again returned to their new homes and dugout shelters. At this time they built cedar pickets between the houses, creating the first fort that enclosed a parcel of land 726 feet wide by 1518 feet long.³ The cedar was eventually replaced with

¹ Marjory J. Peterson, *Our Roots Grow Deep: A History of Cedar Valley*, p.1-3.

² *Ibid*, p.1-8.

³ *Ibid*, p.1-8.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

pine posts. Around 1856 the settlers began to construct a stone fort, beginning at the west end of the town. Part of this wall can still be seen running along the east side of property originally belonging to early resident John S. Hacking. In 1856 the territorial legislature made an attempt to reduce the size of several of the original four counties, and Cedar County was created from the western end of Utah County. Cedar Fort became the county seat, but the population was so small that it was reabsorbed into Utah County in 1862.⁴ Some of the residents of Cedar Fort continue to earn their living though cattle and sheep farming, supplemented with grain and other crops, although many now travel to nearby towns and cities for work.

Education in Utah

In July 1847 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) settled the Salt Lake Valley. Informal schools were set up quickly in private homes and meeting houses. However, education was not always a top priority when the settlers were often struggling for their lives against difficult environmental conditions and sometimes-hostile Native Americans. Schools were mostly private, and students were charged tuition to attend.⁵ Often, adults who were poorly educated themselves would offer a curriculum that combined Mormon religious teachings along with very basic reading and mathematical skills. The territorial school law of 1852 allowed for the creation of school districts and taxation to create and maintain existing school buildings (mostly meeting houses). However, taxes were rarely levied and little money was raised as the result of this legislation.⁶

The Protestant churches in Utah saw this as an opportunity to proselytize the young Mormon children by offering free schools with professionally trained teachers beginning in the late 1860s and early 1870s. Initially these schools were popular with families of all religions, but Mormon leaders became alarmed by the influence of the secular teachings of these schools and Mormon parents gradually withdrew their children. The result was a system of church schools, or academies, established in each stake (similar to a diocese) of the Mormon Church. This system reached into surrounding states with twenty-two schools in all. Eventually, the territorial legislators (who belonged to the Mormon church) decided that they needed to create a public school system that would not expose their young to non-Mormon teachings.

The Free Public School Act of 1890 precipitated the collection of taxes in earnest in order to begin a massive school building effort throughout the state.⁷ Prior to this legislation, a territorial school report indicated that:

The report of the County Superintendent of Salt Lake County

⁴Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, *A History of Utah County*. pp.73-4.

⁵John Clifton Moffitt, *The History of Public Education in Utah*. p.11.

⁶Ibid, p.261.

⁷Frederick S. Buchanan, "Education on Utah," *Utah History Encyclopedia*. p.154.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

shows an average attendance of only 27 1/2 percent of those of school age in the district schools; and yet, as a rule, the schoolrooms are crowded to their utmost capacity, and to that extent that causes great discomfort, and endangers the health of the pupils.⁸

Taxes were collected beginning in 1890, but it often took ten or twenty years for the money to find its way to small rural towns. It was not until 1907 that Cedar Fort received \$45.45 to purchase the land on which this school was built.⁹ Two years later, the Cedar Fort School District received \$2,200 to erect this building. By this time most of the Protestant schools had closed as the public school system now offered an adequate education.

Schools in Cedar Fort

The present school building is the fifth schoolhouse to be built in Cedar Fort. The first building was made of adobe shortly after the settlement of the town in 1852. That structure caved in during a season of wet weather, and it was quickly replaced with a log cabin. As was commonly the practice in rural nineteenth century Utah, that building was used for school, church and public purposes. Another one-room log cabin was built in 1872, and this was used for several decades. The first log cabin was sold to John S, Hacking who sawed it in half and dragged it to his property to use as a store.¹⁰ A "permanent" brick schoolhouse was constructed in 1896 at a cost of \$1,250. This building was used for thirteen years.

