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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mexican Branch LDS Meetinghouse
Other names/Site Number: Lucero Ward LDS Meetinghouse
Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Latinx Resources in Utah, 1776 to 1942

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

2. Location

Street & number: 232 West 800 South
City or town: Salt Lake City State: Utah County: Salt Lake County
Not for Publication: Vicinity:

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 36CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

National X Statewide X Local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title **Date**

Utah Division of State History/Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title: **State or Federal Agency/Bureau or Tribal Government**

4. 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**

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 couth)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	Buildings
0	0	Sites
0	0	Structures
0	0	Objects
1	**1**	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
RELIGION/religious facility	EDUCATION/school
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Spanish Colonial Revival	FOUNDATION/concrete
	WALLS/concrete block
	ROOF/asphalt composition shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

The Mexican Branch LDS Meetinghouse, more commonly known as the Lucero Ward LDS Meetinghouse, will be referred to herein as the Mexican Branch meetinghouse or simply as the meetinghouse. It was commissioned by the Mexican Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Church of Jesus Christ or the Church) and constructed in 1948–1950 as a one-story Spanish Colonial Revival–style building. It stands on a concrete slab foundation and is constructed of painted white concrete masonry. The roof is a cross-gabled design. Most windows are non-original vinyl sash windows. The building faces south toward West 800 South and has parking lots along its east and north (rear) sides. The building was originally U-shaped in plan and contained the chapel, the recreation/cultural hall, classrooms, the kitchen, and the Bishop's office. New additions were constructed ca. 1962 without significant impact to the original plan. On the exterior, Spanish Colonial Revival details are limited to curvilinear quoin brackets, a quatrefoil window, the copper dome–capped steeple, and a courtyard on the north side of the building. The original interior finishes have been retained in the chapel, eastern addition, and entrance. The chapel in particular exhibits characteristics of the Spanish Colonial Revival style through the exposed ceiling and trusses, carved king posts, and contrasting color scheme. The Mexican Branch meetinghouse retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, and feeling with slightly diminished integrity of materials and association; however, the meetinghouse retains sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Mexican Branch meetinghouse is a Spanish Colonial Revival–style building facing south on the site toward the street with parking on the east and north sides of the building. The building sits on a slab foundation and is constructed from painted structural masonry. The footprint is roughly U-shaped with the dominant main volume oriented east-west, parallel to the street and the north-south-oriented wings at the west and east ends. Additions were constructed in the period of significance ca. 1962. East and west additions were constructed perpendicular to the wings, extending the east-west axis parallel to the street; an entrance addition was constructed at the north side of the east wing; and an addition was constructed at the north side of the main volume, increasing the recreation/cultural hall into the courtyard and aperture space (Netronline 2021). Typical windows are a mixture of original multi-lite steel casement and replacement six-over-six vinyl sash single-hung windows, with the replacements dominating the building's fenestration. Typical exterior doors are single aluminum and glass. The existing roof is gabled with composite shingles that replaced the original red flat tile roof. The roof has a simple fascia, and the original curvilinear mission-inspired details are visible behind the non-original aluminum gutter system.

The south (primary) elevation is arranged in an ABCDEDFGAH pattern. Bay A has eight-over-eight vinyl sash hung windows with decorative metal shutters, soldier course brick sills, and metal window boxes. Bay B is recessed under the roofline, and it contains a single typical exterior door. Bay C has paired four-over-four vinyl sash hung windows with corbeled window dressing. The opening is protected with twisted metal security bars and flanked by decorative metal shutters. Bay D has two-by-four open concrete grids with a fixed window behind, decorative metal shutters, and metal window boxes with coco liners. Bay E protrudes slightly from the plane of the elevation, with flanking pedestals at the corners, and it contains four sets of six-over-six vinyl sash hung windows.

Bay F contains the original main entrance at the base of the steeple. The entrance is located on a stoop and contains a typical exterior door under a broken pediment with contrasting colors to emphasize the ornament. The two-story steeple is square with a spandrel course and cornice of crown molding. There are painted obelisks at each corner of the steeple, and the center belfry (now without a bell) is made with poured-in-place concrete. Each side of the belfry contains a segmental arch opening with a geometric metal baluster, and the belfry corners extend up with a folded semicircle design. A standing seam copper segmental dome with a simplified finial caps the belfry.

Bay G protrudes south from the plane of the elevation, and it contains a fixed multi-lite circular window inside a quatrefoil opening in the gable. Although there are no other openings in Bay G, there are simple curvilinear quoins at the roofline and a stone fountain at ground level. Bay H contains two eight-over-eight vinyl sash hung windows with decorative shutters flanking the bay.

The east elevation is arranged in an ABACCCD pattern. Bays A and B comprise the east addition in a symmetrical composition of eight-over-eight vinyl sash hung windows, with concrete sills in Bay A and a typical exterior door in Bay B. A metal louvered vent is centered in the gable above. The C Bays contain four-over-four vinyl sash, single-hung windows with four-lite transoms. Bay D contains a typical exterior door with a sidelight.

The north elevation is the aperture of the U-plan, which is dominated by the courtyard. The courtyard is paved with brick, featuring a non-original five-tiered stone fountain (ca. 2000) with a brick basin in its center. A prefabricated canopy in the northwest section of the courtyard shades prefabricated picnic tables. The description for this elevation will also include all courtyard-facing elevations.

The west elevation of the east wing is arranged in an AB pattern. Bay A is an original two-by-six steel casement window with a concrete sill, and Bay B is a typical exterior door with a single-lite transom. A

half-story wood-framed shed roof addition for storage was constructed along the north elevation of the east wing. The storage addition has no visible openings on the north elevation and three openings on the west elevation into the courtyard: a trapezoidal opening; a small unglazed door; and a pair of unglazed metal doors.

The north elevation of the main volume is arranged in an ABCBC pattern. Bay A contains a three-lite picture window. Bay B contains a single-lite picture window, and Bay C contains typical exterior doors. The north elevation of the main volume is accessed via two full-width steps, and there is extensive mechanical equipment located on the north addition to of the main volume.

There are no openings in the east elevation of the west wing. The north elevation of the west wing has two openings, each with a four-over-four vinyl sash hung window with a concrete sill. The west elevation of the west wing has an ABC pattern. Bay A contains a four-over-four vinyl sash hung window with a concrete sill, and Bay B contains a typical exterior door. Bay C contains an original two-by-four steel casement window.

The north elevation of the west addition contains an unglazed metal single pedestrian door as well as unglazed metal double pedestrian doors. The west elevation of the west addition contains two four-over-four vinyl sash hung windows with no sills.

Interior

The original U-shaped plan consisted of the typical room uses and configuration used by the Church of Jesus Christ in the first half of the twentieth century, including the chapel and recreation/cultural hall close together and an adjoining kitchen and classrooms (Starrs 2009). Despite the additions, the original plan is still present. On the interior, the building retains the original chapel with the exposed rafter ceiling with decorative king posts in the king trusses. The original portion of the meetinghouse retains multiuse rooms centered around an interior corridor. Floor finishes are a mix of wood flooring and carpeting. Original paneled wood wainscots are also present in some multiuse rooms of the east addition. The chapel and the recreation/cultural hall have been partitioned into smaller multiuse spaces. New interior partition walls do not extend the full height to the ceiling and maintain the original span of a room.

