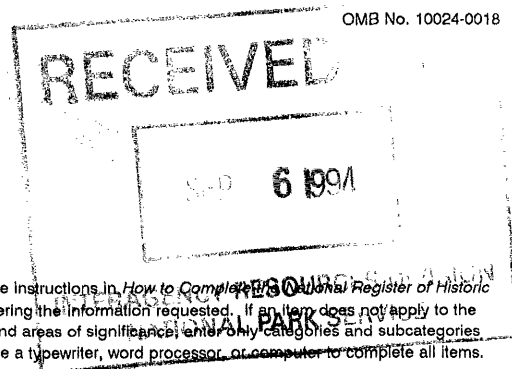


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 600 N. 100 East N/A not for publication
city or town American Fork N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Utah code 049 zip code 84003

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] 8/18/91
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 this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] 10.7.91
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall
Name of Property

American Fork, Utah County, Utah
City, County, and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>		buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STONE

roof _____
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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

American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall
Name of Property

American Fork, Utah County, Utah
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1937-38

Significant Dates

1937-38

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

Utah State Archives

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall
Name of Property

American Fork, Utah County, Utah
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 4/3/2/2/0/0 4/4/7/0/9/8/0
Zone Easting Northing

B 1/2 4/3/2/5/1/0 4/4/7/0/9/8/0
Zone Easting Northing

C 1/2 4/3/2/5/1/0 4/4/7/1/2/2/0

D / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at 1000' south and 1000' west of the northeast corner of Section 14 T4S R1E (also known as the southeast corner of Block 60 "A", American Fork Survey) and proceeding 923' west and 818' north. The property includes the ground on either side of the wall (11' to 600 North and 100 East and 9'5" to the cemetery road).

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries for the rock wall include the measurements indicated in the sketch map and are those historically associated with the wall. The inclusion of the grass strip on either side provides this property with a physical context.

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Egleston, Consultant

organization _____

date July 1994

street & number 157 First Avenue #16

telephone (801) 359-6818

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/or 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 American Fork City

street & number P.O. Box 397

telephone (801) 763-3000

city or town American Fork

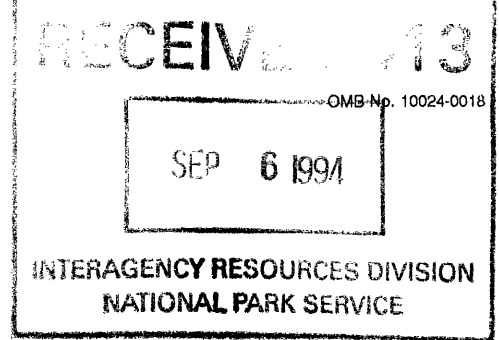
state UT zip code 84003

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**



Section No. 7 Page 1

American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Narrative Description

The rock walls bordering the south and east sides of the American Fork Cemetery form a substantial landscape feature of this graveyard. The south wall, along 600 North, was constructed first as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project in 1937; as more funds became available the east wall, along 100 East, was also built in 1938 with W.P.A. funds. The cemetery is located on a bench north of the older section of town; newer housing has filled in around it in recent years.

With the exception of its flat, concrete top, the cemetery wall is similar to that at the Utah State Training School located about a mile east. Although the east section was built later, it closely matches the south section in materials and construction details. The stone is quartzite, sandstone, and marble. Some iron stains are visible indicating the presence of iron oxide. Concrete mortar was used. The wall is 1'5" thick and differs in height at various points from 1'6" to 6' at the southeast corner. The concrete cap has a slightly flared edge that extends 3" on either side of the wall. Stone pillars with pyramidal concrete caps break the wall into intervals of approximately 16'. The south wall is 923' long and the east wall is 817'3" long. There are breaks at various points in the wall to accommodate openings to the cemetery's paths and driveway.

___ See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 8 Page 2

American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

Constructed between 1937-38, the rock wall that composes the east and south borders of the American Fork Cemetery is significant for its association with the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.). This structure meets National Register Criterion A in the area of social history as an example of the effect of the W.P.A. in American Fork in providing municipal improvements and landscape beautification. The W.P.A. was one of many federal relief programs organized to lessen the hardship caused by the massive unemployment during the Great Depression. Because Utah had one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation during the 1930s, federal programs were extensively used in the state and Utah ranked ninth in per capita federal spending. Virtually every new public building at that time in Utah was constructed through federal largesse. Many of these are already listed on the National Register and included in the Public Works Building Thematic Resources nomination (1985).

American Fork is located in the northern half of Utah County. It was settled in 1850 by Mormon pioneers and like most small communities in the state its economy was based on stock raising and farming. Although it is uncertain when and where the community's first cemetery was established, it appears that the present location has served this purpose for over a century. Several accounts, one referencing city council minutes from 1877, provide evidence that the place they refer to as an "old cemetery" located in the north part of the town, situated on a slope and referring to its proximity to 100 East Street, is on the current site.¹

The construction of the rock wall was probably the most ambitious beautification project to be undertaken, but the city of American Fork and its residents showed concern for the maintenance of the cemetery long before the turn of the century. City council minutes mention the purchase of trees and whitewashing the fence in 1883; in 1886 an appropriation was made for fencing material; a maintenance ordinance was passed in 1923. One newspaper article mentions that the city had consulted a landscaping professional, reporting that "...the program of cemetery beautification as laid out by Professor Emil Hansen did not correspond to the lots as laid out in the balance of the cemetery."²

Such reports of improved irrigation systems, new drinking fountains, and re-grading, can be found in newspaper reports through the late 1920s and mid-1930s. However, it

¹ Carter, Kate. Heart Throbs of the West. Salt Lake City, Utah: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1939, p. 242.

Shelley, George. Early History of American Fork, p. 40.

