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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

842

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 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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store

other names/site number John Faunce General Store, Geo. E. Edwards General Merchandise, Ophir Mercantile Co., Morzenti Grocery & Beer Hall

2. Location

street & number 31 West Main Street (south side of Main between Union & Cliff Streets)

☐ not for publication

city or town Ophir ☐ vicinity

state Utah code UT county Tooele code 045 zip code 84071

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

P. Bimson Lefler aug 21, 2013

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

Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store
Name of Property

Tooele County, Utah
County and State

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:)

for Edson A Beall 10.16.13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

October 24, 2013

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically entered in the National Register of Historic Places

on October 16, 2013

This is due to the fact that there was a lapse in appropriations by Congress and our offices were closed from October 1-16, 2013. "Nominations will be included in the National Register within 45 days of receipt by the Keeper or designee unless the Keeper disapproves a nomination" (30CFR60.(r). If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day.

The documentation is technically sufficient, professionally correct and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation. Thus, this property is automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)	
	foundation:	STONE: Granite
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:	walls:	STONE: Granite
Commercial Style		
	roof:	WOOD: Shake
	other:	METAL: Iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store is a 1½-story rectangular stone commercial building constructed in 1874. It is located at 31 West Main Street in the town of Ophir, Tooele County, Utah. The building footprint measures 26 feet by 60 feet with the narrow end facing Main Street. Due to the steep grade through Ophir Canyon, the façade appears as a one-story building while both the main floor and basement levels are visible at the rear elevation. The foundation is granite as are the walls. The building operated primarily as a general store between 1874 and 1956, the period of significance. The original iron shutters are still intact on the façade and rear elevation. After a period of vacancy, the simple gable roof was replaced in 1987. Since 2005, two separate rehabilitation phases have focused on stabilizing the structural walls, cleaning and re-pointing the original masonry, and replacing the electrical and plumbing systems. The current owners hope to complete the interior rehabilitation in the near future.

Site

The community of Ophir was platted within the narrow Ophir Canyon of the Oquirrh Mountains, approximately fifty miles southwest of Salt Lake City. Ophir's Main Street is also known as Ophir Canyon Road. The canyon has a steep grade downhill from east to west, for which the building was adapted [Photograph 1]. Ophir Creek runs parallel to the road on the south side of the canyon. There are buildings on either side of the road. Mine portals are located on either side of the canyon and mine tailings were used to level the site between adjacent lots. Historic photographs indicate the Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store, built in 1874, was the only stone example of five storefronts clustered on three lots in the early 1870s. It is the only extant of the five. The frame storefronts were demolished sometime before the 1930s. None of the commercial or residential buildings that surrounded the stone building during the mining heyday of Ophir have survived. The few residential buildings in the vicinity have been modernized. Mine tailings have been used to level the ground south of the stone building. Most of the original vegetation was destroyed in the process, but a number of box elder trees and other shrubs have grown in place of the demolished buildings.

The stone building sits at the northwest corner of its 0.09-acre rectangular parcel. The north façade is approximately ten feet from the asphalt of Main Street. An over-grown dirt road, Miner Street, runs parallel to

Main Street behind (south) of the property. The nearby cross streets, Union and Cliff, are also dirt and overgrown with vegetation. An L-shaped remnant of a rock wall located at the southeast corner of the building to the south (rear) property line, was part of a secondary stone structure, which was built circa 1870s and partially demolished sometime before the 1930s. Around 2007 a modern garage measuring 15 feet by 25 feet was built on the east half of the property. The garage has a simple gable roof and is sheathed in vinyl siding. It is a non-contributing outbuilding on the property. Between the 1990s and early 2000s, a large amount of debris was removed from the property including bottles from the building's years as a beer hall. The rear property line is partially fenced with newer metal pipe rails.

Exterior

The granite used for the construction of the Lawrence Bros. & Co. Store was likely quarried in a side canyon to the east. The foundation stone is no longer visible due to the amount of mine tailings dumped in the area, but it is likely similar to the masonry of the exterior walls. The basement walls are visible on the west and south (rear) elevations where the site slopes steeply to the southwest. The stone walls are nearly two-feet thick. The granite stone is laid in rock-faced rubble courses on the east, west, and south (rear) elevations. The façade, which faces slightly northwest to Main Street, features roughly square masonry with some pointed stone dressing. In 2011, the settled and deteriorated masonry at the southeast (rear) corner of the building was stabilized by a concrete retaining wall also doubling as support for the new rear deck. The masonry on all four elevations was partially cleaned, repaired, and re-pointed during the 1970s and 1980s. There are plans to complete the masonry repair work in the near future.

Historic photographs indicate that the gable ends of the roof were covered in plank siding above the stone masonry. The north gable end was hidden by a pole-mounted, wood-sided signboard, similar to the false front architecture of the other frame buildings on the street; however, the stone masonry was clearly visible below the signage. The circa 1874 signboard had a flat cornice. By the 1890s, the signboard had been replaced with a stepped cornice. By the 1940s, the replacement signboard was removed and a square window cut into the east half of the north gable. In the 1920s or 1930s, the east roof line was extended at the rear to create shelter for an automobile.[1] This shelter was demolished in the 1950s or 1960s. In 1987, the roof structure was replaced and the new roof sheathed in wood shakes. The eaves were extended slightly farther than shown in historic photographs in order to protect the repaired masonry walls, which had suffered water damage over the years. The gable ends are sheathed in vertical siding. The wood trim has been painted a reddish-brown to match the metal shutters. A small blade sign from the 1950s was in poor condition and also removed during the roof reconstruction. The owners have retained the sign. It will likely be refurbished and remounted at the end of the rehabilitation work.

The façade (north elevation) is symmetrical with a central door flanked by two tall narrow windows. The original six-over-six-light windows were replaced by one-over-one double-hung windows sometime in the first quarter of the twentieth century. The six-over-six panes of the transoms over the double storefront door have also been replaced. In both cases, the wood casings are original. The doors are historic, but do not match each other. One was half-glass (partially covered) with vertical panels below. The other is one-third glass with horizontal panels. Both the doors and windows are set back in the center of the thick openings. Most of the original hardware is intact. One of the remarkable architectural elements of the building is the original metal shutters on steel-rod hinges for both the doors and the windows. The shutters are operable, but are in need of repair. Originally the façade had a boardwalk-style front deck with two wood steps in front. By the early 1900s, the steps were removed and access was via the higher east elevation. A rail was installed at the west end in the 1930s, likely after the adjoining building was demolished. The deck had been completely removed by the 1960s and the front filled with dirt to bring the grade to the doorstep level.

[1] The shelter is barely visible in a circa 1930s tax assessor's photograph.