The interior has been adapted for use as a daycare and early education facility. Overall, the original plan of the building and its additions are discernable. However, the east addition and north extension walls have been removed or reduced to create large open spaces; the chapel and recreation/cultural hall have been divided with partial-height walls; a computer lab has been constructed in the west addition; and the office for the branch president has been converted into a lavatory (building plans reviewed by Samuel Palfreyman, Church History Department 2021). The original 1948–1950 plan consisted of the main entrance, which led to the chapel and rostrum in the east wing and a primary room directly to the west in the south half of the main volume. A central east-west-oriented corridor in the main volume provided access to the recreation/cultural hall in the north half of the main volume, lavatories in the south half of the main volume, and a north-south-oriented corridor in the west wing. This corridor provided access to the Relief Society room, the branch president's office, the kitchen and pantry, and classrooms at the north end of the west wing. Additions were constructed ca. 1962 at the east and west ends of the building parallel the primary façade and extend the building's length parallel to the street. An entrance into the north end of the chapel was also constructed at this time (Netronline 2021).

The building interior still orients toward the original entrance on the south elevation under the steeple, with a small corridor and offices located immediately in front of the entry. The original chapel, located to the east of the entry, retains the open ceiling with exposed king trusses. A new partial height partition walls was constructed across the north end of the chapel. The wall stops below the trusses to leave the ceiling fully exposed and to retain the original span of the room. The chapel space also retains the original painted details on the carved king posts, white walls, and simple baseboards.

Outside the chapel space, the ceilings use lay-in tiles, and walls are painted. Flooring in the classrooms is predominantly the original wood flooring, with some new tile in the entry and restrooms. There are also a significant number of original cased openings, such as doors, closets, and interior windows, as well as original millwork and historic-age lay-in tile. The building also retains a kitchen space and offices that were original to the meetinghouse. The east addition, currently used as the nursery space, retains original wood-paneled wainscot and uses carpet flooring, and it likely functioned as office space after the addition was completed. After the chapel, the east addition is the most elaborately ornamented space in the building.

Setting

The Mexican Branch meetinghouse is located in central Salt Lake City in a predominantly commercial area. Surrounding buildings house retail businesses, car dealerships, restaurants, commercial office space, and nonprofit organizations. Pockets of residential buildings, both single family and multi-family, remain in the vicinity, and they primarily face side streets rather than larger thoroughfares. Mature landscaping also helps to differentiate the residential pockets from commercial enterprises. The Mexican Branch meetinghouse, currently functioning as a daycare and early education facility, differs from the other commercial entities by retaining the existing landscaping. The site includes the south-facing building, the courtyard, parking lots, and mature trees. Areas of the site have also been adapted with outdoor play equipment and fences for the facility. Fencing surrounds all sides of the building and its associated green space, separating it from the street and its own parking lot. The fence is metal on the south side; vinyl privacy fencing on the east and west sides and partially on the north side; and concrete masonry units with a cast stone parapet on the north, where it abuts the courtyard. The primary entrance is in the south elevation; secondary entrances are in the east and north elevations. The rear entrance is through the northern gate adjacent to the parking lot. Located inside a thick concrete arch, the gate is primarily vertical metal bars with arcs from the pinnacle to the sides.

Non-Contributing Buildings

One historic-age non-contributing building is on the property. According to the Salt Lake County Assessor record, the building was constructed in 1957. It is a one-story, warehouse-type building that is rectangular in plan and is composed of three distinct volumes. The west volume consists of concrete block walls and a flat roof. A narrow center volume consists of concrete block walls and a gable roof. The east volume consists of walls clad in striated brick and has a flat roof. The south (primary) elevation contains two modern glazed panel garage doors and two glazed metal pedestrian doors. The windows are awning-type metal sash windows. The building is not historically associated with the Mexican Branch meetinghouse and is non-contributing. In 1995, three previous tax parcels, including that containing the non-contributing building, were consolidated into the current tax parcel.

Integrity

The Mexican Branch meetinghouse retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The meetinghouse remains in its original location, and although the area has become more commercial over time, commercial businesses emerged along this road while the meetinghouse was under construction. The design includes the additions because they were completed in the Historic period and contribute to the history of the building. Additionally, the original U-shaped floor plan remains in place, and the quality of the construction is most apparent through the exterior details, the chapel, and the courtyard. The integrity of materials is diminished due to the red roof tiles that were replaced with composite shingles and new vinyl windows; however, the original fenestration pattern is still visible, and the building retains significant interior finishes and detailing. The integrity of association is also somewhat diminished because the building no longer functions as a Church meetinghouse. Because the Mexican Branch meetinghouse overwhelmingly retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, and sufficient integrity of materials due to exterior cladding and interior finishes, it

also retains its integrity of feeling. The Mexican Branch meetinghouse has more than sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP.

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 boxes that apply.)

- ☒ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Latinx

Period of Significance

1948–1971

Significant Dates

1948, 1950, ca. 1962

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

Latinx in Utah

Architect/Builder

Woods & Woods

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Mexican Branch meetinghouse, completed in 1950 in Salt Lake City, is significant at the state and local level under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its association with the history of Utah's Latinx population and for the role it served not only as a place of worship but as a place for activities that honored and celebrated the cultural traditions of the Latinx community, such as festivals, educational programs, and performances outside of religious worship. Although the building was constructed outside the period of significance for the *Historic Latinx Resources in Utah, 1776 to 1942 Multiple Property Documentation Form*, the events that occurred during that period, including the initial fundraising and planning for the new meetinghouse, contributed to the eventual construction of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse between 1948 and 1950. The Mexican Branch meetinghouse is the physical culmination of the dedication and effort of the first Spanish-speaking branch of the Church in Utah. The congregation originated in 1920 with the first Spanish-language missionaries of the Church. Between 1920 and 1950, the branch adapted existing buildings, a restaurant, a former ward building, and a former stake hall to serve as its meetinghouse and community center. The Mexican Branch began planning for its own meetinghouse in 1939, and through the persistent efforts of branch members, the meetinghouse was constructed in 1948–1950. It was the first purpose-built meetinghouse designed and dedicated in service to Latinx Latter-day Saints. The Mexican Branch continued to grow and was designated the Lucero Ward in 1960 under the Temple View Stake. The organization continued to be the only Spanish-language ward in Utah until 1962, and the meetinghouse continued to serve the Latinx community as a place of worship and as a community center until 1981, when it was sold.

The Mexican Branch meetinghouse meets Criteria Consideration A for Religious Properties because it derives its significance from its association with Latinx communities in Salt Lake City and Utah and from its architecture.

The period of significance of for the Mexican Branch meetinghouse is 1948–1971. The beginning of the period coincides with the construction groundbreaking and the duration of its use by the Mexican Branch, and later, the Lucero Ward. The coincides with the 50-year threshold for historic properties, as defined by National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A Significance

Ethnic Heritage

The Mexican Branch meetinghouse is significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its association with the Latinx community in Salt Lake City and Utah. It is the first purpose-built meetinghouse for the first Spanish-speaking congregation in the city and state that contributed to its planning, funding, and construction. The meetinghouse served as a community center for the congregation and the public by hosting events and performances that celebrated and honored Latinx cultural traditions.

