A History and Cultural Resource Site Recordation of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement

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Plan B Thesis Project:

A History and Cultural Resource Site Recordation of

Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement

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PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of this project was to complete an intensive level cultural resource inventory of the historic property known as Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement (Home of Truth). The goal of an intensive level inventory is to identify, record, and determine the extent and significance of a particular historic property. In order to meet these criteria, the site and associated individual features must be thoroughly documented through description, mapping, and photography. In addition to working with the on the ground, physical characteristics of the site, documentary research must be conducted in order to provide a historic context within which the property may be better understood. An evaluation of the significance of the property at the local, state, and federal levels can then be made based upon the sum total of the data collected. Based upon these data a recommendation of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is made.

Historic properties are evaluated for eligibility to the NRHP based upon age and integrity as well as upon selected criteria of the National Register. Following are the criteria followed in determining the eligibility of properties (from 36 CFR 60.4):

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

(a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

(b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
(c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

(d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The Home of Truth is a unique and relatively unknown historic property within the State of Utah. I chose this particular site for my Plan B Project based upon both its uniqueness and its potential historic significance. The Home of Truth is a 1930s era historic property that has, until recently, been overlooked by historians and archaeologists alike. There are very few qualified historic archaeologists within the State of Utah. As a result, sites such as the Home of Truth are often poorly recorded or ignored altogether. In cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), and Sagebrush Consultants, I was afforded the opportunity to complete a more in-depth study of the Home of Truth than would be typical for completion of a standard cultural resource site record.

LOCATION

The Home of Truth is located in San Juan County, Utah on lands administered by private landowners, the BLM, and the SITLA in Dry Valley. The land is located in T. 31S., R. 23E., S. 23, 26, 27, and 28 on USGS 7.5' Quadrangles Church Rock (P.E. 1987a) and Photograph Gap (P.E. 1987b)(Figure 1). The Home of Truth consists of three areas of focus, spanning a distance of three miles, and covering approximately 360 acres of land.
Figure 1. Location of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement within the State of Utah.
METHODS

The Home of Truth was recorded on the Intermountain Antiquities Computer System (IMACS) site form (Attached). Color 35mm photographs were taken of the site and each individual associated feature. The site datum was marked with an aluminum cap placed on a steel rebar embedded in the ground within the site boundary. The aluminum datum cap protrudes from the ground surface approximately five inches and is stamped with the numerical site designation 42Sa22681. A Trimble GeoExplorer III GPS unit was utilized to collect and generate site mapping and recordation data using the North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27). Additional feature and floor plan mapping was completed by hand with compass and measuring tape. Initial documentary research was conducted at the Utah Division of State History, Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Division of State History Library, Salt Lake City. Additional archival research was conducted in the Special Collections of the Stewart Library, Weber State University; the Monticello Public Library; the Dan O’Laurie Museum, Moab; General Land Office (GLO) Records located in the Public Room of the BLM Utah State Office, Salt Lake City; the BLM, Monticello Field Office; and various newspapers available via the Internet.

ENVIRONMENT

The Home of Truth is located in the southern portion of Dry Valley, which is bounded by a series of tablelands and mesas dissected by Hatch Wash and Lightning Draw in San Juan County, Utah (Figure 2). The elevation of the area ranges from 6080 to 6440 feet a.s.l. There are several large sandstone mesas within the valley bottom, including Church Rock, Sugar Loaf
Figure 2. Location of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement within Dry Valley. Taken from Delorme's 1:250,000 Utah Atlas & Gazetteer (2000). Scale: 1 inch represents 4 miles.
Rock, George Rock, and The Gap. Sediments range from fine to medium residual sands surrounded by areas of exposed bedrock. Vegetation in the area covers between two and 30 percent of the ground surface and consists primarily of sagebrush and grassland community species including big sagebrush, bunch grass, ephedra, blackbrush, prickly pear cactus, barrel cactus, rabbit brush, bitter brush, cheat grass, and other assorted grasses. Juniper and sagebrush community species are present at higher elevations, and thick greasewood and willow line the larger washes. The nearest significant permanent water source is the Colorado River, located more than 38 miles to the west. Several seeps and springs are located throughout the region and opportunistic water gathering locations in sandstone catch basins are available seasonally. Numerous arroyos, washes, and ephemeral drainages are present within Dry Valley.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: SAN JUAN COUNTY AND DRY VALLEY

San Juan County, located in the southeastern corner of the State of Utah, constitutes the northwestern portion of the four-corners region. Bounded on the west by the Colorado River, and Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona to the east, southeast, and south respectively, San Juan County is Utah’s gateway to the southwest. Dry Valley is located in northeastern San Juan County, on the east side of the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park, between Moab and Monticello, Utah.

San Juan County

Exploration of southeastern Utah, and San Juan County initially came in the form of trappers and traders from New Mexico. In 1765, Juan Maria de Rivera led the first known trading expedition into southeastern Utah, reaching the Colorado River near present day Moab,
Utah (Pierson 1980:75-79). As trapping and trade networks spread northwest out of New Mexico, a series of trails were established that later became uniformly known as the Old Spanish Trail (Pierson 1980:75-79).

The Spanish Trail was not a single route but had various branches. The main route, which followed the Dolores River Canyon in present day Colorado, was established by the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition in 1776 (Pierson 1980:79). The primary route is long and meandering, with a major loop through southeastern Utah, extending north into the central portion of the state (Horn, Reed, and Chandler 1994:149). Minor variations to the primary route consisted of short cuts or diversions to fresh water (Pierson 1980:79). One of these branches traversed through Dry Valley to the location of what is now known as Harts Spring (Hafen and Hafen 1954:2-7; Pierson 1980:79).

By the 1820s, Euro-American trappers and traders began to frequent the region. Trappers Antoine Robidoux and Etienne Provost were among the first in the area (Horn, Reed, and Chandler 1994:149). Over time, trade grew and expanded in Utah (Pierson 1980:75-79). During the mid 1800s, the United States Government became interested in exploring the newly acquired territory of Utah. The first government-sponsored exploration parties were led by John C. Fremont for the U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers in 1843 and 1845 (Horn, Reed, and Chandler 1994:149). In 1859, Captain John M. Macomb left Santa Fe, New Mexico, to seek the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers. Macomb followed the Old Spanish Trail to Dry Valley and camped at the location of Harts Spring. On his return to Santa Fe, Macomb traveled through Peters Canyon and on to the San Juan River (Pierson 1980:78-79). Between
1830 and 1860, the Spanish Trail served as a primary immigration route between Santa Fe, New Mexico and Los Angeles, California (Hafen and Hafen 1954; Pierson 1980:79).

The Elk Mountain Mission, the first attempt at Mormon settlement in southeastern Utah, was established in 1855 at present day Moab (Firmage 1996:79). Mormon leader John Taylor encouraged Mormon settlement in southeastern Utah as a means to “deprive a white outlaw element of a refuge from the law, and expand Mormon control into the area” (McPherson 1995:97). The missionaries constructed an adobe and stone fort, and planted crops. Although relations with the Utes were initially good, conflict had erupted by September of that same year and the Mormons abandoned the settlement (Tanner 1976:60-61).