The west and east elevation feature no fenestration or other architectural detail. The only decorative elements are the S-shaped wrought iron tie-rod anchors. The rear (south) elevation features one tall window to the west and a door to the west. The door and back porch deck was accessed from wood stairs abutting the retaining wall at the southwest corner of the building. A wood privy was attached to the rear elevation under the window (demolished probably in the 1950s). The rear deck was removed sometime before the 1980s. The basement double doors are in the center of the rear elevation. All of the openings have metal shutters similar to the façade. The upper door is currently blocked with plywood on the interior, but the original steel door is still used to access the new deck. There is a small splayed window at the basement level, which has steel bars. It was filled in with brick, probably in the late 1980s. A new rear deck and steps were built of wood in 2011.

Interior

The interior of the building has approximately 2,800 square feet of space divided evenly between the main floor and basement. The main floor was originally open to the rear with an access hole to the basement stairs and a small partitioned room at the back. In the early 1900s, the main floor was likely divided into two spaces with a billiards parlor in the front room. The current dividing wall dates from the 1970s, but the current owners plan to demolish this wall and build a new wall in the previous location ten feet to the south (rear). The owners will also repair and refinish the floors and wall surfaces, and refurbish the extant bar along the east wall. A stove and pipe are still intact in the room in the southwest corner.

The access to the basement stair ladder is in the southeast corner. There is also a trapdoor between the floors near the center of the room (circa 1880s, now blocked). The basement features a two-foot-thick stone wall dividing the space into north and south halves. The east portion of the dividing wall is missing or was not completed. A foot of open space is at the top of the west half. This stone wall has been retained as is. There is still some masonry repair work needed on the interior of the basement. Originally the basement ceiling height was lower at the north end of the space. In 2005, the north end was excavated to level the floor. A concrete retaining wall was poured along the interior of the north half in order to stabilize the stone walls. Because the south end had settled to the point where the basement door could not be opened, a central beam and support timbers were added to shore up the south end. The floors were dirt except where concrete had been poured over a 4 by 4-foot space under the barred window. With the exception of the concrete space under the window, the basement floor was poured with concrete in 2005. Between 2005 and 2011, the plumbing and electrical systems were upgraded. A septic tank was also installed on the property.

For its age, the Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store, built in 1874, has good historic integrity with only minor modifications that do not compromise the historic character of the simple building. The changes follow the historic pattern of constantly altering commercial buildings to meet the needs of the particular use of the property. As the only substantial stone building in Ophir, Utah, the Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store is a contributing historic resource of the community within the period of significance from 1874 to 1956.

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1874 to 1956

Significant Dates

1874, 1884, 1927

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Shelby Alfred Lineback: builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, 1874 to 1956, was chosen to coincide with the construction of the building and its subsequent commercial use.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph
(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store, built in 1874, is locally significant under Criteria A and C for its association with the development of Ophir, Utah. Under Criterion A in the area of Commerce, the building is particularly notable as one of the few extant commercial buildings that represent the town's efforts to transform from a boom-and-bust mining camp to a more stable community. Unlike many of Utah's mining towns of the early 1870s, particularly those in narrow canyons, Ophir was never completely abandoned. The building was originally built to house a general mercantile and a Wells Fargo office at the peak of mining activity in the canyon. Though the management of the store changed several times, the Lawrence brothers and their successors kept the building commercially viable, contributing to the stability of the town for over eight decades. The period of significance spans the initial construction in 1874 to the store's closure in 1956. The building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as the only substantial stone building constructed in Ophir and a rare surviving stone structure built in a Utah mining camp. The building has undergone minor modifications over the years, but retains the majority of elements from the original construction such as the granite stone masonry and operable iron door-window shutters. The building was constructed by Shelby Alfred Lineback, a former soldier and stone mason turned farmer. The Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store is currently undergoing a multi-phase rehabilitation and is a contributing historic resource in the community of Ophir, Utah.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Mining for precious metals in Utah began in 1862 when soldiers from Fort Douglas under the command of Colonel Patrick E. Connor staked claims in the canyons southeast and southwest of Salt Lake City. Many of the men were experienced prospectors from the California gold rush, and by the late 1860s numerous mining districts had been established in the Utah Territory, although mining did not become commercially successful in Utah until after the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. In 1865, the soldiers began exploring East Canyon (later Ophir Canyon) after reports that Native Americans had previously worked the area to make gold and silver trinkets, as well as silver and lead bullets.[2] A mining camp of canvas tents, log cabins, and whipsaw lumber shacks quickly grew parallel to Bates Creek (later Ophir Creek) as prospectors rushed to the canyon to stake claims. The Ophir Mining District was organized in 1870 with the name taken from the geographical location of King Solomon's mines.

More than 2,500 mining claims had been staked at Ophir by 1871. That year Ophir's population reached 1,200.[3] By the time a townsite plat was filed with Tooele County in April 1873, the town had a thriving commercial district along Main Street with stores, saloons, brothels, restaurants, a hotel, a post office, and a Methodist church. Most of the commercial buildings featured false fronts facing Main Street, the only road through the canyon. Residences were built on the two short streets that paralleled Main Street, east and west of the business district, and up and down both sides of the canyon. A Salt Lake City newspaper article published in April 1871 referred to the town as "Ophir City" and described it as "flourishing and rapidly increasing."[4] A town hall/firehouse was built around 1870. The false front wood building with a belfry is one of only three surviving

[2] Scott Crump, "The Oquirrh Mountains" in *Utah History Encyclopedia,* (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1994): 401.
[3] George A. Thompson, *Some Dreams Die – Utah's Ghost Towns and Lost Treasures*, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Roaming the West, 1991): 17.
[4] *Salt Lake Tribune,* April 15, 1871.

nineteenth-century mining camp town halls in Utah. The Ophir Town Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 (NRIS #83003193).[5]

The Lawrence Brothers & Co. General Merchandise was one of the first businesses in Ophir. Nelson Lawrence (1830-1877), the middle brother, was born in Pickering, Ontario, Canada, and immigrated to Utah in 1849. His older and younger brothers, James Lawrence (1828-1891) and Henry William Lawrence (1835-1924), and the remaining siblings came to Utah in 1850. The brothers were living in northern California at the time of the 1860 census and later returned to Utah with prospecting experience. All three worked in mercantile establishments in Salt Lake City. The brothers' first store in Ophir operated out of a tent until March 1871 when the brothers constructed a wood building. The rectangular building was sheathed vertical planks, a false front, and had a log lean-to at the rear. In October 1871, the *Salt Lake Tribune* described the state of commerce in Ophir: "Legitimate business is good, Lawrence Bros. [et al] have each a large stock of goods and are doing a good and safe business."[6] A year later, the newspaper noted: "The firm of Lawrence and Bros. is engaged in the grocery and miners outfitting trade."[7] Around the same time, the Wells Fargo Company had opened an office in Ophir and by March 1872, newspapers reported that "Packages are sent through daily from Corinne to Ophir."[8] It is uncertain when the partnership between the Lawrence brothers and the Wells Fargo Company was created, but the Utah Gazetteer of 1874 lists the two entities at the same location "on Main Street, below Cliff Street."