Latinx Community in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ first arrived in what would become Utah in 1847 intending to colonize and form a new country, and later a state—the massive State of Deseret, encompassing the Great Basin and beyond—in which they could practice their religion freely. The *Historic Latinx Resources in Utah, 1776 to 1942 Multiple Property Documentation Form* states,

> Since the arrival of the first pioneers in Utah in 1847, Mormonism has been the dominant religion in the state. Through colonization in the region and continued proselytizing through the years, Latter-day Saints achieved a cultural and religious hegemony that remains strong today; in 2020 Latter-day Saints made up 55 percent of the state's population (Pew Research Center 2021). In contrast, the vast majority of Latinx residents of Utah during the early twentieth century were Catholic. But at the same time, a small number of Latinx residents began converting to Mormonism. The tension between these two belief systems, the social implications of belonging to each faith, and the ways in which each sought to help adherents socially and economically (particularly during the Great Depression) represent some of the defining aspects of Latinx communities during this historic period. (Solórzano 2014:182) (Hovanes and Oliver 2021).

Missionary efforts of the Church included a specific focus on Latinx communities abroad and in the Great Basin region, as described in *Historic Latinx Resources in Utah, 1776 to 1942 Multiple Property Documentation Form*:

> During the 1910s, the Church of Jesus Christ began missionary efforts in Central and South America (*Salt Lake Tribune* 1994). These efforts were further reinvigorated during the 1910s, when "LDS missionaries sought out Spanish-surnamed people in other parts of the West and Southwest. Between the winter of 1915 and March, 1919, emissaries from the church reinitiated the Mexican Mission (which had almost ceased operations in Mexico by 1913 due to the Mexican Revolution) to spread its message to Mexican Americans in Arizona, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, and California" (Iber 2000:27). But it was not until the 1920s that the most important developments occurred in the relationship between Utah's Latinx population and Mormonism (Hovanes and Oliver 2021).

Mexican Branch/Lucero Ward

In Utah—and specifically in Salt Lake City—the missionary efforts in the Great Basin had lasting impacts on the Latinx community beginning in the 1920s. Juan Ramon Martinez, baptized into the Church in New Mexico, arrived in Salt Lake City in summer 1920, believing that a vision instructed him to relocate. Once in Salt Lake City, Martinez met Margarito Bautista and Francisco Solano, both previously baptized in the Church. The three men approached Church leadership in the area and received permission to begin the first Spanish-language missionary work in Salt Lake City and to hold meetings in Spanish. The first meeting occurred in a restaurant Martinez rented at 503 West 200 South in November 1920, and the group had great success bringing in new members from the surrounding area. Church leadership, including the president of the Mexican Mission, Rey Lucero Pratt, formally recognized the "Local Mexican Mission" in April 1921 as the first Spanish-language mission in Utah (Ventura 1998:177–178).

The first official meeting for the Local Mexican Mission occurred in April 1921 with 19 members and 33 investigators. Because the Local Mexican Mission was the first Spanish-language mission in Salt Lake City and in Utah, it was under the jurisdiction of the broader Mexican Mission based in El Paso rather than a local stake. However, the Local Mexican Mission formally joined the Salt Lake Stake in 1922, and

in May 1923, the organization was changed to the Mexican Branch, *La Rama Mexicana* (the Branch) because of its continual growth. The new stake president, Nephi L. Morris, attempted to dissolve the branch in September 1923 and redistribute its members among existing English-language wards; however, the branch leadership, including then President Francisco Solano, reached out to Pratt. Pratt used his influence as president of the Mexican Mission to convince the stake to retain the branch, which was announced at a regular meeting in October 1923. In total, this dissolution scare lasted no more than a few weeks (Ventura 1998:182–183).

In 1925, the branch moved its meetings from the rented restaurant to the "old Sixth Ward" building located at 448 South 300 West, where four rooms on the second floor were available. The branch grew rapidly once in a permanent building to over 100 members by 1933, reflecting growing numbers in Latinx communities across the state.

The branch created a finance committee in 1939 and planned a fundraising fiesta for a new building, but fundraising efforts were slow as World War II began in Europe, and in October 1942, after the United States entered the war, the branch relocated to the Pioneer Stake Hall at 126 West 500 South (Ventura 1998:191–194). In January 1946, the Pioneer Stake was divided, and the branch joined the newly created Temple View Stake and continued to operate out of the then named Temple View Stake Hall. Although the branch's fundraising efforts had been ongoing, its progress was slow. After almost a decade, the branch raised enough money from fundraising dinners to break ground on the site of the new chapel on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1948 (*Deseret News* 1948).

The new chapel was constructed at 232 West 800 South in the Spanish Colonial Revival style (*Deseret News* 1948). To assist with affordability, many branch members contributed their labor to the construction project, which was not uncommon in the Church at that time. The new meetinghouse included a chapel to seat 125, a recreation/cultural hall with lounge, kitchen, classroom, branch president's office, and Relief Society room. The meetinghouse was also designed with a courtyard for parties, socials, and use as an outdoor room to further to connect the meetinghouse to its intended ward ((*Deseret News* 1951a, 1951b). It also included temporary interior partition walls to create up to eight rooms until an addition could be constructed. The Mexican Branch meetinghouse was completed in 1950 and dedicated on Sunday, June 17, 1951, with President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. presiding over the ceremonies (*Deseret News* 1950). As a result of the congregation's continual growth, the Mexican Branch became Lucero Ward in 1960 (*Deseret News* 1968).

Beyond its ecclesiastical role, the Mexican Branch meetinghouse also served a secular role in the Latinx community as a social hall and community center hosting social events for its members and the public. As early as the 1920s, members of the Mexican Branch regularly donned traditional clothing and performed traditional music and dance for other Church wards and community events. In the 1950s, members of the Mexican Branch established one of the first local folkloric dance groups (Edison 1992). The Mexican Branch meetinghouse, the branch, and later the ward, continued to host events that celebrated and honored the cultural traditions of its Spanish-speaking congregates, such as *Fiesta de las Pinata* (Christmas Festival) and performances by Lucero Folklorico (*Deseret News* 1954, 1957, 1959, 1973). The events and programs organized and hosted by members of the Lucero Ward were universally important to the Latinx community regardless of religious affiliation (Edison 1992). The contributions of the Lucero Ward to the Latinx Community continued into the late twentieth century as a steady influx of converts arrived in Salt Lake City from Mexico and other Latin American countries instituting annual festivals, educational programs, and cultural performance groups that have continued to the present, such as Ballet Folklorico de las Americas, Ballet Folklorico de Utah, the Gomez Family Folkloric Dancers, the Mexican Fiesta Dancers, and Maquilxochil (Edison 1992) The Lucero Ward, along with the Cumorah Branch in Midvale, is credited with teaching an entire generation to appreciate and perform folkloric dances from different regions in Mexico and Latin America (Edison 1992: 42).

The Lucero Ward continued to grow in the late twentieth century and in 1997 it was divided into two wards due to its overwhelming size (*Salt Lake Tribune* 1997). Based on title research at the Salt Lake County recorder's office, the Church sold the Mexican Branch meetinghouse to a private owner in 1981.