During the 1870s, a number of settlers and ranchers attempted to establish homesteads in the area, including a few who chose to occupy the abandoned Elk Mountain Mission Fort. This new disparate group of settlers was variously engaged in prospecting, ranching, and limited agriculture. The ranchers were attracted to the area’s unrestricted grazing and the fact that their cattle would be tax free (Perkins et al. 1968:279). Starting in 1877, several small cattle and homesteading outfits were using the resources of the La Sal Mountains; however, by 1880, the truly large cattle companies arrived, buying out many of the smaller herds and dominating the resources. The Pittsburgh Cattle Company, after buying out the herds belonging to the earlier ranchers on the La Sals, ran thousands of cattle in the mountains and in Dry Valley, a favored winter range (McPherson 1995:172).

Although the first cattle raised in the area grazed unrestricted and tax free, the laws concerning grazing and tax exemption changed in 1880 when the boundaries of San Juan County were established (McPherson 1995:172). Cattle ranching was the first profitable industry in the
area, followed closely by sheep herding, while the few farming homesteaders supplied food for the ranches and their hired help (Perkins et al. 1968:279). In 1883, the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad (D&RGW) established a railhead at Thompson Springs, 35 miles north of Moab, Utah. The railhead at Thompson quickly became an important transportation and shipping point for the stockmen of Grand and San Juan Counties as cattle could be shipped by rail from Thompson directly to the stockyards in Kansas City. Ready access to the railroad made it feasible for ranchers to make a living on this otherwise desolate desert (Barnes 1991:24).

During the latter part of the 1800s, sheep became the preferred livestock on Western grazing lands. Owing to their more migratory nature, sheep were found to be better suited to the sparse resources of the desert region than were cattle. Most of the cattle operations had begun running at least a few sheep by the mid-1890s, and by 1897, sheep had become the dominant livestock on the range. The Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad began catering to the sheep men by providing corrals and wood warehouses at Thompson, Cisco, and other locations along its line (Peterson 1975).

During the early years stockmen had overwhelming political control of San Juan County. According to Perkins et al. (1968:280), cattle and sheep roamed everywhere across the county. In 1892, natural predators were killing so many cattle and sheep that the county placed a five-dollar bounty on bears and mountain lions, and a one dollar bounty on lynx, grey wolves, bobcats, and coyotes. A five-cent bounty was placed on prairie dogs to insure safety for grazing livestock and less damage to crops. Numerous trappers were attracted by the more than generous bounties and were most helpful in ridding the county of its predators. Also starting in 1892, as cattle and sheep ranching expanded in the west, the county began to require the purchase of
grazing permits. Drought and various other factors (i.e. changes in the market, introduction of drought-resistant crops, and increases in size of homesteader land grants) led to an exodus of cattle ranchers and cattle from the area during the late 1890s, thereby ending the dominance of ranching in the county. It was at this time that homesteading predominated in San Juan County (Perkins et al. 1968:280-281).

Monticello, the San Juan County seat, was established by Mormon settlers beginning in 1887. Despite tensions over water rights with cattle ranchers, the Mormons established the town of Monticello, named in honor of the estate of Thomas Jefferson (McPherson 1994:373). Homesteading in the area went through four periods of activity. From 1880 to 1909, homesteads were restricted to 160 acres, these homesteads were very isolated and primarily served as centers of operation for cattlemen (Frost 1991:3). After 1909 the size of land granted to a homesteader was increased to 320 acres through the Enlarged Homestead Act (McPherson 1994:373-373; Frost 1991:3). This increase in available acreage encouraged farmers to settle and attempt to raise wheat on the marginal desert lands. From 1910 to 1920 homesteads boomed in San Juan County. Government reports described the area as having a favorable climate for farming in hope that homesteaders would be encouraged, despite the fact that the area remained isolated due to a lack of roads (Roring 1991:6). In 1916, the Stockraising Homestead Act “increased the size of the homestead to 640 acres for grazing of livestock in those arid western areas where farming could not support the homesteader” (Osborn 1995:8). This increase in land, available to those raising livestock, encouraged continued use of large tracts of land in San Juan County as winter range. Between 1921 and 1937, as wheat prices dropped during the Great Depression, farmers were unable to make a living in San Juan County, and many homesteads were abandoned (Frost
Following the end of the Great Depression, and the beginning of World War II (WWII), the price of wheat was on the rise. The introduction of mechanized farming and new farming techniques led to re-occupancy of many abandoned homesteads and the ability to farm larger areas with the same expenditure of labor. Since 1960, many homesteads have been once again abandoned due to lack of precipitation and “restrictions caused by wheat allotment” (Frost 1991:4).

Mining was to eventually replaced farming as the major industry in San Juan County. In 1898, Pierre and Marie Curie isolated the radioactive element radium. At that time, the mineral carnotite was found to contain radium, uranium, and vanadium (Ringholz 1994:582). Carnotite naturally occurs in southeastern Utah and was used as a body paint by early Navajo and Ute peoples on the Colorado Plateau. The discovery of carnotite deposits led to a small pre-WWI radium mining boom in southeastern Utah. With the discovery of the value of vanadium in the manufacture of steel, the number of mining claims in San Juan County increased rapidly (Osborn 1995:13). Vanadium was used as a hardening agent during the manufacture of steel. By adding vanadium to the alloy, elasticity and tensile strength were greatly increased, making stronger steel (Ringholz 1994:583). The demand for steel during WWI made vanadium mining an extremely profitable venture. With the end of WWI, and the beginning of the Great Depression, the mining boom in southeastern Utah came to an end.

In the late 1930s, a second mining boom occurred in the four corners region. With the beginning of WWII, the worldwide need for vanadium steel in the war effort resuscitated the dying mining industry of the Colorado Plateau (Osborn 1995:13). The Vanadium Corporation of American (VCA) opened a vanadium processing mill in Monticello during WWII. Following the
end of WWII, the second vanadium boom came to an end. In 1946, after the end of WWII, the VCA plant closed (McPherson 1994:373).

From 1933 to 1942, San Juan County enjoyed the benefits of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal policy. The CCC brought hundreds of people to San Juan County. “Building roads, fences, corrals, flood-control projects, and emplacing culverts, telephone lines, and campgrounds were just some of the tasks performed by the men stationed in Dry Valley, Indian Creek, Blanding, and Monticello and on the La Sals” (McPherson 1995:224).

During WWII uranium became the “most strategically important mineral in the world” (Osborn 1995:13). With the development of the atomic bomb the world had taken its first step into the atomic age. As a result, uranium ore, previously ignored by miners, was in high demand. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was created to oversee the production and distribution of uranium in the United States. During the Cold War the manufacture of nuclear weaponry required production of large quantities of refined uranium (Osborn 1995:14). Charles Steen built the Uranium Reduction Mill (later Atlas Minerals) in 1956 just southeast of Moab, and by 1959, Moab had become known as the “Uranium Capital of the World” (Ringholz 1994:583). In 1957, the AEC announced that the supply of the mineral had reached a saturation point (Tanner 1976:221). The federal program to assist in the development of new mines ceased in the late 1950s, but the government continued to purchase uranium through the 1960s (Horn, Reed, and Chandler 1994:190). The uranium mining boom abruptly ended in 1970 when the government stockpile exceeded projected need (Ringholz 1994:583).
San Juan County still relies heavily on the livestock and farming industry. Although the
days of open range and homesteading are long past, “the county is still dependent on land for its
economic survival” (McPherson 1995:189). Today, ever increasing tourism and recreational use
play an important role in the economy of the county (McPherson 1994:373).