The present Cedar Fort School was constructed in the summer of 1909 by Matthew Gibbs & Sons, and it was ready for use in 1910. The foundation is four feet deep with a sandstone exterior facing and limestone interior. The sandstone came from nearby Pole Canyon, and the limestone was taken from the old fort wall. Locals Edward and Oran Chamberlain, Ole and Freeman Cox, and Albert Terrel hauled the stone and Mr. Gibbs was the mason. Each of the two rooms was heated by a large potbelly stove until 1921, when Oran Chamberlain installed a furnace beneath the building. The furnace also heated the gymnasium, which had been built in 1914 to the west on property donated by the Mormon Church.

The first teachers in this building were John Tolman and Maggie Finlayson. All of the students met in the two rooms. Each grade took turns coming to the front bench for their daily lessons, and the remainder of the day they all studied together. Spelling Bees were the most popular part of the schedule, and all of the students were divided into two groups, forcing the younger students to keep up with their older peers. It was not until 1928 that the seventh and eighth grade students were bussed to Lehi Junior High School, approximately fifteen miles away.

⁸ P.L. Williams, *Territorial School Report*. 1886-1887.

⁹ Marjory J. Peterson, *Our Roots Grow Deep: A History of Cedar Valley*. p.5-4.

¹⁰ Vicky Draper, "Cedar Fort: History." p.3-4.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 4

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

In 1915 the Alpine School District absorbed both the Cedar Fort and Fairfield School Districts. A small playground was built in 1921 with a large slide and several swings. A fence and more playground equipment were erected around 1950, thanks to the fund-raising efforts of PTA president Rose Cook. In 1955 the gym was deeded back to the Mormon Church who maintained the building for a short time before razing it to build a new chapel.

By 1982, this building was the last two-room school house left in Utah County. Around this time a pre-fabricated mobile structure was added to the property for the purpose of a third classroom and administrative offices. Another larger building was added in the 1990s at the south end of the property for more classrooms. The final classes were held in the old school house during the 1997-1998 school year. The following year all of the students were moved into the pre-fabricated structure in order to keep them in the same building. The schoolhouse stands vacant at the present, and the town plans to reuse it as a library and community center.

Architectural Significance

The Cedar Fort School is also significant for its architectural style. An eclectic mix of both the Victorian Eclectic and Prairie School Styles, this building retains most of its original architectural features. The rusticated Tuscan arches in the central projecting entrance bay are typical of the Romanesque style that was popular across America during the last decades of the nineteenth century. Features of the Prairie School style that became popular after the turn of the century include the rectangular plan with low-pitched hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, and prominent brick belt-course above the foundation.

The combination of these two styles was quite popular during the school building effort in Utah that began in the 1890s. Prominent examples of this particular eclectic style include Webster School (Salt Lake City, Salt Lake Co., 1897), Fairfield School (Fairfield, Utah Co., 1898), Spring City School (Spring City, Sanpete Co., 1899), Peeteetneet School (Payson, Utah Co., 1901), Taylorsville School (Taylorsville, Salt Lake Co., 1905), Union School (Union, Salt Lake Co., 1907, demolished), Spencer School (Orem, Utah County, 1912, demolished), and Page School (Provo, Utah County, c.1912, demolished). Local architect Richard C. Watkins designed many of these schools, but there is no indication that he designed the building at Cedar Fort.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 9 Page 1

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

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Sorenson, Julie, Interview with by Polly S. Hart. June 22, 1999.

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Section No. 9 Page 2

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

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Utah County Abstracts.

Utah County Tax photos and records.

Utah State Historical Society Preservation Files.