Additional Historical Context

Based on Richard W. Jackson's study of Latter-day Saint architecture, the Mexican Branch meetinghouse appears to be a rare example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style applied to a Church meetinghouse in Utah (Jackson 2003). The Mar Vista Ward meetinghouse, constructed in 1928 in Los Angeles, California, is an earlier example of a Spanish Colonial Revival–style meetinghouse. In addition to these, the Church designed or approved a limited number of Mission-style buildings in the early twentieth century, including the Nebo Stake Tabernacle in Payson, Utah (1907), the Rexburg Stake Tabernacle in Rexburg, Idaho (1912), and the Ocean Park Ward meetinghouse in Santa Monica, California (1922). At the time the Mexican Branch meetinghouse was constructed, the Church had begun to distribute the work of designing its meetinghouses to outside architects. Indicative of a period when architecture in general was torn between the familiarity of tradition and the stark departure toward modernism, two meetinghouse design factions materialized: those embodying the Colonial Revival or those embracing modern styles such as Art Deco and International style (Jackson 2003). However, those meetinghouses that embodied the Colonial Revival style were "an imitation of a New England colonial church style, adapted by someone living in Salt Lake City" (Starr 2009:335–336).

Designed by Utah architects Woods & Woods and constructed 1948–1950, the Mexican Branch meetinghouse is a late example the Spanish Colonial Revival style that reflects its construction in the post–World War II era with its with concrete block structural walls painted white to emulate the austere stucco surfaces of Spanish Colonial buildings, long axis parallel to the street, and aluminum doors. Additional characteristic elements of the style include the low pitch, cross-gabled roof originally clad in flat red tile, casement windows, concrete window grilles, asymmetrical façade with entrance tower, and a rear walled courtyard. The king rafters in the chapel are the primary character-defining interior feature.

Woods & Woods was an architecture partnership between brothers Charles Casper Woods and Roger Shaw Woods, who came from a lineage of Utah architects. Their father, Moroni Charles Woods, and their grandfather, Francis Charles Woods, were prominent architects in Ogden, Utah, whose works include the 13th Ward meetinghouse, Madison Elementary School, and the Heber Scowcroft House in Ogden; the Hotel Brigham in Brigham City; and the Summit County Courthouse in Coalville (*Ogden Standard Examiner* 1938; Utah Center for Architecture 2016a, 2016b).The Woods brothers established their partnership as Woods & Woods architects in 1942; their publicized projects were primarily schools and Church meetinghouses (Utah Center for Architecture 2016c). In addition to the Mexican Branch meetinghouse, Woods & Woods designed the Ogden 23rd Ward meetinghouse in the Colonial Revival style. The firm designed and constructed multiple schools for the Salt Lake City School District, Granite School District, and Millard County School District. Specific projects include the Kearns Junior High School addition (Granite), the Highland Park School auditorium, a new building at the Garrison Elementary School (Millard County), and the Northwest Elementary School (Salt Lake City). Based on a review of their publicized projects, Woods & Woods worked primarily in the modernist styles preferred by architects for new education buildings during the 1940s and 1950s. However, their work on the Ogden 23rd Ward and the Mexican Branch meetinghouses demonstrate their aptitude and skill with historicist revival styles as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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2016b Moroni Charles Woods. Available at: http://utahcfa.org/architect/moroni_charles_woods. Accessed June 8, 2021.

2016c Roger Shaw Woods. Available at: http://utahcfa.org/architect/roger_shaw_woods. Accessed June 8, 2021.

Salt Lake Tribune

1997 Ethnic Wards Are Well-Established in Utah. *Salt Lake Tribune* 6 December:18. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Starrs, Paul

2009 Meetinghouses in the Mormon mind: Ideology, architecture, and turbulent streams of an expanding church. *Geographical Review* 99:323–355. doi:10.1111/j.1931-0846.2009.tb00436.x. Accessed June 8, 2021.

Ventura, Betty G.

1998 *La Historia de la Rama Mexicana de Salt Lake 1920-1960 / The History of the Salt Lake Mexican Branch 1920-1960*. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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 #_____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of Repository:_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.08 acres
(Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84:___
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 40.752382 Longitude: -111.897879

Or

UTM Reference

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1.	Zone:		Easting:		Northing:	
2.	Zone:		Easting:		Northing:	
3.	Zone:		Easting:		Northing:	
4.	Zone:		Easting:		Northing:	

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The verbal boundary description is the legal description of the property's tax parcel (15122100030000) as it was recorded on May 11, 2021, when a title search was conducted.

BEG SW COR LOT 1, BLK 13, PL A, SLC SUR; N 89^57'18" E 215 FT; N 0^09'18" E 165 FT; S 89^57'19" W 69.5 FT; N 0^ 09'17" E 82.5 FT; S 89^57'19" W 145.5 FT; S 0^09'17" W 247.5 FT TO BEG. 7048-204 5232-15 7171-1945 9036-43 9487-0923

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the legal tax parcel currently associated with the property. Several smaller title transfers occurred while under the ownership of the Church. In 1995, three previous tax parcels, including that of the non-contributing building, were consolidated into the current tax parcel.

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Hannah Curry; Megan Daniels
Organization: SWCA Environmental Consultants
Street & Number: 257 East 200 South, Suite 200
City or Town: Salt Lake City State: Utah Zip Code: 84111
e-mail: hannah.curry@swca.com; megan.daniels@swca.com
Telephone: (801) 322-4307
Date: July 15, 2021

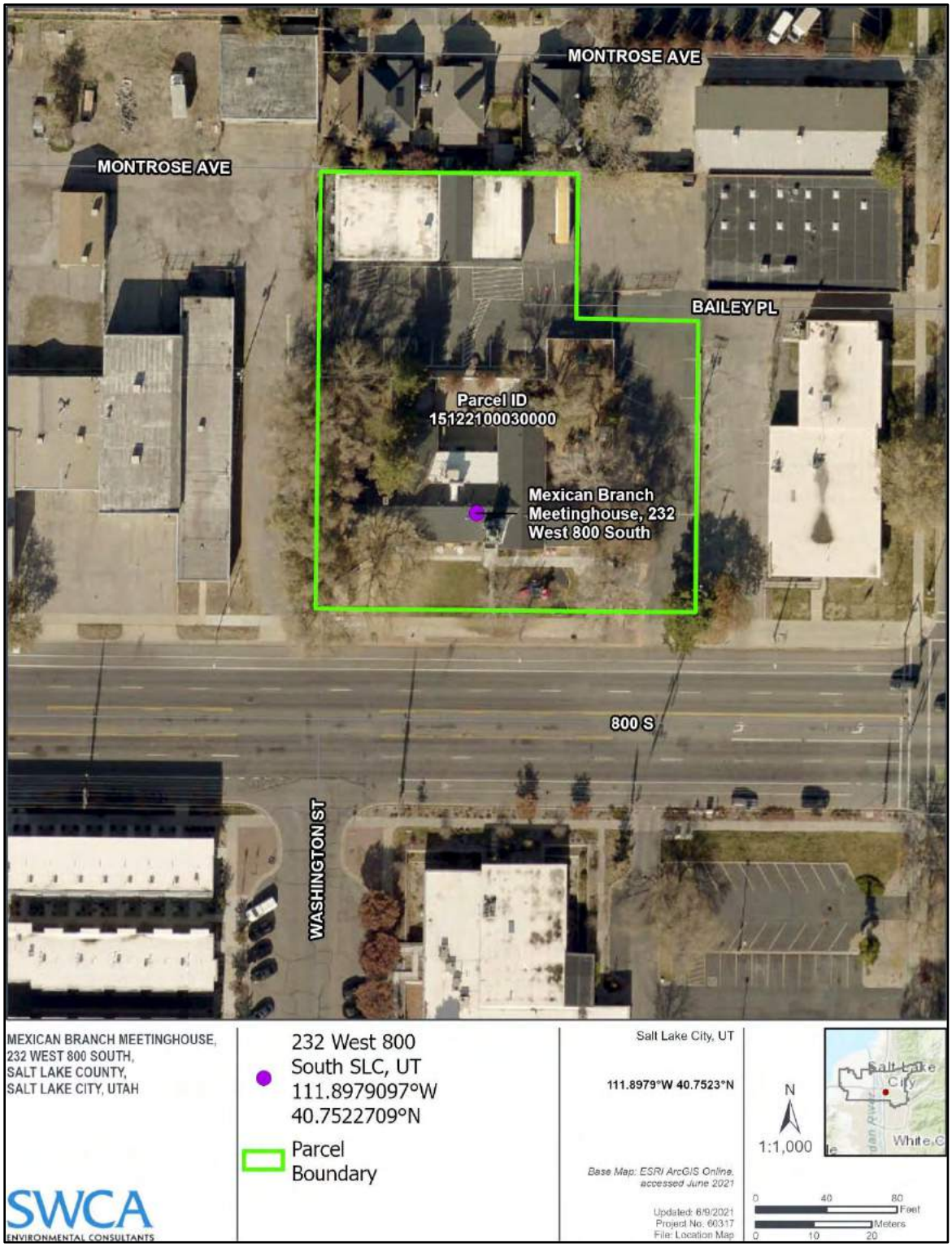
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