**Dry Valley**

Dry Valley, located in the central portion of northeast San Juan County, lies at the eastern
gateway into the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. A relatively barren desert
region located 14 miles north of Monticello, Utah, Dry Valley has a brief, yet unique and
interesting history.

The history of the valley has revolved almost exclusively around exploration,
transportation, and ranching. Beginning with the Spanish Trail and continuing through the turn­
of-the-century, the valley was traversed by the trails of several early explorers and trappers.

Historically, habitation within the valley has been sparse. Several small ranches along with the
Dry Valley Camp of the CCC occupied the area for short periods of time. The only sustained
occupation within Dry Valley itself was a religious settlement known as Ogden Center and the
Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement. The former settlement at Ogden Center, located in the
heart of Dry Valley, is well known within the region. Prior to the establishment of the Ogden
Center community, early historic records concerning Dry Valley are sparse and the area is not
well represented in the historic record. Since first settlement in the region by early pioneers, the
primary use of Dry Valley has been as winter range for livestock.
Transportation routes through Dry Valley included some of the earliest in the State of Utah. As previously discussed, Dry Valley was crossed by many early explorers and is located along the primary route believed to have been the Spanish Trail. Initially, the Spanish Trail crossed the valley leading north toward the Colorado and Green Rivers. In later years, this general route became that used by trappers, and the settlers who eventually followed. The locations of early trails and roads were limited by the necessity for access to water. As a result, most early routes traveled between existing springs where water was known to be readily available. Prior to the 1883 arrival of the railroad at Thompson Springs in Grand County, there were few established roads through the region. The Monticello to Moab Wagon Road was the most traveled route through the county (GLO 1902). This north-south corridor, which passed through the center of Dry Valley, was the main supply route to the people of San Juan County.

The establishment of the D&RGW Railroad stop at Thompson Springs allowed the people of San Juan County better access to goods and supplies and provided for ready transportation of livestock between San Juan County and outside markets. In 1939, the U.S. Grazing Service and the Soil Conservation Service established a livestock driveway through Dry Valley between San Juan and Grand Counties (Barnes 1991:26). By 1956, livestock was being transported by truck, and the livestock driveway was abandoned (Ibid.:26). As settlement in the region and the need for transportation of goods increased, road networks expanded significantly.

Today, Dry Valley is recognized as the eastern boundary of Canyonlands National Park, visited by thousands of tourists from around the world each year. U. S. Route 191, which traverses Dry Valley along much the same corridor as the historic Monticello to Moab Wagon Road (GLO 1902; 1917; 1921; 1928; USGS 1954; USGS 1987a, 1987b), is the primary
transportation corridor between San Juan County and Interstate 70 via Moab. Although the region’s value as a recreational and tourist attraction has become more prevalent in recent years, the primary use of the valley remains as marginal winter range for livestock.

**Ogden Center and the Home of Truth**

Originally known as the Home of Truth, Ogden Center was established in Dry Valley during the fall of 1933 by Marie M. Ogden and a group of followers (Ogden 1941a:5). Following the death of her husband in 1929, Marie M. Ogden devoted her life to “a new pathway of spiritual attainment” (Ogden 1941b:5). In 1931, Ogden delved into the study of metaphysics, numerology, astrology, and the occult (Ogden 1941b:5; ca. 1943:9). In 1929, her spiritual quest led her to establish a “School of Truth” in Newark, New Jersey (Ogden ca. 1943). It was during this time that Ogden began to receive revelation regarding the “establishment of a place of refuge in the western land” (Ogden 1941b:8). Between 1932 and 1933 Ogden made preparations for her westward move. During 1933, Ogden made three cross-country journeys in search of the land that was revealed to her through these revelations. In September of that year, Ogden closed her School of Truth, and she, along with approximately 50 followers, came to San Juan County, Utah to establish her “Home of Truth” (Ogden 1941b:9-10). Ogden was a firm believer in cataclysmic biblical prophesies regarding the destruction of the world and the second coming of Christ (Ogden 1946a:1). She was directed to the Dry Valley location through revelations from her “Mentors” which provided “instruction” and indication that this location was “the One Spot to be least affected, when the world slips back onto its proper axis” (Coryell n.d.:4:7-8).

Initial settlement consisted of approximately 50 individuals at three locations, some at Dry Valley and Blanding, and others at a nearby gold mining claim (Ogden 1941b:10).
Ultimately, Ogden’s group established their permanent settlement at the Dry Valley location in the vicinity of Church Rock. During settlement Ogden was prompted twice, through revelation, to move her personal residence (Salt Lake Tribune 1935). As a result, the Dry Valley settlement developed around three areas of focus, the “Inner, Middle, and Outer Portals” (Figure 3). The Portals were spaced approximately one mile apart and served different functions within the community (Stegner 1942:332). The Inner Portal, “the real Home of Truth,” was restricted to “only those who have passed through the stages of study and are purified in body and soul” (Stegner 1942:332; DeWitt ca. 1937:97). Marie M. Ogden and a small group of her most devout followers maintained their residences in the Inner Portal. It appears that the Middle Portal was the central focus of family and community life. The largest number of structures were located in the Middle Portal, including the Chapel and the Commissary (Silvey 1936:1-2). New arrivals, or novices, to the community resided in the Outer Portal (DeWitt ca. 1937:97). Single men also lived in the Outer Portal as did the community greeter, Daisy Naden (Stegner 1942:332).

Largely recognized by outsiders as a cult, the Home of Truth settlement was a self-proclaimed “cooperative colony” which was directed under the divinely inspired guidance of Marie M. Ogden (Coryell n.d.:2-5; Stegner 1942:333). Members were encouraged to abandon the quest for material goods and seek spiritual advancement (Ogden ca. 1943:2). All funds and the distribution of communal goods were controlled by Ogden. Even during its peak the colony struggled to make a living in the barren desert of Dry Valley. Livestock was difficult to maintain due to the lack of water and vegetation in the valley. Due to these conditions, the community moved from milk cows (Ogden 1941a:5) to milk goats, as goats were better adapted to the climate (DeWitt ca. 1937:98). Members of the community “did not eat the flesh of animal or
Figure 3. Location of Inner, Middle and Outer Portals of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement. Taken from USGS 7.5' Quadrangles Photograph Gap, Utah (P.E. 1987) and Church Rock, Utah (P.E. 1987)
fowl,” but were not vegetarian by definition, they were primarily dependent upon fruits, vegetables, “fish and eggs and dairy products” (Ogden 1941a:10). Water was scarce, making gardening within Dry Valley difficult, and farming at a large scale impossible. As a result, a 280 acre parcel of farm property was purchased near Monticello (Ogden ca. 1943:2). The farm was run and maintained by members of the group. In an effort to provide income for the community, Ogden and her followers were involved in a number of ventures ranging from gold mining to real estate investment and publishing (Adams 1989:63-64; Ogden 1946a:1-2). These efforts led to only marginal success at best. In the spring of 1934, Ogden purchased the Monticello weekly newspaper, the San Juan Record. Although ownership of the newspaper provided both a small income and a means to publish and distribute the message of the Home of Truth (Ogden 1946b:1; 1946a:2), the colony was often dependent upon “love offerings” to meet their financial needs and obligations. These “offerings” consisted of financial donations, elicited by Ogden, toward the “work” of the colony from followers living elsewhere in the United States (Ogden 1946b:2; Adams 1989:66; DSHL 1937a).