On December 17, 1873, James, Nelson, and Henry Lawrence were granted the deed to Lot 3, Block A of the Ophir City plat. In a letter to the *Salt Lake Herald,* an observer noted the stability and success of the business in 1873: "In the prosperity of my friend Lawrence Bros the merchant princes who have stayed by the camp and got well heeled by it."[9] In July 1874, Lawrence Bros. & Co. engaged a former soldier and stone mason, Alfred "Fred" Shelby Lineback, to construct a new building of native granite. In September 1874, the *Salt Lake Tribune* provided a description of the almost finished building:

> The new building of Lawrence Bro.'s [sic] is fast nearing completion and will be quite an addition to Ophir. The building is sixty feet in depth and twenty-six feet in width, with a cellar eight feet from floor to ceiling, and store room twelve feet in height, built of rock, and is perfectly fireproof. It will be occupied as a general merchandising establishment by this enterprising firm when completed.[10]

At its completion, the signboard on the stone building's false front advertised the following items available: dry goods, clothing, shoes, groceries, hardware, liquors, tobacco, and miner's tools. The stone building was a contrast to the wooden structures in town and boasted numerous security features in addition to the iron shutters on the doors and windows. The Wells Fargo Company express office was housed in the basement. The dividing rock wall in the basement may have been designed as space for a vault, but the purpose of the trapdoor directly south of the wall remains a mystery. The splayed window with bars was located near the basement entrance, possibly for a lookout guard. When the roof was replaced in 1987, it was discovered that the main-floor ceiling had a foot of sand on top of it. This may have been a security barrier, but could also have been used to keep a fire from moving from the roof to the interior of the building. The stone building was also reportedly used to secure post office deliveries.[11]

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[5] The other two examples are substantial brick structures in Park City and Eureka, Utah.
[6] *Salt Lake Tribune,* October 23, 1871.
[7] *Salt Lake Tribune,* April 24, 1872.
[8] *Corinne Daily Reporter,* March 1, 1872.
[9] *Salt Lake Herald,* December 4, 1873.
[10] *Salt Lake Tribune,* September 5, 1874.
[11] Stephen L. Carr, *The Historical Guide of Utah Ghost Towns*, (Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1972): 21. By the 1900s, the post office was located in the building east of the Lawrence Bros. store.

The city directories show that all three Lawrence brothers maintained residences in Salt Lake City. Henry W. Lawrence ran his own grocery and provisions company in Salt Lake City. He was married to Jeanette Sophia Kimball (1842-1911), had a large family, and stayed in Salt Lake City until his death in 1924. James Lawrence never married. He moved to Park City where he managed a grocery business until his death in 1891. Nelson Lawrence, the middle brother, was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Ophir store until his death in 1877. His widow, Julia Delecta Young Lawrence (1848-1938), appears to have kept the business going for a few years. The 1879 Utah Gazetteer lists the Lawrence Bros. & Co. general merchandise still in business with J. D. Lawrence as the purveyor of liquors. Julia D. Lawrence continued to live in Salt Lake City with her two sons, Nelson and William. The deed to the property was transferred to Julia and her sons in 1892. The family moved to California in the late 1890s, but held the title to the property until 1927.

In 1874, the Utah Gazetteer had 119 business listings for the town, which it described as the "business centre" of the Ophir Mining District. The Lawrence Bros. & Co. Store was one out of ten listings under the heading for general merchandise. It is estimated that during its peak in the early 1870s, the Ophir mines produced $13 million in silver, lead, and zinc, and over $300,000 in gold.[12] There are reports that suggest the population of the town may have swelled to between 5,000 and 6,000 people at one point during the early 1870s, but the output of the mines decreased dramatically soon after the Lawrence brothers completed their stone building. Only five years later, the 1879 Utah Gazetteer provides only seven business listings, while stating "Ophir was once a busy mining camp but is now almost deserted."[13] In 1879, the Lawrence Bros. & Co. store was the only general merchandise establishment still in operation. The office of the Wells Fargo Company is not among the remaining Ophir businesses. Despite the downturn, there were signs the town was not completely abandoned. For example, Catholic mass was held monthly between 1874 and 1878.[14]

A number of renters kept a mercantile business in the stone building after the death of Nelson Lawrence. Joseph Green (1820-?) held an interest in the property between 1878 and 1881 and is listed as a grocer on the 1880 census. He does not appear to have operated the business under his own name. Around 1881, John Faunce (1832-1907) began operating a general store in the stone building. George E. Edwards (1870-1948) took over the lease on the building probably around the time he moved to Ophir in 1898. He eventually constructed a new frame building for his own mercantile business across the street sometime before 1907 (now demolished). The Ophir Mercantile Company began operating out of the stone building when Edwards left. In September 1907, the *Salt Lake Mining Review* described the two rival companies:

> The camp (of Ophir) boasts the usual number of saloons, two hotels and two general stores. The leading business house is the Ophir Mercantile Company, which carries a most complete line of general utilities. At the head of this institution are E.W. Clark, H. A. Wagner, H. J. Green and C.E. Green, who are among the leading and most progressive citizens. Mr. Edwards conducts the other mercantile establishment and also has charge of the leading hotel in the camp.[15]

From the 1920s to his death in 1948, George E. Edwards operated the only general store in Ophir. The 1917 Sanborn fire insurance map of the town indicates the former Lawrence Brothers building was a drugstore, confectionary, and billiards hall. On September 12, 1927, Julia D. Lawrence and Nelson W. Lawrence sold the

[12] Ibid. See also *Some Dreams Die, Utah Ghost Towns and Lost Treasures* by George A Thompson (Miller. 1990): 366-367 and the *Salt Lake Mining Review,* September 15, 1907.
[13] *Salt Lake City Directory and Utah Gazetteer*, published by H.L.A. Culmer, 1879: 380.
[14] Ouida Blanthorn, *A History of Tooele, County*, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah State Historical Society, 1998): 181.
[15] *Salt Lake Mining Review,* September 15, 1907: 18. E.W. Clark was also superintendent of the Ophir Hill Consolidated Mine and C.E. Green was the manager of the electrical department of the Ophir Hill Consolidated Mine.

store and property to Peter Morzenti.[16] Peter Morzenti (1882-1943) emigrated from Italy to Utah in 1910. He is listed as a grocer in Ophir on the 1930 census, a carpenter on the 1940 census, and the proprietor of a "beer parlor" on his 1943 death certificate. The property was later sold to Truman W. Wheeler and Richard R. Wray, who held the deed only two years before selling to John S. and Concetta Morrell in 1948. John S. Morrell (1885-1975) operated a "soft drink lounge" in the old stone building; however, it was known to local residents as the "beer hall."[17] The Morrells deeded the property to their children on April 18, 1956, after which time the building remained vacant.