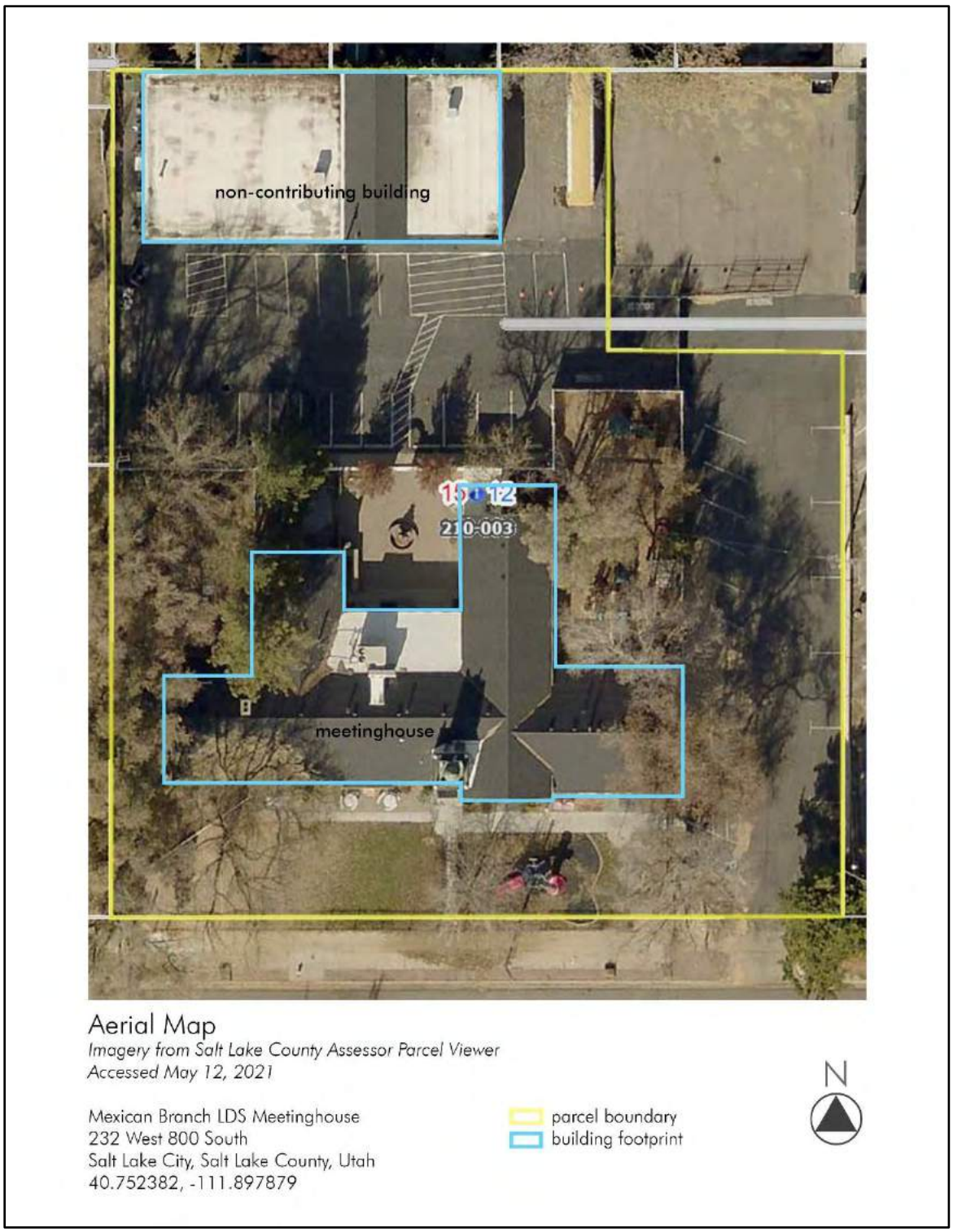
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

MAPS

Map 1. Vicinity map.



Map 2. Location map.



Map 3. Aerial map.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Mexican Branch (Lucero Ward) LDS Meetinghouse
City or Vicinity:	Salt Lake City
County:	Salt Lake County
State:	Utah
Photographer	Megan Daniels
Date Photographed	May 11, 2021

Photo 1 of 54. Overview of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse south (primary) elevation. Camera facing north.

Photo 2 of 54. Overview of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse south (primary) elevation. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 3 of 54. West addition (left) and the original Mexican Branch meetinghouse, Bays A, B, and C of the south elevation. Camera facing north.

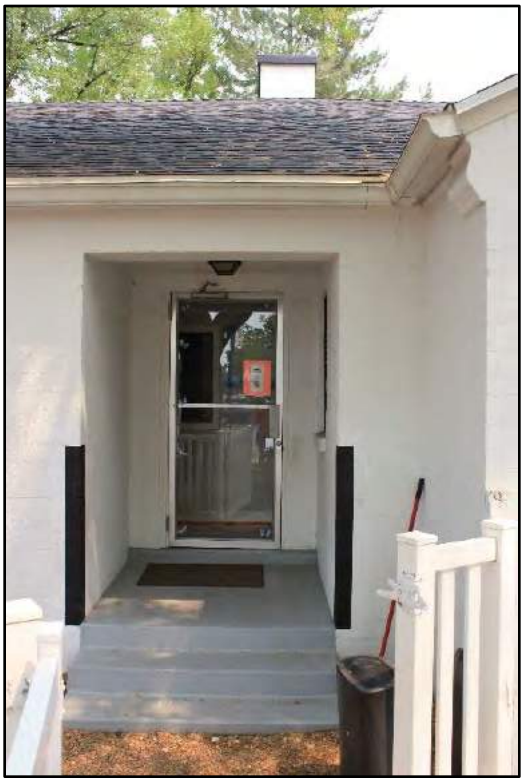


Photo 4 of 54. Entrance into the west addition with typical aluminum glazed door. Camera facing north.