² "City Council Discusses Important Business Matters", American Fork Citizen, July 20, 1929, p.1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 3

American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

was the W.P.A. that gave cemetery improvements a real boost. The city submitted plans to the State Planning Board asking for a \$6,000 beautification grant in January 1935. Seven months later the American Fork Citizen reported that:

A cemetery improvement project in the amount of \$4,000 covers the construction of a rubble rock wall at the south side of the cemetery and improvement of all roads. The cemetery hill will be cut to a 5% grade.³

Reports of the cemetery improvement project continued and included discussion of the building of a rock retaining wall. In March 1938 a newspaper article stated that:

Improvements at the City Cemetery are nearly complete, William Brooks, foreman in charge, reported this week. Twenty-five men are working on a rock wall on the south side of the cemetery, to beautify the cemetery.

Under the program, about one-half acre of ground in the northwest corner has been filled in to level the tract and a rock retaining wall 100 feet long and ranging from 2 to 14' in height has been constructed.

In addition, a decorative lattice work behind the soldier's monument has been constructed, and roads within the cemetery improved with crushed gravel applications. The rock wall will be 1,580 feet long.⁴

Because construction of the wall required a great deal of labor, at the end of 1938 the city council decided to request additional W.P.A. money to finish the wall on the south side, expand construction of the wall on the east, and gravel all the cemetery roads. This is the last mention of the wall in the local newspaper.⁵

In addition to the cemetery wall, American Fork benefitted from many other W.P.A. projects as well, including extensive sidewalk and road repair, park improvements, an addition to the junior high school, a new kitchen for the elementary school, and the construction of several buildings including a similar wall and an amphitheater at the Utah State Training School. In Utah County alone thirty-seven buildings were erected through the W.P.A. and other New Deal programs; six of those are listed on

³ "City Officials Approve Three Work Projects", American Fork Citizen, July 19, 1935, p.1.

⁴ Presumably the last wall mentioned refers to the subject of this nomination. Although the south wall is 923', not 1,580', it is much longer and higher than that described as "100'". "Crews Push Work on Drainage Project for Bottoms Roads, Lands, American Fork Citizen, November 18, 1938, p.1.

⁵ "Council Plans New W.P.A. Project". American Fork Citizen, November 18, 1938, p.1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 4

American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

the National Register as part of the Public Works Buildings Thematic Resource nomination.

The American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall is significant as it helps document the impact of New Deal Programs in Utah, which was one of the states that the Great Depression of the 1930s most severely affected. In 1933 Utah had an unemployment rate of 36 percent, the fourth highest in the country, and for the period 1932-40 Utah's unemployment rate averaged 25 percent. Because the depression hit Utah so hard, Federal programs were extensive in the state. Overall per capital Federal spending in Utah during the 1930s was ninth among the forty-eight states and the percentage of workers on Federal work projects was far above the national average. Building programs were of great importance. During the 1930s virtually every public building constructed in Utah was built under Federal programs. Almost without exception none of the buildings would have been constructed when they were without the assistance of the Federal Government. More than 240 buildings were constructed in Utah during the 1930s and early 1940s under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and other New Deal programs. Approximately half of those buildings meet National Register eligibility requirements outlined in the 1985 thematic nomination of Public Works Buildings in Utah.

The American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall is a structure and therefore has not been included in the Public Works Buildings Thematic Resource nomination. Examples of other structures in Utah similar to the cemetery wall in American Fork include the wall at the Utah State Training School. It is constructed of stone and is similar in size and overall appearance to the American Fork cemetery wall. It too was built as a W.P.A. project. Another similar structure is the Cedar City (Iron County) stone cemetery wall built in the 1890s. It has recently been reconstructed by local volunteers after it had deteriorated due to neglect and was demolished for safety reasons.⁶

The American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall is an example of federal efforts and local participation to alleviate the social problems created by the financial devastation of the Depression. It helps to illustrate local community pride and cultural traditions. The wall continues to contribute to the park-like setting of the cemetery and is an attractive landscape feature for the community.

___ See continuation sheet

⁶ The significance of the cemetery wall and importance to the local community is seen not only in their rebuilding of the wall. According to The Daily Spectrum (March 26, 1992), the reconstructive activity appears to be a catalyst for other historical work in identifying, preserving, and protecting what's left of the city's visible history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 9 Page 5

American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Bibliography

American Fork Citizen. July 20, 1929, July 19, 1935, March 11, 1938, November 18, 1938.

Carter, Kate. Heart Throbs of the West. Salt Lake City, Utah: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1939.

Shelley, George. Early History of American Fork.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. PHOTOS Page 6

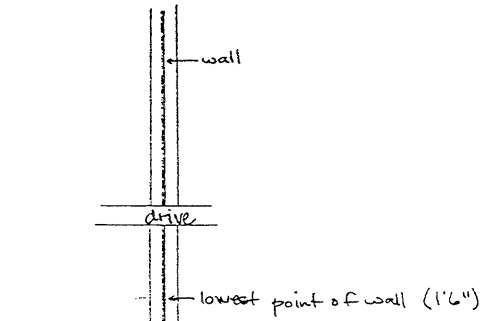
American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Photo No. 1

1. American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall
2. American Fork, Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Elizabeth Egleston
4. Date: May 1994
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.
6. West side of wall. Camera facing east.

Photo No. 2

1. American Fork Cemetery Rock Wall
2. American Fork, Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Elizabeth Egleston
4. Date: May 1994
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.
6. East side of wall. Camera facing west.



American Fork Cemetery Rock wall

American Fork, Utah May, 1993

Scale: 1" = 100' N →



↑
600 North
↓

grass strip

grass strip

↑
Cemetery road
↓

highest point (6')

wall ↓

drive

← 100 East →