By the time Steven S. Hall purchased the property in 1982, most of the surrounding buildings had been demolished. After completing some work on the interior, Steven S. Hall sold the building to Hal D. Hawkins and Connie H. LeFevre in 1986. They replaced the roof, began work to stabilize the basement, installed a septic tank, and completed plumbing and electrical work. On October 15, 2001, Hal D. Hawkins and Connie H. LeFevre sold the partially renovated building to the current owners, James T. O'Rourke and Lora Hawkins O'Rourke, Hal's sister and brother-in-law. The O'Rourke family has continued the work of rehabilitating the building.

The historical significance of the Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store is in the area of Commerce, representing a source of economic stability to the community of Ophir. Historians have pointed to three distinct phases of development in most mining communities: settlement, camp, and town.[18] By the year 1870, Ophir had already moved from the settlement phase to the camp phase. The construction of the town hall marked the beginning of the town phase. The substantial stone building of the Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store also represents the initial efforts to create a more permanent and stable town. Though the town phase was interrupted by a dramatic fall in silver prices in the late 1870s, the stone building outlasted most of its more ephemeral counterparts as Ophir entered the twentieth century. In 1907, the *Salt Lake City Mining Review* described the survival and subsequent revival of Ophir with the advent of more modern mining equipment and a large influx of capitol in the early 1900s:

> A noticeable feature in the town is the absence of the down-and-out spirit that is so prevalent among camps of the "has-been" type. It is encouraging to get in a mining town like Ophir, where every citizen has the progressive habit of boosting. One is infected with this enthusiasm upon first entering the camp, and begins to feel that Ophir is the only town in Utah.[19]

The town of Ophir has never been completely deserted and the spirit of "boosting" remains. Many current residents refuse to accept the label of "ghost town" used by outsiders. The significance of the Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store is in its contribution to the commercial and economic viability of the town through the entire historic period.

Architecture Significance

The Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store in Ophir, built in 1874, is architecturally significant as a rare example of substantial stone architecture in a Utah mining camp. Although the Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store has been modified over time, the modifications do not greatly impact its historic character as a mining camp-era stone

[16] Peter Morzenti's name is also found with the variant Morsenti in historic records. Daniel S. Peters, who held a half interest in the property since 1896, sold his half to Nelson W. Lawrence in 1926. No record of Daniel S. Peters can be found in Utah. He was likely an out-of-state investor in the property, possibly from California where the Lawrence family had moved.
[17] Tooele County Daughters of Utah Pioneers. *History of Tooele County,* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Publishers Press, 1961): 380.

[18] C. Eric Stoeher, *Bonaza Victorian: Architecture and Society in Colorado Mining Towns,* (Albuquerque, New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press, 1975): 10-12.
[19] *Salt Lake Mining Review,* September 15, 1907: 18.

structure. They also follow the pattern typical of many commercial buildings in the alteration of the structure to meet the needs of the current tenant. The surviving physical characteristics of the building meet six of out seven of the National Register of Historic Places qualities of historic integrity: location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The integrity of the original design (seventh quality) of the building has been compromised by the removal of the false front signboard, an important element of mining camp architecture. However, the false front was removed within the historic period and therefore part of the architectural evolution of the building as it is associated with the historical development of Ophir. The extended replacement roof line is a minor modification to the original design and will likely protect the integrity of the stone masonry (workmanship and materials) in the future.

The vast majority of buildings erected in Utah's nineteenth century mining camps were made of wood. The residences were mostly log cabins or plank shacks, while the commercial buildings were usually frame with a simple gable roof and a false front. False front architecture, where the façade was extended above the apex of the roof or beyond the side walls, was used in Utah mining camps to give the impression of a much larger, more substantial structure and increase signage.[20] Only a few mining camps lasted long enough to see dramatic changes in the physical environment during the transformation from camp to town. In contrast to the small towns of the Mormon pioneer settlements, there were no incentives to build permanent structures and to invest in adobe and brick yards.[21] The stone quarries needed to support stone architecture were even rarer. The only comparable stone building is located in the southern Utah mining camp of Silver Reef, where in 1877 the Wells Fargo and Company built an express office of red sandstone with metal shutters similar to the Ophir building.[22]

The Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store was constructed in the isolated canyon mining camp of Ophir by a local builder, Fred Lineback. Alfred "Fred" Shelby Lineback (1830-1914), a soldier discharged from the army at Camp Floyd in Cedar Valley in 1861, is believed to have been the first man of European descent to settle in Ophir. A deep basin boxed in by steep walls, once a natural grazing area for horses, Lineback Hollow, bears his name today.[23] Fred Lineback was born in Kentucky and was a stone and brick mason before moving to Utah as a soldier. He returned to Iowa for his family and later established a farm in Ophir Canyon where he remained the rest of his life. He is listed in the 1874 gazetteer as a lime burner and on the 1880 census as brick mason. In later years, he gave his occupation as farmer. The Lawrence building may have been one of the few chances Lineback had to use his skill as a stone mason in Utah. The granite from a local canyon would have been difficult to quarry and tool into smooth blocks. The 1917 Sanborn map show only three stone buildings in Ophir, two dwellings and the store. One of the dwellings has survived, but the other was demolished after 1940. It is not known whether Fred Lineback was involved with the construction of the other buildings. In spite of some alteration the building retains enough historical integrity in concert with its historical and architectural significance to be considered a contributing historic building in the mining community of Ophir.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

[20] The Ophir Town Hall (NRIS # 83003193) is the best surviving example of false front wood architecture from the Ophir mining camp era.
[21] Park City, which had a number of fine brick buildings along its Main Street by the 1880s, had only two stone commercial buildings (one was destroyed by fire in 1898 and the other was demolished sometime before 1985). Smaller mining camps such as Bingham or Mammoth had no stone buildings. Eureka had a few stone outbuildings, but no substantial structures.
[22] Built three years after the Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store, the express office in Silver Reef features much more refined stone masonry expressed in tooled and coursed ashlar blocks on the façade. The façade also features an arcade of four openings with keystones, but no false front. The unknown builders may have been experienced stone masons from the nearby community of St. George. The Wells Fargo and Company Express Building in Silver Reef was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 (NRIS #71000861).
[23] Blanthorn: 125.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Blanthorn, Ouida. *A History of Tooele, County*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah State Historical Society and Tooele County Commission, 1998.