Photo 5. Detail of the original window in west elevation of branch president's office of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing north.

Photo 6 of 54. Original Mexican Branch meetinghouse, Bays D, E, and D of the south elevation. Camera facing north.

Photo 7 of 54. Original Mexican Branch meetinghouse entrance, Bays F and G of the south elevation. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 8 of 54. South end of the chapel in the original Mexican Branch meetinghouse, Bays F and G of the south elevation. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 9 of 54. Detail of curvilinear quoin bracket at the southeast corner of the east wing. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 10 of 54. East addition to the Mexican Branch meetinghouse, Bays A and H of the south elevation. Camera facing north.

Photo 11 of 54. East and south elevations of the east addition (left) and the east elevation of the chapel of the original Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 12 of 54. East elevation of the east addition, Bays A, B, and A. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 13 of 54. Overview of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse north elevation. Camera facing south.

Photo 14 of 54. West elevation of the chapel in the east wing of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse (left) and the north elevation of the recreation/cultural hall (right). Camera facing east.

Photo 15 of 54. Detail of original two-by-four casement window with transom in the west elevation of the chapel in the east wing of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing east.

Photo 16 of 54. West elevation of the addition to the chapel. Camera facing east.

Photo 17 of 54. North elevation of the recreation/cultural hall of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing south.

Photo 18 of 54. North and west elevations of the west wing of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 19 of 54. North and west elevations of the west addition to the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 20 of 54. West and north elevations of the west addition to the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 21 of 54. Main entrance in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing north.

Photo 22 of 54. Entry between the chapel from the main entrance of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing west toward the main entrance and the east-west corridor.

Photo 23 of 54. Interior of the chapel in the east wing of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southwest toward the main entrance.

Photo 24 of 54. Interior of the chapel in the east wing of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse with a recent partition wall in the north end of the chapel. Camera facing north.

Photo 25 of 54. Detail of truss and wood ceiling in the chapel of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse.

Photo 26 of 54. Space north of the partition wall in the chapel of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 27 of 54. Entrance to the east addition in the original concrete block wall of the east elevation of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing northeast.

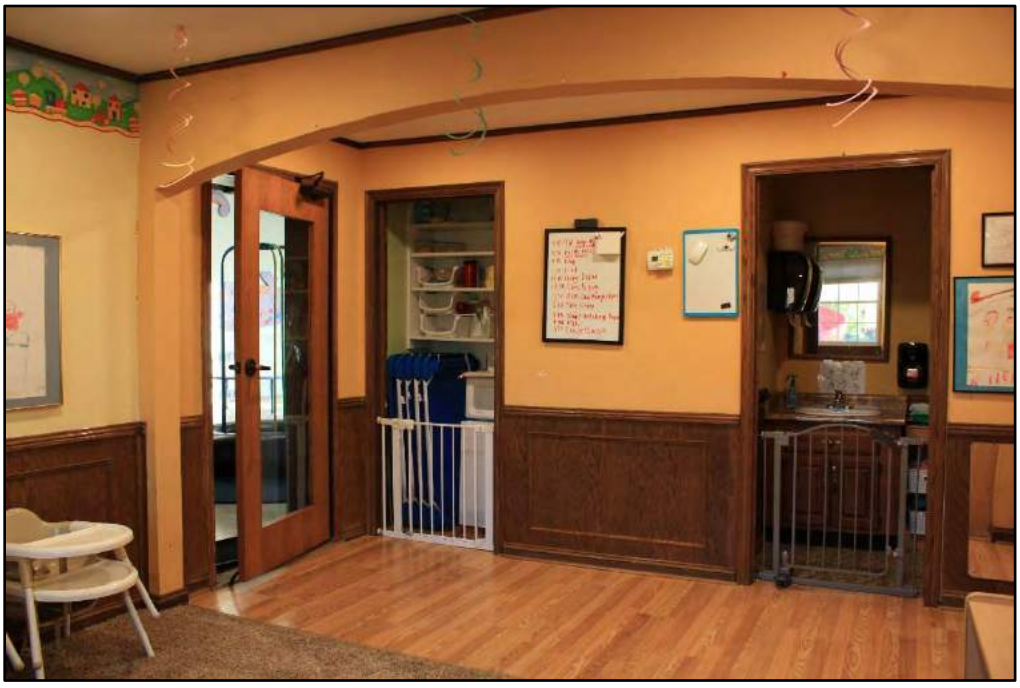


Photo 28 of 54. West half of the east addition adjacent to the chapel in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing northwest.

Photo 29 of 54. West half of the east addition adjacent to the chapel in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 30 of 54. Detail of original wood wainscoting in the east addition of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse.

Photo 31 of 54. East half of the east addition of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse toward the entrance into the adjacent east addition rooms (far-left corner). Camera facing northwest.

Photo 32 of 54. East half of the east addition of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse toward the east entrance (left). Camera facing south.

Photo 33 of 54. Primary room in the south half of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse with the doorway to the main entrance in the background. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 34 of 54. Primary room in the south half of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse with the entrance to the north-south corridor in the background. Camera facing west.

Photo 35 of 54. Recreation/cultural hall in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse from the main entrance with the east-west corridor (left). Camera facing northwest.

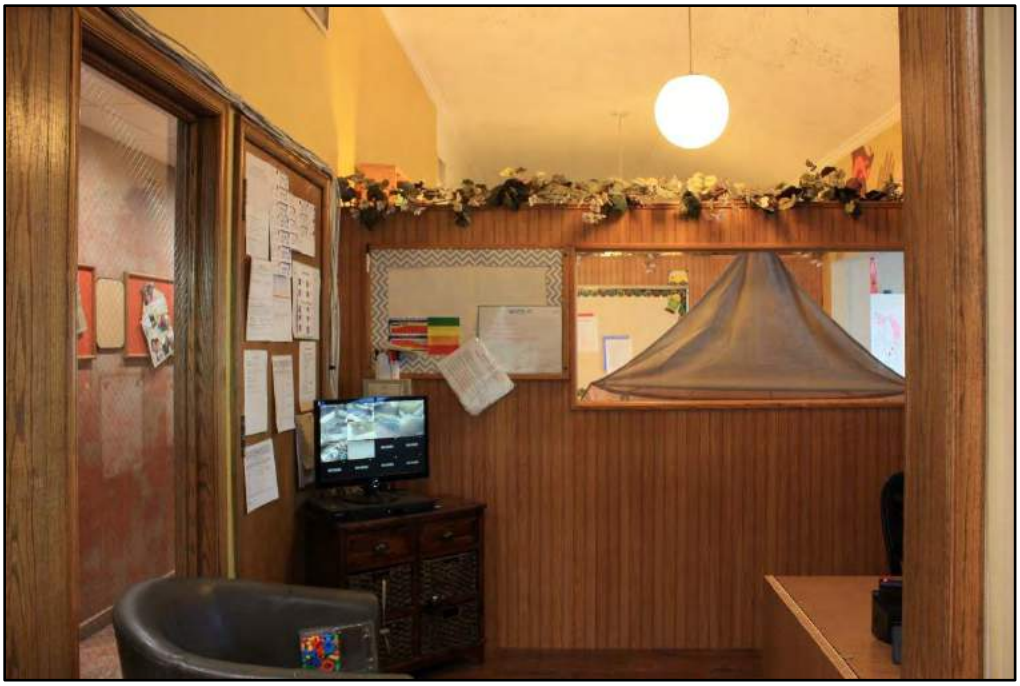


Photo 36 of 54. Office constructed in the recreation/cultural hall of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse with partition wall. Camera facing west.