The decline of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth began with the death of Mrs. Edith Peshak in February 1935. Central to the doctrine of the Home of Truth was the concept of earthly resurrection. Marie M. Ogden held firmly to the belief that she had the ability to resurrect “Sister Edith.” For nine months following her death the body of Edith Peshak was kept in her residence within the Inner Portal (DeWitt ca. 1937:98; Telegram 1937a). Ogden claimed that she had been directed to nourish and care for the body until the time of resurrection was at hand; as a result, the body “. . . was ‘fed’ bathed and clothed each day. . . .” (DeWitt ca. 1937:26). When questioned as to the time of resurrection, Ogden responded “I have been given the power to
resurrect the dead, but I have not the power to appoint the time of the resurrection" (*Salt Lake Tribune* 1935; *Provo Evening Herald* 1936). Approximately nine months after the death of Edith Peshak, Marie Ogden claimed that “Sister Edith came into my home . . . She told me that she had finished with the old form and directed me in its disposal” (DeWitt ca 1937:97). Rumors abounded regarding peculiar rites performed by Ogden and the means actually employed in the “disposal” of the body (*Telegram* 1937a; DeWitt ca. 1937:98). In April 1937, Thomas E. Robertson, a former member of the Home of Truth, came forward and swore an affidavit that he had assisted Marie M. Ogden in the cremation of the remains of Edith Peshak in August 1935 (*Telegram* 1937a). When notified of Mr. Robertson’s claim, Ogden stated “that the hand of God (will) fall upon those who are given to gossip or to enact any form of evil against us” (*Telegram* 1937a). Between 1935 and 1937, an investigation, prompted by Edith Peshak’s son, Frank Peshak, was conducted by the Utah State Board of Health. Peshak requested that the state prosecute Marie M. Ogden in the matter (DSHL 1937b). As an outsider to the community, Mr. Peshak was powerless to affect any influence regarding the disposition of his mother’s remains. Peshak expressed that he felt Ogden had the others, including his father, “hypnotized” (DSHL 1937b). Although nothing was resolved concerning the location and disposition of the body of Edith Peshak, the State of Utah completed its investigation and closed the case, without charges, on May 4, 1937 (*Telegram* 1937b). Following publicity regarding “unnatural rites” conducted in preparation for the “resurrection” of Mrs. Peshak and associated problems with local and state health authorities, many members of the Home of Truth began to question the future of the community (*Telegram* 1937a; DeWitt ca. 1937:98).
As the prophesies of their spiritual leader failed to come to fruition, and the colony came under the ever increasing scrutiny of outsiders, the remaining number of devoted slowly dwindled. The controversy associated with the disposition of the body of Edith Peshak marked the beginning of the end for Ogden Center and the Home of Truth. Newspaper reporters tracked down and interviewed a number of apostate members during this period (Stegner 1942:341; DeWitt ca. 1937:98). Former members were disheartened by the failed resurrection of Mrs. Peshak. Others indicated that the colony did not have a sufficient supply of food to feed everyone (Telegram 1937b). These issues contributed to the growing unrest within the colony. Ogden expressed that such publicity had caused the “unfaithful members of her clan” to depart (DeWitt ca. 1937:98). In 1941 Ogden wrote, “Upward of two hundred persons have come and gone since we began our work in the Valley; because they were unfitted or unwilling to serve in true humbleness of spirit in accord with the instruction we received . . . .” (Ogden 1941a:4).

Many believe that the true impetus behind so many abandoning the colony was Ogden’s position of complete control (Adams 1989:67; McPherson 1995:308). Followers were expected to adhere to her teachings and guidance with complete dedication, without question or dispute. The community reached its peak between 1934 and 1935 numbering between 100 and 125 residents (McPherson 1995:308; DeWitt ca. 1937:1). By 1949 only eight followers remained (McPherson 1995:308). Between 1968 and 1970 only six individuals remained, including Marie M. Ogden and her daughter (Palmer 1985). In 1975, at the age of 91, Marie M. Ogden died at the San Juan Nursing Home and was buried in the Monticello Cemetery (Salt Lake Tribune 1975). With the death of its founder and prophet, Marie M. Ogden, the Home of Truth came to an end.
HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The establishment of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement is tied to significant historic events which have helped to define broad patterns of United States history. This site is representative of a unique and important chapter in the development of alternative religious sects in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s, and in the settlement of San Juan County, Utah. In the aftermath of WWI, in the clutches of the Great Depression, Marie M. Ogden visualized a cooperative religious settlement in the desert west. Ogden’s School of Truth, and later, the Home of Truth, sprouted from growing unrest during a turbulent period in the history of the United States. Site 42Sa22681 and its associated features are the remaining physical manifestation of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth cooperative settlement. Although the historic significance of Marie M. Ogden, her underlying motives, and their ties to a growing sense of alternative religious consciousness in the United States, far exceeds the remaining physical evidence at Site 42Sa22681, extent features have potential to yield important information regarding the structure and organization of the settlement. The enigmatic Ogden Center was occupied, at some level, for over 40 years. Although Ogden Center was inhabited by a relatively small group for most of its period of occupation, the residents were not able to draw subsistence from the land of Dry Valley. They were highly reliant upon external sources of sustenance. Further research into the political and social aspects of the community and it’s interaction with the residents of the nearby town of Monticello would provide important data concerning the atmosphere and feeling within the greater community of San Juan County. Analysis of remaining structural components at the site may contribute to our understanding of construction methods, styles, and materials employed during the occupation of the site. This site
has significant potential to yield important information related to household and community
consumption patterns and social organization. In addition, the site exhibits multiple feature areas
and diagnostic artifacts. There is significant potential for depth within these features, habitation
areas, and artifact concentrations. As such, this site is recommended **ELIGIBLE** to the NRHP
under criteria A, C, and D.
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1995  *A History of San Juan County*. Utah State Historical Society, San Juan County Commissioners, Salt Lake City.

Ogden, Marie M.
Osborn, Alan, J.  

Palmer, Andrew Harold  
1985  [Photographs of Marie Ogden and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement donated to the Utah State Historical Society by Andrew Harold Palmer, former resident of the Home of Truth]. In *Ogden, Marie M., 1883-Collection.* On file at the Division of State History Library, Salt Lake City. Call No. MSS C 419.

Perkins, Cornelia Adams, Marian Gardner Nielsen, and Lenora Butt Jones  
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Peterson, C.  

Pierson, Lloyd M.  

*Provo Evening Herald* [Provo, Utah]  
1936  Strange Cult in Wild Utah Desert Retreat; Labors to Bring Dead Member Back to Life, 3 April. Provo, Utah.

Ringholz, Raye C.  

Roring, Corinne  

*Salt Lake Tribune* [Salt Lake City, Utah]  
1935  Leader Reveals Mysteries of South Utah Wilderness Cult to Tribune Reporter; Declares She is Restoring Life to Member Who Died Last February and Whose Body Stays in Perfect Condition. 24 November:12A. Salt Lake City.