Crump, Scott. "The Oquirrh Mountains." In *Utah History Encyclopedia.* Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1994: 401-402.

Carr, Stephen L. *The Historical Guide to Utah Ghost Towns.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Western Epics. 1972.

Daily Corrine Reporter May 30, 1871, and *Daily Utah Reporter*, February 26, 1871; March 1, 1872.

Miller, Orrin P. *History of Tooele County*. Vol. II. Tooele, Utah: Tooele Transcript Bulletin, 1990.

Notarianni, Phil. *Ophir Town Hall.* National Register of Historic Places Registration form, 1982.

O'Rourke, James. *Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store.* National Register of Historic Places Registration form, draft 2013. See also James O'Rourke's photograph collection and research notes.

Salt Lake Mining Review. September 15, 1907.

Salt Lake Tribune. October 18, 1871; April 24, 1872; September 3, 1874; July 23, 1875.

Thompson, George A. *Some Dreams Die – Utah's Ghost Towns and Lost Treasures*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Roaming the West, 1991.

Tooele County Daughters of Utah Pioneers. *History of Tooele County*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Publishers Press, 1961.

Utah Gazetteer and Salt Lake City Directory. Sloan, Culmer, and R.L. Polk publishers, 1867-1890.

United States Census Enumerations, Ophir, Tooele County, Utah, 1850-1940.

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:

_x_State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store
Name of Property

Tooele County, Utah
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.09 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 40.369321 Longitude: -112.256386

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See Plat of Ophir, Tooele County, Utah prepared in 1873. The building is on Lot 3 of Block A (BA) situated on the south side of Main Street midway between Cliff Street on the west and Union Street on the east. It is a 75" by 50" lot 0.09 acres in size currently owned by James T. and Lora H. O'Rourke as shown in the Plat Maps of Tooele County, Utah in Book 1, Page 144. It is located in Section 23, T5S, R4W.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the nomination is the historic and current legal parcel boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	James T. O'Rourke, Ph.D. & Korral Broschinsky		
organization	RuJoDen Ranch	date	August 8, 2013
street & number	61 Country Club Road	telephone	308-432-5954
city or town	Chadron	state NE	zip code 69337
e-mail	rujoden@bbcwb.net		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store

City or Vicinity: Ophir

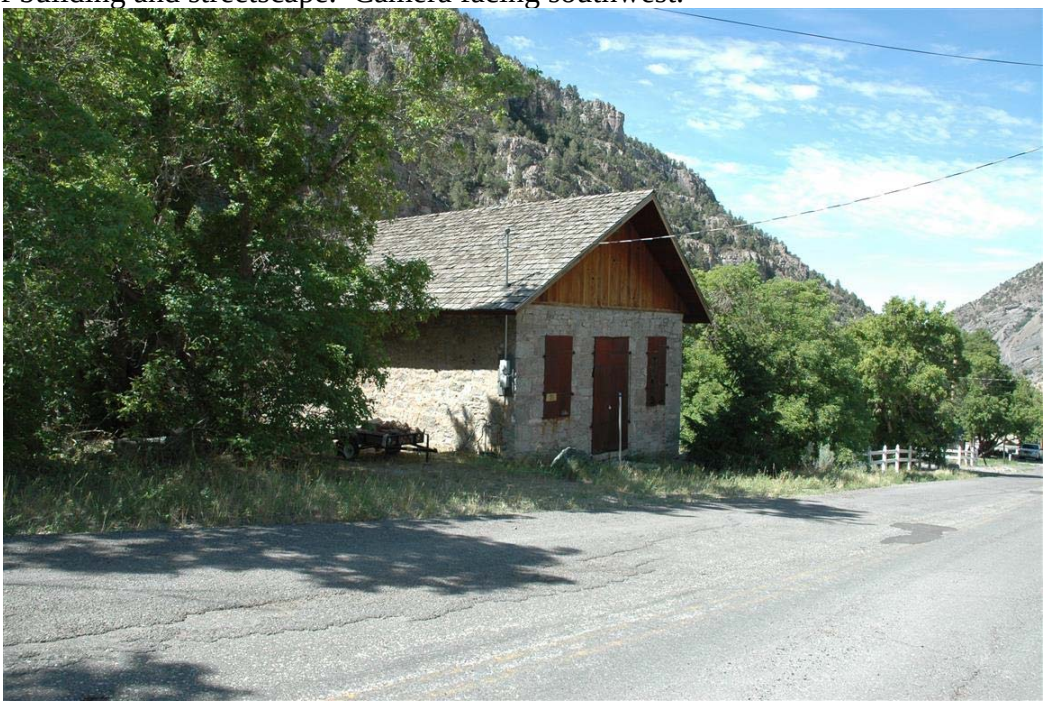
County: Tooele State: Utah

Photographer: Korral Broschinsky

Date Photographed: July 23, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photograph 1 of 12.
View of building and streetscape. Camera facing southwest.

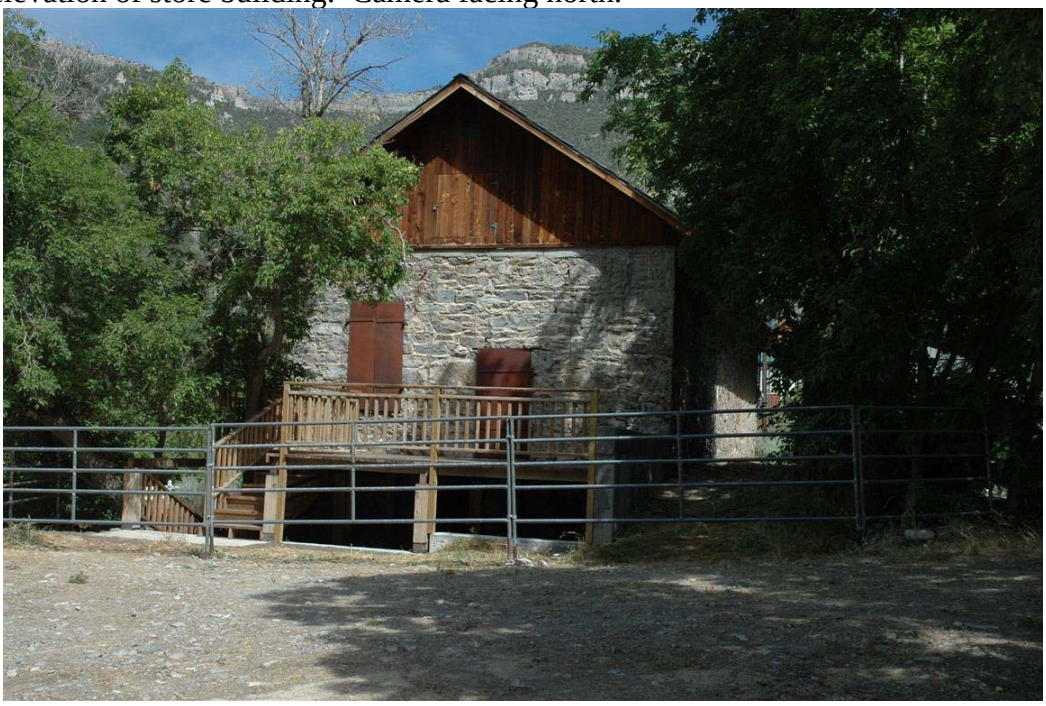


Photograph 2 of 12.
North and east elevations of store building. Camera facing southwest.

