

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name MT. CARMEL SCHOOL AND CHURCH other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Off Utah Highway 89 city, town Mt. Carmel state Utah code UT county Kane code 025 zip code 84755

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (1), Noncontributing (0), Total (1).

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register -0-

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: State Historic Preservation Officer, Date: Sept. 21, 1987.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

RELIGION/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

vacant/not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: vernacular, Classical influence

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestonewalls Limestoneroof Asphaltother ConcreteWood**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Mount Carmel School and Church is a one story T-shaped stone building with a hip roof and crowning bell tower. The stemwing of the T is the original c.1890 building and was constructed of random ashlar. In 1919 the original section burned. When rebuilt in 1923-24 a crosswing of random rubble was added at the rear, a hip roof was built over both sections, and the sills and lintels of the original section were replaced with concrete ones. The stone of the crosswing addition matches that of the original walls which had survived the fire, and the crosswing windows are the same proportion as the original openings. The arrangement of openings into the building is symmetrical. A door is set into each of the three ends of the building, and six over six double hung sash windows pierce the side walls of each wing. The Mount Carmel School and Church is in good condition and maintains the integrity it had achieved by 1924. The original c.1890 section of the building, though altered, still exhibits its original rectangular form, window and door openings, and exterior stone walls.

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Continuation Sheet

Mt. Carmel School and Church

Kane County, Utah

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This two-room school was maintained until the Fall of 1917, when the school district began transporting the students from the fifth grade up, to Orderville. These students were transported in a covered wagon with a wood and coal burning stove in the center and drawn by a team of horses. Heber Covington, of Orderville, had the contract for the transportation. It was a heavy load for a team especially on snowy or muddy days and the children were often late in bad weather.

On December 10, 1919, the two-room building, where the younger students were still being taught, caught fire and burned. The following is a copy of a letter written December 12, 1919 to the Kane County board of Education by I.H. Esplin, the board member from Orderville.

The Mt. Carmel school house burned to the ground on December 10. The school books and desks and one heater were saved. The cause of the fire, as nearly as can be learned, was a defective flue.

For two years the first four grades were taught in the Tithing Office [adjacent to the school grounds, now demolished]. After that they were all transported to Orderville.<sup>1</sup>

Although it was constructed for school purposes, the rock schoolhouse, like its predecessor, also served as the community's church (virtually everyone in the town was Mormon), recreation hall, and civic auditorium. After the fire, the school board sold the property and what was left of the building to the LDS church, which, through donated materials and labor, rebuilt it in its present configuration in 1923-24.<sup>2</sup> The rear wing added at that time housed a stage and two classrooms. Most of the stonework was performed by a Mr. Anderson, a skilled stonemason, who was a resident of the town at that time.<sup>3</sup> The Mt. Carmel Ward (congregation) of the LDS church used the building until 1961, at which time, because it was such a small congregation, it was incorporated into the ward in nearby Orderville. The building then served as a bishop's storehouse for the LDS church's welfare program until 1983. The last several years the building has been vacant.

The Mt. Carmel School was constructed during a period of substantial change in Utah's educational system. 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.<sup>4</sup> With the achievement of Utah statehood in 1896 came additional funds for school purposes.<sup>5</sup> Many new schools were constructed throughout the state during the late 1890s and early 1900s as a result. In small communities such as Mt. Carmel there was often no demand for enlarged or improved schools, so older buildings were kept in use.

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for years. School consolidation, which took place during the early decades of the twentieth century, resulted in the closure of numerous small schools, such as the one in Mt. Carmel.

The fact that the Mt. Carmel School served concurrently as an LDS church meetinghouse during its early decades indicates the close link between church and community affairs at that time. Schools were established as part of the general community development by Mormon settlers, and for obvious economic reasons it made sense to share educational, religious, and community facilities whenever possible. Since the vast majority of the town's population was Mormon there was probably little objection to the arrangement.

The reconstruction and expansion of the building in 1923-24 represents two significant points. First, the use of local materials and labor to complete the project indicates that the community was still operating under the spirit of settlement that required cooperation and thrift for survival. In a larger community with greater financial resources the fire-destroyed building would very possibly have been replaced altogether by a new building, perhaps one constructed by a professional contractor using brick or other "imported" materials.