Silvey, Frank

Stegner, Wallace

Tanner, F.

Telegram [Salt Lake City, Utah]
1937a  Weird ‘Living Dead’ Cremation Related. 26 April:1, 4 col. 1. Salt Lake City.
1937b  Cult Peeress Retains Secret of Grave Till Spirits Speak. 5 May:1, 8; col. 6. Salt Lake City.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Intermountain Antiquities Site Form (IMACS)

for

Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement
IMACS SITE FORM

PART A - ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Intermountain Antiquities Computer System
Approved for use: BLM, Div. of State History, USFS, and NPS*

1. State No. 42Sa22681
2. Agency No.
3. Temp. No. Ogden Center

4. State Utah
5. County San Juan
6. Project Church Rock Geophysical Project
7. Site Name Ogden Center
8. Class: [ ] Prehistoric [X] Historic [ ] Paleontologic [ ] Ethnographic
9. Site Type Religious Community Complex
10. Elevation 6200 ft.
11. UTM Grid: Zone 12 641775 m E 4214000 m N Middle Portal (Cont.)
12. E ½ of SE of NW of Sec. 27 T. 31 S. R. 23 E. Middle Portal (Cont.)
13. Meridian: Salt Lake
14. Map Reference: USGS 7.5' Quadrangles Church Rock and Photograph Gap, Utah (PE) 1987
15. Aerial Photo: N/A
16. Location and Access: From the junction of U.S. Route 191 and State Route 211 (the road into Canyonlands National Park), drive west on S. R. 211 for 0.6 miles and turn south (left) on a dirt road. Follow this dirt road for approximately 0.4 miles to the "Outer Portal." The "Middle Portal" is an additional one mile west on S. R. 211. It is visible on the south side of the highway. The "Inner Portal," also known as "Marie's Place" is located approximately one additional mile west on S. R. 211 at Photograph Gap.
17. Land Owner: Utah State Lands/Private
18. Fed. Admin.: N/A
19. Location of Curated Materials: N/A

20. Site Description: This site, located on an alluvial plain in the southern portion of Dry Valley, is a religious community established during the 1930's by Marie M. Ogden and a number of her followers. The site is representative of a unique and important chapter in the development of alternative religious sects in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s, and in the settlement of San Juan County, Utah. In the aftermath of WWI, in the clutches of the Great Depression, (Cont.)

21. Site Condition: [ ] Excellent [ ] Good [X] Fair [ ] Poor
22. Impact Agents: This site has been heavily impacted by grazing and vandalism, in addition to neglect, erosion, structural decay, and motorized vehicles.

23. N.R. Status: [X] Significant [ ] Not Significant [ ] Unevaluated
    Justify The establishment of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement is tied to significant historic events which have helped to define broad patterns of United States history. This site is representative of a unique and important chapter in the development of alternative religious sects in the United States during the 1920s and 1930s, and in the settlement of (Cont.)

25. Recorded by: Heather M. Weymouth and Michael R. Polk
28. Survey Date: 10-15-01
27. Assisting Crew Members: Angela L. Garrison, Sandy Chynoweth Pagano, and Andrea L. Field

Attachments: [ ] Part B [X] Topo Map [X] Photos [X] Continuation Sheets
[ ] Part C [X] Site Sketch [X] Artifact/Feature [X] Site Sketch
[ ] Part E [ ] Other
Location of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement within the State of Utah.
Location of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement within Dry Valley. Taken from Delorme's 1:250,000 Utah Atlas & Gazetteer (2000). Scale: 1 inch represents 4 miles.
Location of Inner, Middle and Outer Portals of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement. Taken from USGS 7.5' Quadrangles Photograph Gap, Utah (P.E. 1987) and Church Rock, Utah (P.E. 1987)
PART A - ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Site No. 42Sa22681.1

*29. Slope varies (Degrees)  Aspect varies (Degrees)

*30. Distance to Permanent Water: 60 x 100 m
Water Source: [X] Spring/Seep  [ ] Stream/River  [ ] Lake  [ ] Other
Name of Water Source  The nearest permanent water source is Harts Spring located approximately 4.0 miles to the northwest of this site. Historically wells on the property provided water for the residents.

*31. Geographic Unit: Hatch Syncline (CAG)

*32. Topographic Location:
   Primary Landform  Secondary Landform
   Valley (E)  Plain (O)

   Describe: The site is located on an alluvial plain in the southern portion of Dry Valley

*33. On Site Depositional Context: Residual (U)

   Description of Soil: The sediments of the site consist of tan colored residual sand.

34. Vegetation:
   *a. Life Zone: Upper Sonoran (E)
   *b. Community:  [ ] Primary On Site  [ ] Secondary On Site  [ ] Surrounding Site

   Describe: The site is in a sagebrush-grassland vegetation community dominated by big sagebrush, rabbit brush, tumbleweeds, shadscale, cheat grass, and ephedra.

*35. Miscellaneous Text

36. Comments/Continuations

11. UTM Grid: Zone 12 641775 mE  4213500 mN  Middle Portal
    Zone 12 642250 mE  4214000 mN  Middle Portal
    Zone 12 642250 mE  4213500 mN  Middle Portal
    Zone 12 643800 mE  4214475 mN  Outer Portal
    Zone 12 643600 mE  4214350 mN  Outer Portal
    Zone 12 643800 mE  4214225 mN  Outer Portal
    Zone 12 643900 mE  4214350 mN  Outer Portal

12. All of SW of NE of Sec. 27  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Middle Portal
    S of NE of NE of Sec. 27  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Middle Portal
    NE of NE of NE of Sec. 27  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Middle Portal
    N of NE of NE of Sec. 27  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Middle Portal
    SW of SE of NE of Sec. 27  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Middle Portal
    N of NW of SE of Sec. 27  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Middle Portal
    All of NW of NE of Sec. 26  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Outer Portal
    NW of NE of NE of Sec. 26  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Outer Portal
    SW of NE of NE of Sec. 26  T. 31 S  R. 23 E  Outer Portal
1. **Site Type:** Religious Community Complex

2. **Historic Theme(s):** Religion (RE)

3. **CULTURAL AFFILIATION**  
   European/American (EA)  
   **DATING METHOD**  
   Historical Record (I)

   **Describe:** The site is well known in San Juan County history and is documented in many historic newspaper accounts of the period.

4. **Oldest Date:** 1933  
   **Recent Date:** 1970s
   **How determined:** The writings of Marie M. Ogden document the arrival of the colony in 1933. The site was occupied by Marie M. Ogden until shortly before her death in 1975.

5. **Site Dimensions:** 15,000 ft (E-W) x 2000 ft (N-S)  
   **Area** 30,000,000 sq ft.

6. **Surface Collection/Method:**  
   [X] None (A)  
   [ ] Designed Sample (C)  
   [ ] Grab Sample (B)  
   [ ] Complete Collection (D)

   **Sampling Method:** N/A

7. **Estimated Depth of Cultural Fill:**  
   [ ] Surface (A)  
   [X] 20-100 cm (C)  
   [X] Fill noted but unknown  
   [ ] 0-20 cm (B)  
   [ ] 100 cm + (D)  
   [ ] Depth suspected but not tested (F)

   **How estimated:** Depth is likely at various features within the site complex. The existence of privies and refuse disposal areas associated with this site must be assumed.