Photograph 3 of 12.
North and west elevations of store building. Camera facing south.

Photograph 4 of 12.
West elevation of store building. Camera facing east.

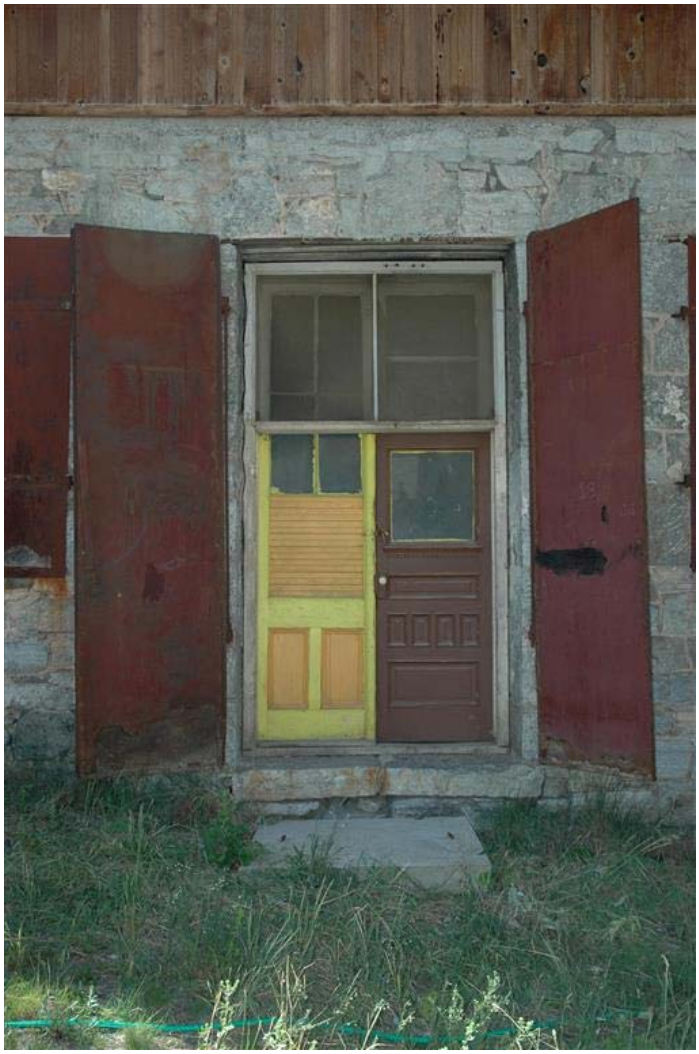
Photograph 5 of 12.
South elevation of store building. Camera facing north.



Photograph 6 of 12.
South elevation of store building, basement entrance. Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 7 of 12.
South elevation of store building, shutter detail. Camera facing north.

Photograph 8 of 12.
North elevation of store building, entrance detail. Camera facing south.



Photograph 9 of 12.
Interior, main floor. Camera facing south.

Photograph 10 of 12.
Interior, basement, entrance. Camera facing southwest.

Photograph 11 of 12.
Interior, basement, dividing rock wall. Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 12 of 12.
North and west elevations of non-contributing garage. Camera facing south.

Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store
Name of Property

Tooele County, Utah
County and State

Property Owner:

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

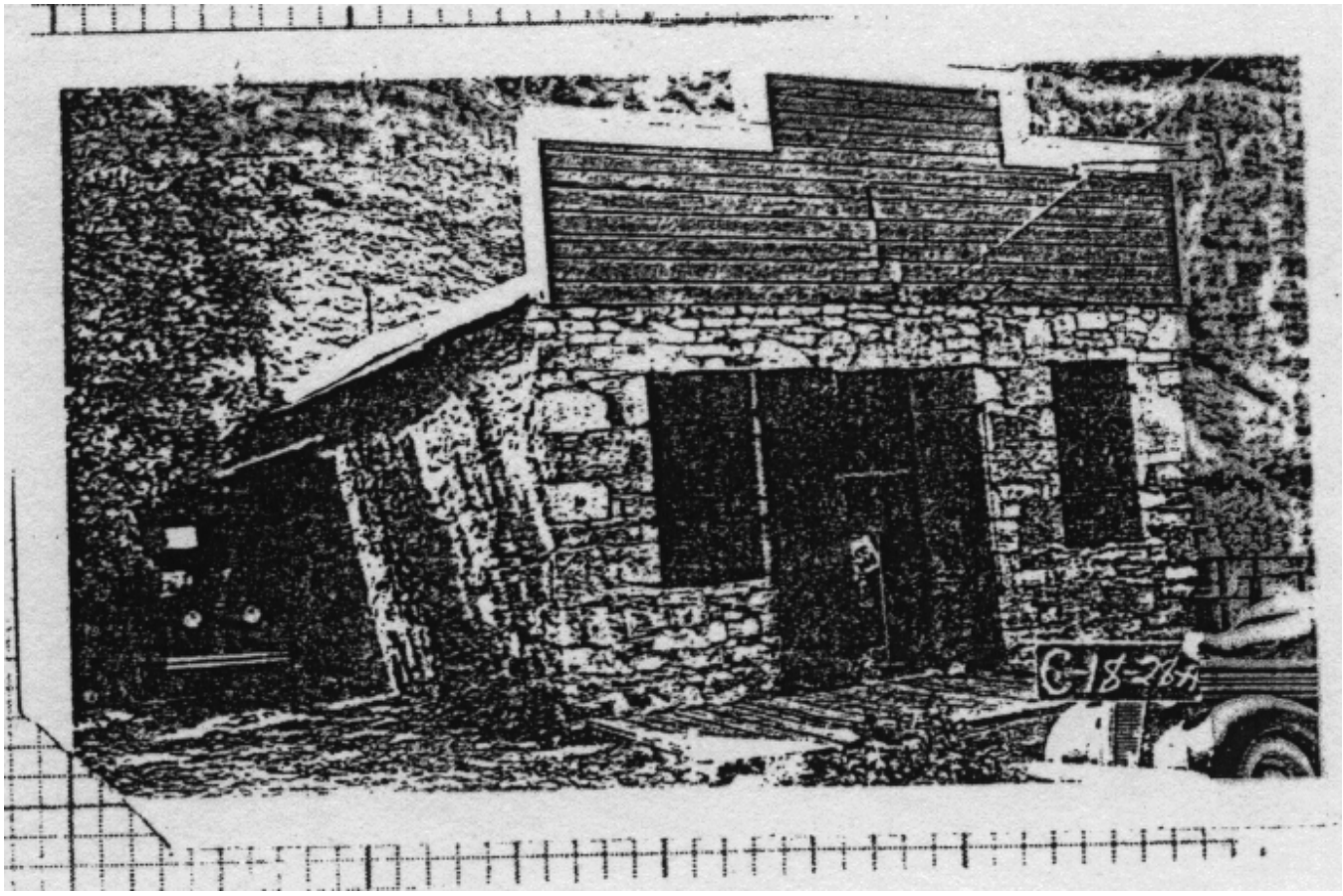
name	James T. and Lora H. O'Rourke		
street & number	61 Country Club Road	telephone	308-432-5954
city or town	Chadron	state NE	zip code 69337