Utah State Historical Society Architects Files.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. PHOTOS Page 1

Cedar Fort School, Cedar Fort, Utah County, UT

Common Label Information:

1. Cedar Fort School
2. Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Polly S. Hart
4. Date: July 1999
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

6. North elevation of building. Camera facing south.

Photo No. 2:

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

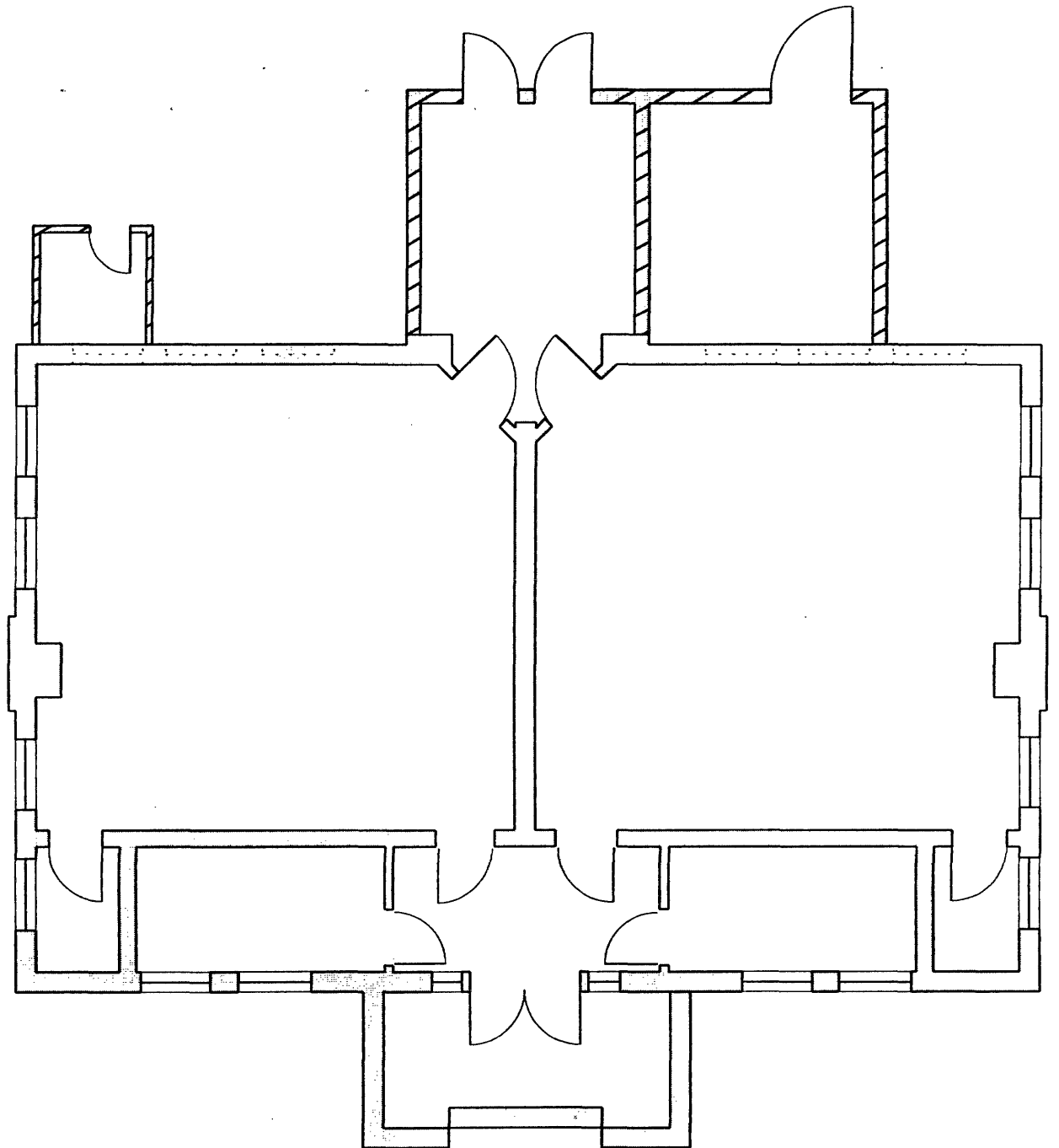
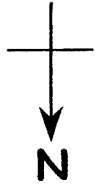
Photo No. 3:



6. North and west elevations of building. Camera facing southeast.

Photo No. 4:

6. South elevation of building. Camera facing north.

Cedar Fort Schoolhouse
Cedar Fort, Utah County, Utah
December 1999



-  Addition
-  Bricked Window