8. **Excavation Status:**  
   [ ] Excavated (A)  
   [ ] Tested (B)  
   [X] Unexcavated

   **Testing Method:** N/A

9. **Summary of Artifacts and Debris (Refer to Guide for additional categories):**  
   [X] Glass  
   [ ] Bone  
   [ ] Leather  
   [ ] Ammunition  
   [ ] Domestic Items  
   [X] Metal  
   [X] Wood  
   [X] Wire  
   [X] Ceramics  
   [ ] Kitchen Utensils  
   [X] Nails  
   [ ] Fabric  
   [X] Tin Cans  
   [ ] Rubber  
   [ ] Car/Car Parts

   **Describe:** Numerous historic artifacts were found scattered across the site. For descriptions see attached individual portal feature descriptions.

10. **Ceramic Artifacts:**
    
    **PASTE**  
    **GLAZE/SLIP**  
    **DECORATION**  
    **PATTERN**  
    **VESSEL FORM(S)**  
    **#**

    **See Attached**

   a. **Estimated Number of Ceramic Trademark:** None
      **Describe:** For descriptions see attached individual portal feature descriptions.
PART C--HISTORIC SITES

Site No. 42Sa22681

11. Glass:
   MANUFACTURE COLOR FUNCTION TRADMARKS DECORATION

See Attached

Describe: Numerous fragments of glass were noted at the site. For descriptions see attached individual portal feature descriptions.

12. Maximum Density -#/sq. m (glass and ceramics:) 15

13. Tin Cans
   Type Opening Size Modified Label/Mark Function

See Attached

Describe: Numerous tin cans and tin can fragments were noted at the site. For descriptions see attached individual portal feature descriptions.

*14. Landscape and Constructed Features (locate on site map)--See Guide for additional categories
   [X] Trail/Road [X] Dump [ ] Dam, Earthen [ ] Hearth/Campfire
   [ ] Tailings [ ] Depression [ ] Ditch [ ] Quarry
   [X] Rock Alignment [X] Cemetery/Burial [ ] Inscriptions [ ] Other

Describe: For descriptions see attached individual portal feature descriptions.

*15. Buildings and Structures (locate on site map)
   # MATERIAL TYPE # MATERIAL TYPE

See Attached

Describe: For descriptions see attached individual portal feature descriptions.

16. Comments/Continuations - Please make note of any Historic Record searches performed (for example--County Records, General Land Office, Historical Society, Land Management Agency Records, Oral Histories/Interviews)
20. **Site Description: (Cont.)** Marie M. Ogden visualized a cooperative religious settlement in the desert west. Ogden's School of Truth, and later, the Home of Truth, sprouted from growing unrest during a turbulent period in the history of the United States. The Home of Truth, which became known as Ogden Center, was spread out over an area approximately three miles long. The site consists of three areas of focus, identified historically as the "Inner, Middle, and Outer Portals." Each Portal was approximately one mile distant from the next and contained a series of residential and community oriented structures. Features associated with the Inner Portal (42Sa22681.A) have been previously identified and recorded by Bennett (1991). This recordation focuses on those features associated with the Middle (42Sa22681.B) and Outer Portals (42Sa22681.C). During this inventory a total of 35 features were identified and recorded within these two areas. The 22 recorded features associated with the Middle Portal (42Sa22681.B) include: six standing structures; four structural foundations; four privies; one collapsed barn; one corral; two wells; one rock alignment; one pile of structural debris; one small cemetery; and one earthen mound. The 14 features associated with the Outer Portal (42Sa22681.C) include: six structural foundations; one privy; one septic tank; one corral remnant; one well; one depression; one burned area; one pile of structural debris; and one trash dump.

Documentary research concerning Ogden Center and the Home of Truth has provided a great deal of information regarding Marie M. Ogden, her beliefs and teachings, and those who followed her into the Utah desert. Following is a brief history of Ogden Center and its founder, Marie M. Ogden. Although all sources located are not referenced in the following brief historical sketch, a complete bibliography of resources identified during research on Ogden Center and the Home of Truth has been provided in order to aid in future research efforts.

Originally known as the Home of Truth, Ogden Center was established in Dry Valley during the fall of 1933 by Marie M. Ogden and a group of followers (Ogden 1941a:5). Following the death of her husband in 1929, Marie M. Ogden devoted her life to "a new pathway of spiritual attainment" (Ogden 1941b:5). In 1931, Ogden delved into the study of metaphysics, numerology, astrology, and the occult (Ogden 1941b:5; ca. 1943:9). In 1929, her spiritual quest led her to establish a "School of Truth" in Newark, New Jersey (Ogden ca. 1943). It was during this time that Ogden began to receive revelation regarding the "establishment of a place of refuge in the western land" (Ogden 1941b:8). Between 1932 and 1933 Ogden made preparations for her westward move. During 1933, Ogden made three cross-country journeys in search of the land that was revealed to her through these revelations. In September of that year, Ogden closed her School of Truth, and she, along with approximately 50 followers, came to San Juan County, Utah to establish her "Home of Truth" (Ogden 1941b:9-10). Ogden was a firm believer in cataclysmic biblical prophesies regarding the destruction of the world and the second coming of Christ (Ogden 1946a:1). She was directed to the Dry Valley location through revelations from her "Mentors" which provided "instruction" and indication that this location was "the One Spot to be least affected, when the world slips back onto its proper axis" (Coryell n.d.:4:7-8).

Initial settlement consisted of approximately 50 individuals at three locations, some at Dry Valley and Blanding, and others at a nearby gold mining claim (Ogden 1941b:10). Ultimately, Ogden's group established their permanent settlement at the Dry Valley location. During settlement Ogden was prompted twice, through revelation, to move her personal residence (Salt Lake Tribune 1935). As a result, the settlement developed around three areas of focus, the "Inner, Middle and Outer Portals." The Portals were spaced approximately one mile apart and served different functions within the community (Stegner 1942:332). The Inner Portal, "the real Home of Truth," was restricted to "only those who have passed through the stages of study and (Cont.)"
Site Description: (Cont.) are purified in body and soul" (Stegner 1942:332; Dewitt ca. 1937:97). Marie M. Ogden and a small group of her most devout followers maintained their residences in the Inner Portal. It appears that the Middle Portal was the central focus of family and community life. The largest number of structures were located in the Middle Portal, including the Chapel and the Commissary (Silvey 1936:1-2). New arrivals, or novices, to the community resided in the Outer Portal (Dewitt ca. 1937:97). Single men also lived in the Outer Portal as did the community greeter, Daisy Naden (Stegner 1942:332).