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 18 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.

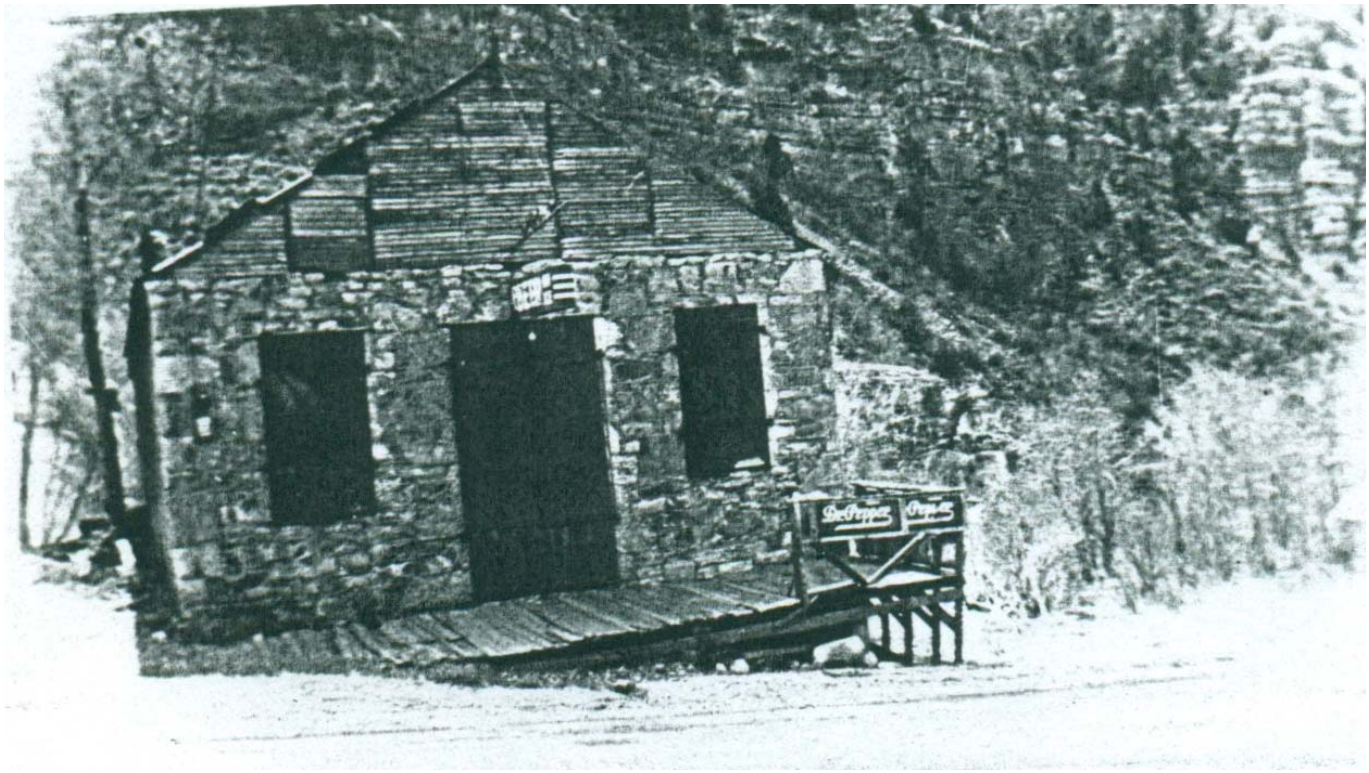
Sometime before 1890s, showing full parapet sign on storefront

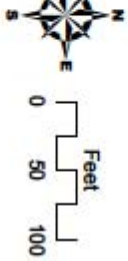
Sometime after 1890s, showing stepped sign on storefront

Circa 1930s Tax Assessment Photo



Circa 1940s with Signboard Removed





Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store
35 West Main Street
Ophir, Tooele County, Utah

Latitude: 40.369321°
Longitude: -112.256386°

HRO:2006 Aerial Photograph
courtesy Utah AGRC

Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store
35 West Main Street
Ophir, Tooele County, Utah