Second, the addition reflects the apparent expansion of church programs and the concept of multi-use buildings that the church adopted during the early twentieth century. Previously, Mormon communities often had several church-related buildings--a meetinghouse, amusement hall, women's relief society hall, tithing office and so forth. The new buildings of the twentieth century, however, combined those functions under a single roof. They also included classroom space to accommodate new methods of formal and specialized instruction. Though the population of Mt. Carmel did not increase significantly during the early twentieth century, the space needed to carry on church functions apparently did.

The period of significance for this building extends from the date of its original construction c. 1890 to its reconstruction and expansion in 1924. Except for deterioration, the building's appearance has changed little over the past 63 years.

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<sup>1</sup>Adonis Findlay Robinson, ed., History of Kane County (Kanab, Utah: Kane County Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1970), pp. 453-454.

<sup>2</sup>Bernard A. Tait, letter to Utah State Historical Society, March 1985. Mr. Tait is a lifelong resident of Mt. Carmel and remembers the rebuilding of the school.

<sup>3</sup>Telephone interview with Bernard Tait by Roger Roper, March 20, 1985.

<sup>4</sup>John Clifton Moffitt. The History of Public Education in Utah, (Provo, Utah: author, 1946), p. 136.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education  
Religion

Period of Significance

c.1890-1919  
c.1890-1924

Significant Dates

c.1890  
1923-24

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

original: unknown/unknown  
reconstruction: unknown/Mr. Anderson

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built c. 1890 and remodeled in 1923-24 after a fire, the Mount Carmel School and Church is historically significant as the only remaining building in Mount Carmel that served the community's educational and religious needs. Built to replace an earlier log schoolhouse, the building served concurrently as both church and school for over twenty-five years. It was also used as a civic meeting place and for dances and other recreational and cultural activities. After the fire, school children were transported to the nearby town of Orderville to attend school, and from 1924 until 1961 the building was used primarily as a church house. With the exception of the old log schoolhouse, which has long-since been demolished, this building is the only school or church facility that was ever constructed in Mount Carmel.

Mount Carmel was first established in 1864-65 by several families of Mormon pioneers as part of the general colonizing effort in the Utah Territory by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon church). Indian depredations led to the abandonment of the settlement in 1866, and it was not until 1871 that the town was permanently resettled. Farming and livestock raising were the principal means of livelihood in the community for decades. The town has always been small, never more than 150-200 people, and the only businesses until recent years were small mercantile and grocery stores operated from private homes.

The first school in Mt. Carmel was established in a log building in 1880, nine years after the town was permanently settled. That building served as a one-room school, church, and recreation hall for the town until the stone schoolhouse was constructed in the 1890s. A published history of the town provides the following description and history of the Mount Carmel School.

The rock for the building was hauled by team and wagon from a hill about a mile south of town. Later a lumber wing was added, making it into a two-room school. At first the floors were of rough pine lumber. Then hardwood floors were installed, which made them "nicer for dancing."

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Moffitt, John Clifton. The History of Public Education in Utah. Provo, Utah: author, 1946.

Tait, Bernard A. Letter to Utah State Historical Society, March 1985. Available in National Register File "Mt. Carmel School and Church," Utah State Historical Society.

--- Telephone interview with Roger Roper, March 20, 1985.

Robinson, Adonis Findlay, ed. History of Kane County. Kanab, Utah: Kane County Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1970.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.21 acres

UTM References

A 

1	2	3	5	2	2	9	0	4	1	2	3	3	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning 7.88 chains N of SE corner of the NE<sup>4</sup> of Sec 18 T 41 S, R 7 W, Salt Lake Meridian; thence N 2.05 chains, N 48° W 2.0 chains, S 42° W 1.84 chains, S 48° E 3.64 chains to beginning; also beginning 7.45 chains N of the SE corner of the NE<sup>4</sup> of Sec 18 T41S R7W, thence S 42° W 3.92 chains, N 42° E 1.84 chains, S 48° E 3.64 chains, S 43 links to beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is based on the legal description of the property that has historically been associated with the building.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Roper/Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date August 1987

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