Largely recognized by outsiders as a cult, the Home of Truth settlement was a self-proclaimed "cooperative colony" which was directed under the divinely inspired guidance of Marie M. Ogden (Coryell n.d.:2-5; Stegner 1942:333). Members were encouraged to abandon the quest for material goods and seek spiritual advancement (Ogden ca. 1943:2). All funds and the distribution of communal goods were controlled by Ogden. Even during its peak the colony struggled to make a living in the barren desert of Dry Valley. Livestock were difficult to maintain due to the lack of water and vegetation in the valley. Due to these conditions, the community moved from milk cows (Ogden 1941a:5) to milk goats, as goats were better adapted to the climate (Dewitt ca. 1937:98). Members of the community "did not eat the flesh of animal or fowl," but were not vegetarian by definition, they were primarily dependent upon fruits, vegetables, "fish and eggs and dairy products" (Ogden 1941a:10). Water was scarce, making gardening within Dry Valley difficult, and farming impossible at a large scale. As a result, a 280 acre parcel of farm property was purchased near Monticello (Ogden ca. 1943:2). The farm was run and maintained by members of the group. In an effort to provide income for the community, Ogden and her followers were involved in a number of ventures ranging from gold mining to real estate investment and publishing (Adams 1989:63-64; Ogden 1946:1-2). These efforts led to only marginal success at best. In the spring of 1934, Ogden purchased the Monticello weekly newspaper, the San Juan Record. Although ownership of the newspaper provided both a small income and a means to publish and distribute the message of the Home of Truth (Ogden 1946b:1; 1946a:2), the colony was often dependent upon "love offerings" to meet their financial needs and obligations. These "offerings" consisted of financial donations, elicited by Ogden, toward the "work" of the colony from followers living elsewhere (Ogden 1946b:2; Adams 1989:66; DAHL 1937a).

The decline of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth began with the death of Mrs. Edith Peshak in February 1935. Central to the doctrine of the Home of Truth was the concept of earthly resurrection. Marie M. Ogden held firmly to the belief that she had the ability to resurrect "Sister Edith." For nine months following her death the body of Edith Peshak was kept in her residence within the Inner Portal (Dewitt ca. 1937:98; Telegram 1937a). Ogden claimed that she had been directed to nourish and care for the body until the time of resurrection was at hand; as a result, the body "... was 'fed' bathed and clothed each day ..." (Dewitt ca. 1937:26). When questioned as to the time of resurrection, Ogden responded "I have been given the power to resurrect the dead, but I have not the power to appoint the time of the resurrection" (Salt Lake Tribune 1935; Provo Evening Herald 1936). Approximately nine months after the death of Edith Peshak, Marie Ogden claimed that "Sister Edith came into my home ... She told me that she had finished with the old form and directed me in its disposal" (DeWitt ca. 1937:97). Rumors abounded regarding peculiar rights performed by Ogden and the means actually employed in the "disposal" of the body (Telegram 1937a; Dewitt ca. 1937:98). In April 1937, Thomas E. Robertson, a former member of the Home of Truth, came forward and swore an affidavit that he had assisted Marie M. Ogden in the cremation of the remains of Edith Peshak in August 1935 (Telegram 1937a). When notified of Mr. Robertson's claim, Ogden stated "that the hand of God (will) fall upon those who are given to gossip or to enact any form of evil against us" (Telegram 1937a). Between 1935 and 1937, an investigation, prompted by Edith Peshak's son, (Cont.)
20. **Site Description: (Cont.)** Frank Peshak, was conducted by the Utah State Board of Health. Peshak requested that the state prosecute Marie M. Ogden in the matter (DSHL 1937b). As an outsider to the community, Mr. Peshak was powerless to affect any influence regarding the disposition of his mother's remains. Peshak expressed that he felt Ogden had the others, including his father "hypnotized" (DSHL 1937b). Although nothing was resolved concerning the location and disposition of the body of Edith Peshak, the State of Utah completed its investigation and closed the case, without charges, on May 4, 1937 (Telegram 1937b). Following publicity regarding "unnatural rights" conducted in preparation for the "resurrection" of Mrs. Peshak and associated problems with local and state health authorities, many members of the Home of Truth began to question the future of the community (Telegram 1937a; Dewitt ca. 1937:98).

As the prophecies of their spiritual leader failed to come to fruition, and the colony came under the ever increasing scrutiny of outsiders, the remaining number of devoted slowly dwindled. The controversy associated with the disposition of the body of Edith Peshak marked the beginning of the end for Ogden Center and the Home of Truth. Newspaper reporters tracked down and interviewed a number of apostate members during this period (Stegner 1942:341; Dewitt ca. 1937:98). Former members were disheartened by the failed resurrection of Mrs. Peshak. Others indicated that the colony did not have a sufficient supply of food to feed everyone (Telegram 1937b). These issues contributed to the growing unrest within the colony. Ogden expressed that such publicity had caused the "unfaithful members of her clan" to depart (Dewitt ca. 1937:98). In 1941 Ogden wrote, "Upward of two hundred persons have come and gone since we began our work in the Valley, because they were unfitted or unwilling to serve in true humbleness of spirit in accord with the instruction we received ..." (Ogden 1941a:4). Many believe that the true impetus behind so many abandoning the colony was Ogden's position of complete control (Adams 1989:67; McPherson 1995:308). Followers were expected to adhere to her teachings and guidance with complete dedication, without question or dispute. The community reached its peak between 1934 and 1935 numbering between 100 and 125 residents (McPherson 1995:308; Dewitt ca. 1937:1). By 1949 only eight followers remained (McPherson 1995:308). Between 1968 and 1970 only six individuals remained, including Marie M. Ogden and her daughter (Palmer 1985). In 1975, at the age of 91, Marie M. Ogden died at the San Juan Nursing Home and was buried in the Monticello Cemetery (Salt Lake Tribune 1975). With the death of its founder and prophet, the Home of Truth came to an end.

23. **N.R. Status: (Cont.)** San Juan County, Utah. In the aftermath of WWI, and the clutch of the Great Depression, Marie M. Ogden visualized a cooperative religious settlement in the desert west. Ogden's School of Truth, and later, the Home of Truth, sprouted from growing unrest during a turbulent period in the history of the United States. Site 42Sa22681 and its associated features are the remaining physical manifestation of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth cooperative settlement. Although the historic significance of Marie M. Ogden, her underlying motives, and their ties to a growing sense of alternative religious consciousness in the United States, far exceeds the remaining physical evidence at Site 42Sa22681, extent features have potential to yield important information regarding the structure and organization of the settlement. Analysis of remaining structural components at the site may contribute to our understanding of construction methods, styles, and materials employed during the occupation of the site. This site has significant potential to yield important information related to household and community consumption patterns and social organization. The site exhibits multiple feature areas and diagnostic artifacts. There is significant potential for depth within features, habitation areas, and artifact concentrations. As such, this site is recommended **ELIGIBLE** to the NRHP under criteria A, C, and D.
REFERENCES CITED

Adams, Ingrid

Bennett, Lee A.

Coryell, Berkley K.

Dewitt, Jack

Division of State History Library (DSHL)
1937b 'Living Dead' Woman's Son Asks Seeress Prosecution. 30 April 1937:1, 8, col. 5. In *Writings, 1931-1946*. [Documents folder containing items pertaining to Marie Ogden and the Home of Truth]. On file at the Division of State History Library, Salt Lake City. Call No. MSS A 2070.

Ogden, Marie M.

Palmer, Andrew Harold
IMACS SITE FORM

PART A—ADMINISTRATIVE DATA
(Continuation Sheet)

Site No. 42Sa22681

Provo Evening Herald [Provo, Utah]
1936  Strange Cult in Wild Utah Desert Retreat; Labors to Bring Dead Member Back to Life, 3 April. Provo, Utah.