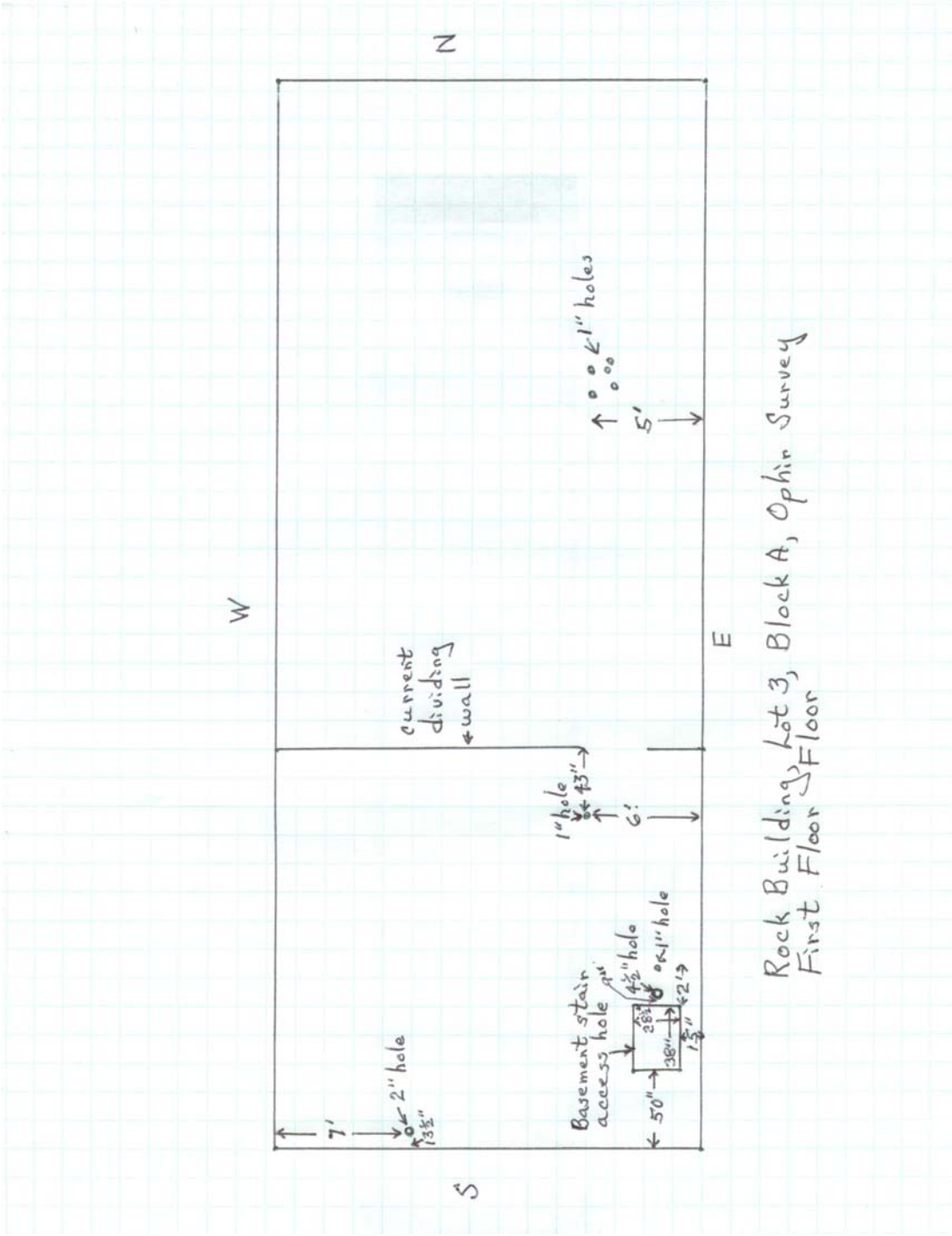
Latitude: 40.369321°
Longitude: -112.256386°

HRO2006 Aerial Photograph
courtesy Utah AGRC

Feet
0 25 50

N W E S

Main Floor Plan (drawn by James O'Rourke)



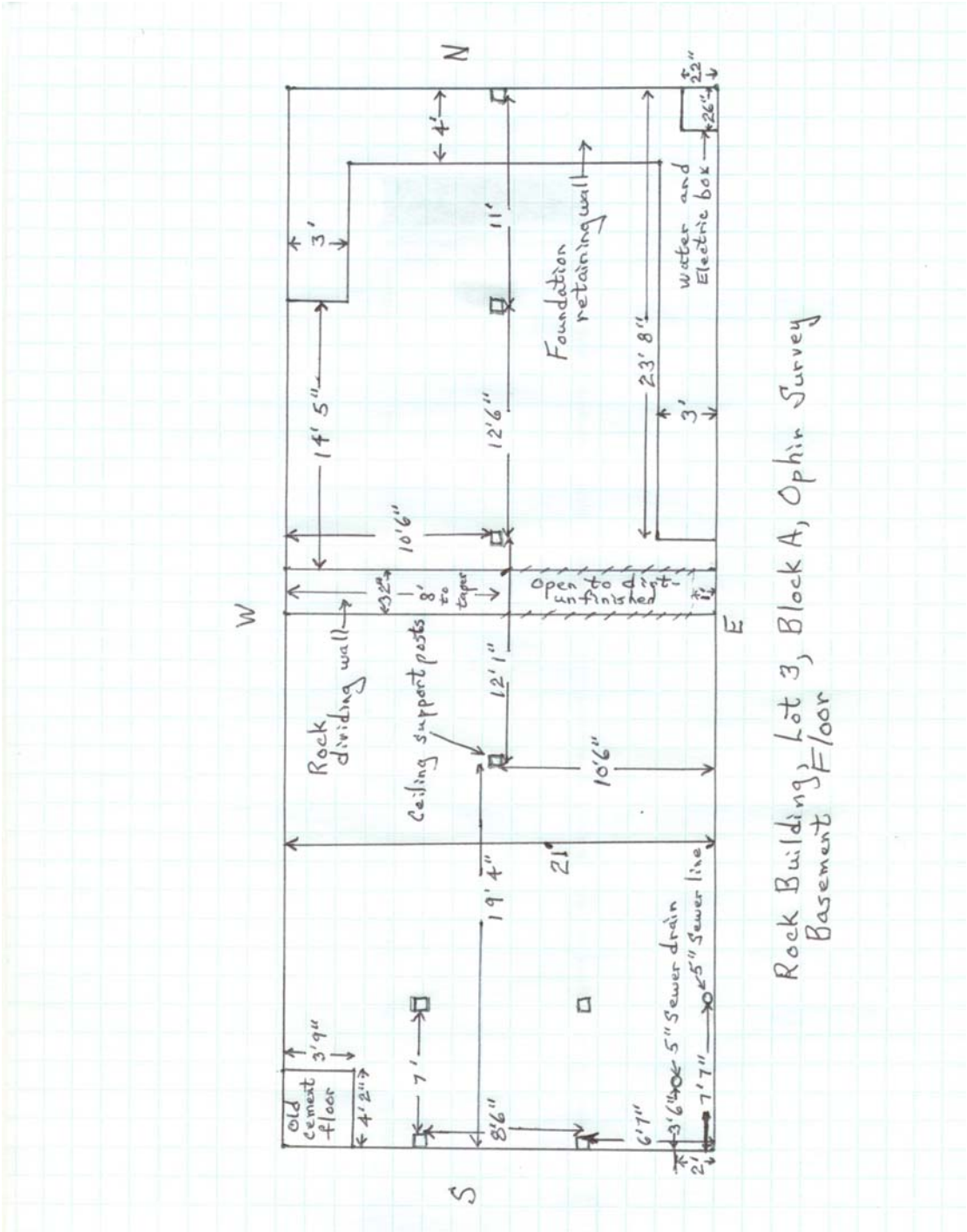
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lawrence Brothers & Co. Store
Name of Property
Tooele County, Utah
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps/Drawings Page 30

Basement Floor Plan



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