Photo 37 of 54. Recreation/cultural hall of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse with the office in the foreground (left) and the entrance the from east-west corridor in the background (right). Camera facing southeast.

Photo 38 of 54. Recreation/cultural hall in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 39 of 54. Office in the pantry of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 40 of 54. Kitchen of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse with the office/former pantry in the background. Camera facing southeast.

Photo 41 of 54. North-south corridor of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse with the juncture of the east-west corridor (right), Relief Society room (left), and north end of the west wing in the background. Camera facing north.

Photo 42 of 54. Classrooms in the north end of the west wing of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing north.

Photo 43 of 54. Detail of the ceiling where walls have been removed to create an open plan space in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing south.

Photo 44 of 54. North-south corridor (left) and entrance into the Relief Society room (right) in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing south.

Photo 45 of 54. Relief Society room in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 46 of 54. Relief Society room in the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing north.

Photo 47 of 54. Entrance to the former branch president's office at the south end of the north-south corridor and junction with the secondary entrance in the west addition of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southwest.

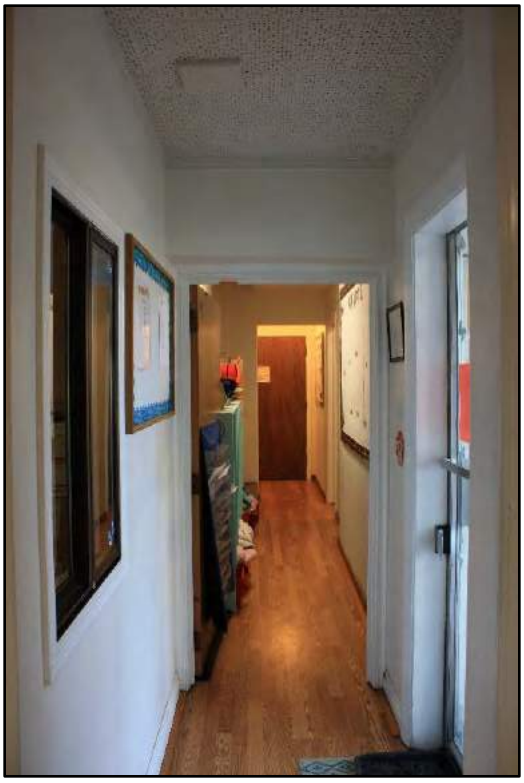


Photo 48 of 54. Secondary entrance in the west addition of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing east.

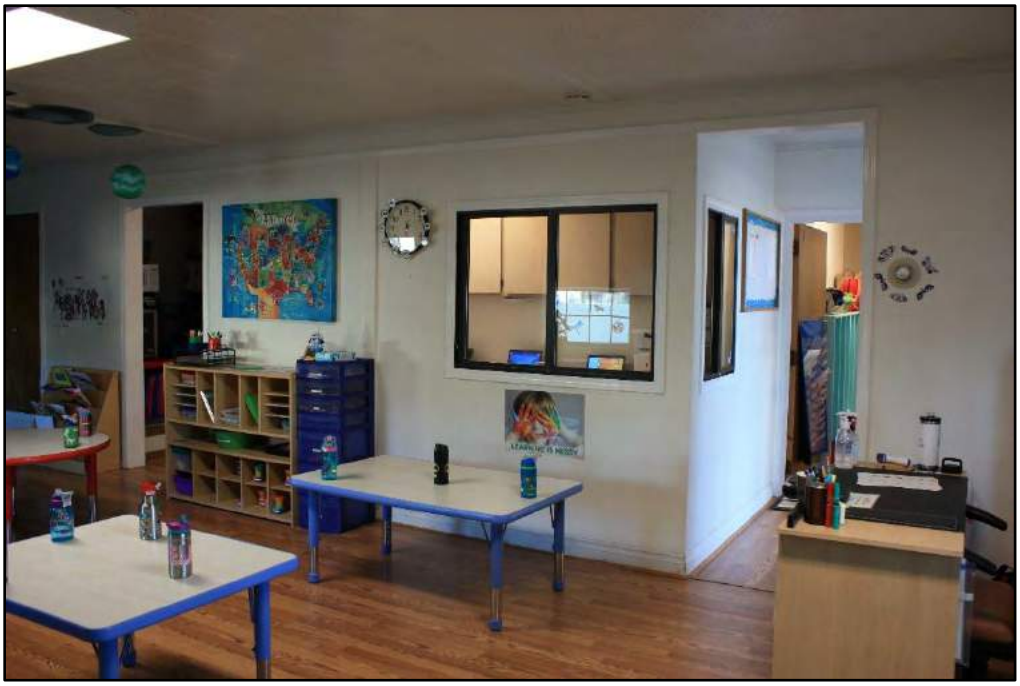


Photo 49 of 54. Computer lab constructed in west addition to the Mexican Branch meetinghouse with the secondary entrance corridor in the background (right). Camera facing northeast.

Photo 50 of 54. Computer lab in the west addition of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing south.

Photo 51 of 54. West addition to the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 52 of 54. West addition to the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing southwest.

Photo 53 of 54. South elevation of the non-contributing building behind (north of) the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing northeast.

Photo 54 of 54. South and east elevations of the non-contributing building behind (north of) the Mexican Branch meetinghouse. Camera facing northwest.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Figure 1. South elevation of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse, 1958 (courtesy of the Church History Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

Figure 2. South and east elevations of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse, 1958 (courtesy of the Church History Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

Figure 3. East elevation of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse, 1958 (courtesy of the Church History Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

Figure 4. East and north elevations of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse, 1958 (courtesy of the Church History Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

Figure 5. North and west elevations of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse, 1958 (courtesy of the Church History Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

Figure 6. South elevation of the Mexican Branch meetinghouse, ca. 1970 (courtesy of the Church History Department, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints).

FLOOR PLANS

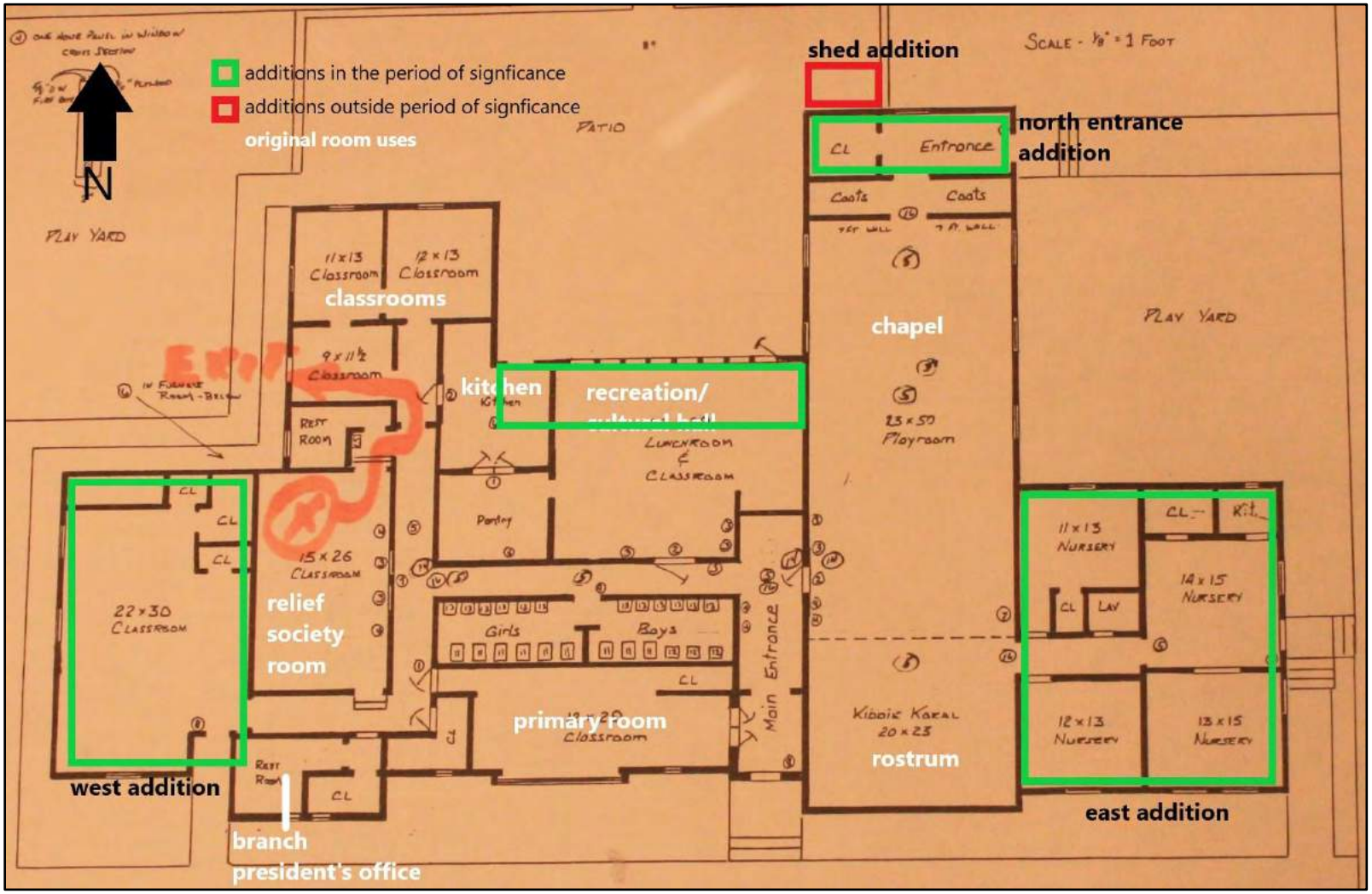


Figure 7. Floor plan of the existing daycare and early education facility with additions and original room uses of the Mexican Branch/Lucero Ward (personal communication, Samuel Palfreyman, Historic Sites Curator, Church History Department, to Anne Oliver, SWCA Environmental Consultants, 2021).

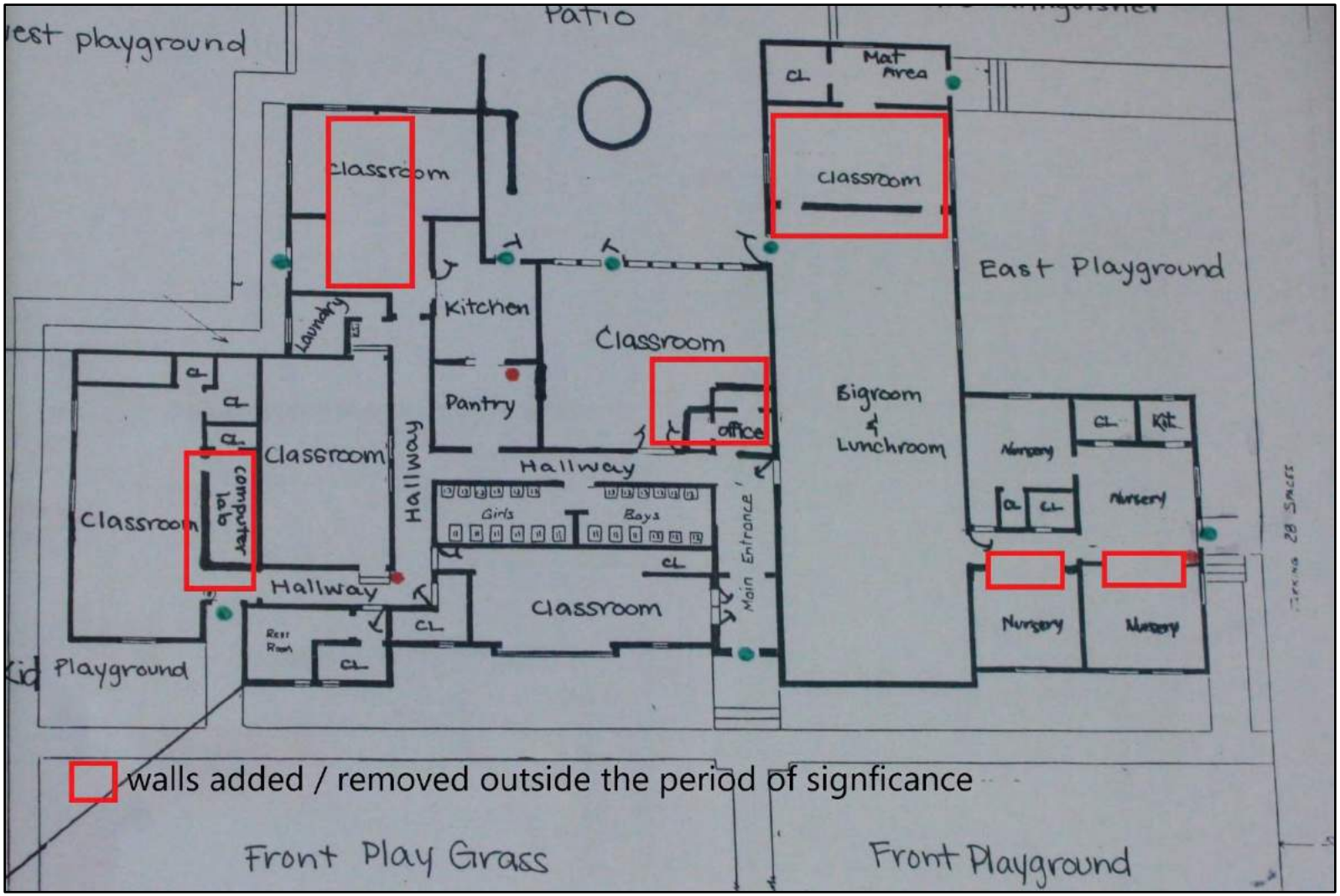


Figure 8. Recent floor plan of the existing daycare and early education facility with added or removed walls marked in red.

Property Owner information:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Alfred and Cindy Meneses
Address: 4223 Sunrise Drive
City or Town: Park City State: Utah Zip code: 84098
Telephone/email: mbkidskampus@yahoo.com/(435) 615-7841 and (801) 756-1805

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.