Salt Lake Tribune [Salt Lake City, Utah]
1935  Leader Reveals Mysteries of South Utah Wilderness Cult to Tribune Reporter; Declares She is Restoring Life to Member Who Died Last February and Whose Body Stays in Perfect Condition. 24 November:12A. Salt Lake City.

Silvey, Frank

Stegner, Wallace

Telegram [Salt Lake City, Utah]
1937a  Weird ‘Living Dead’ Cremation Related. 26 April:1, 4 col. 1. Salt Lake City.
1937b  Cult Seeress Retains Secret of Grave Till Spirits Speak. 5 May:1, 8; col. 6. Salt Lake City.

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Division of State History Library (DSHL)
   n.d.  Weird Living Dead Cremation Related; Woman’s Enshrined Body Put on Pyre, Man Swears. 26 April 1937:1, col. 1. In Writings, 1931-1946. [Documents folder containing items pertaining to Marie Ogden and the Home of Truth]. On file at the Division of State History Library, Salt Lake City. Call No. MSS A 2070.
   n.d.  Seeress Tells State She May Solve Riddle: Disposition of Body of Cult Member May Be Told. 10 May 1937. In Writings, 1931-1946. [Documents folder containing items pertaining to Marie Ogden and the Home of Truth]. On file at the Division of State History Library, Salt Lake City. Call No. MSS A 2070.

Halliday, Bruce

Jones, Marjorie C.

Lavender, David
IMACS SITE FORM

PART A–ADMINISTRATIVE DATA
(Continuation Sheet)

Site No. 42Sa22681

Ogden, Marie M.
ca. 1932 Messages of the Dawn, No. 1, School of Truth, Newark, New Jersey. In Writings, 1931-1946. [Documents folder containing items pertaining to Marie Ogden and the Home of Truth]. On file at the Division of State History Library, Salt Lake City. Call No. MSS A 2070.


1946 Ogden Center and Home of Truth. Pamphlet. 15 August. Monticello, Utah. In Writings, 1931-1946. [Documents folder containing items pertaining to Marie Ogden and the Home of Truth]. On file at the Division of State History Library, Salt Lake City. Call No. MSS A 2070.

Thomas, Jack
1936 Cult Head Visits S. L.; Woman Sees Doom of Civilization; Explains Kidnapping of Disciple as Elopement. 26, October. In Writings, 1931-1946. [Documents folder containing items pertaining to Marie Ogden and the Home of Truth]. On file at the Division of State History Library, Salt Lake City. Call No. MSS A 2070.

Turk, Toni Richard
1995 Rooted in San Juan; a Genealogical Study of Burials in San Juan County, Utah, 1879-1995. San Juan County Commissioners, Utah.
Landscape and Constructed Features - Describe: (Cont.)

**Outer Portal.** For individual locations of features, refer to site map. One depression (F2), one burned area (F8), one concrete pad (F11), and one trash concentration (F14) were identified within the Outer Portal.

F2 is a depression/possible privy located approximately 62 ft northwest of the residential structure identified as Feature 1. It is likely that this feature represents a privy associated with Feature 1. This feature measures 7 ft (N-S) by 5 ft 6 in. (E-W) and has a maximum depth of 7 in. It is mostly overgrown with sagebrush and filled in with soil. There are fragments of cut lumber strewn about the feature, some of which are embedded in the soil. It is difficult to say if any of the lumber is in place. Three fallen juniper posts are lying in the area with no particular pattern. Located 5 ft to the north of this feature are four sandstone boulders in an east-west trending line approximately 4 ft 6 in. long. Few artifacts were identified in association with the feature. Three sanitary cans and a screw top bottle with an eyedropper were located 10 ft west of the feature.

F8 is a trash burning area measuring approximately 21 ft (N-S) by 18 ft (E-W). This feature is defined by the burned ground surface and ash stains, as well as artifacts. The artifacts located include window glass, mason jar lids, a clear glass milk jar, battery cores, peach pits, one solder dot can, clear and aqua bottle glass fragments, one fragment of whiteware with an annular pattern, and three pieces of lumber. Based upon proximity, this feature is most likely associated with F6, the former Mens Dormitory.

F11 consists of a 3x3 ft concrete pad and what appears to be a large cast iron pipe elbow. This feature is located between the former Mens Dormitory (F6) and Community House (F10). The pipe elbow protrudes from the ground approximately 3 ft north of the concrete pad. The purpose of this feature is unknown.

F14 is a dense trash concentration measuring approximately 36 ft (N-S) by 30 ft (E-W). The feature is located adjacent to the west side of a northwest-southeast trending drainage. Artifacts include one baking soda tin, 10+ tuna cans, 5+ sardine cans, 100+ solder dot cans, 10+ coffee cans, 3+ oval ham cans, and one square syrup can. Also found within the feature are hundreds of fragments of amber, aqua, and clear bottle glass, one piece of amethyst glass, 15+ canning jar fragments, 10+ teacup fragments, numerous fragments of dinnerware and crockery (whiteware and stoneware), 15+ whiteware pitcher fragments, 15+ whiteware bowl fragments, two broken light bulbs, 15+ battery cores, miscellaneous strap metal fragments, stove parts, and several metal screw top lids. It appears that the dump may have been looted by pot hunters; there are several small pits dug into the ground and few complete artifacts to be found in this trash scatter. Based upon the types and numbers of artifacts identified within this trash concentration, this feature most likely represents the primary trash dump for the Outer Portal.

**Middle Portal.** For individual locations of features, refer to site map. One rock alignment (F11b), one earthen mound (F16), and one cemetery (F17) were identified within the Middle Portal.

F11b consists of a pair of rock alignments. The alignments are constructed of large, dry-laid sandstone slabs. They are each 2 ft wide by 18 ft (E-W) long, and are spaced 3 ft 6 in. apart. The function of this feature is unknown. No artifacts were located which could be considered directly associated with this feature.
Site 42SA22681. Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement, Middle and Outer Portal configuration.
Site 42SA22681.C. Location of cultural features recorded within the Outer Portal.
Site 42SA22681.B. Location of cultural features recorded within the Middle Portal.
14. Landscape and Constructed Features - Describe: Middle Portal (Cont.)

F16 is an earthen mound, situated approximately 20 ft south of the corral area. There are several (~ 60) large sandstone cobbles strewn about the mound, in no apparent pattern. The mound measures 40 ft (E-W) by 16 ft (N-S) and is approximately 2 ft high. Located along the center of the northern edge of the mound are two, 1 ft high, juniper posts. The posts are spaced 3 ft apart and oriented in a north-south direction. It is unclear what purpose the earthen mound once served. No artifacts were located which could be considered directly associated with this feature.

F17 is a small cemetery. According to historic records, there are five individuals buried in the Home of Truth/Ogden Center Cemetery (Turk 1995). These individuals include: Daisy Naden, d. 1956; Mary E. Cameron, d. 1956; E. R. Erhart, d. 1962; Roberta Ogden, d. ?; and Frederick Daniel Walker, d. 1950. The cemetery was not identified during this field inventory, however, it is said to be located within a low iron fence just southwest of F11 (Bennett 2001).

15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: (Cont.)

Outer Portal. For individual locations of features, refer to site map. Six structural foundations (F1, F3, F4, F6, F9, and F10), one well (F5), one privy (F7), several corral posts (F12), and a concentration of structural debris (F13) were identified within the Outer Portal.

F1 is a sandstone and mortar foundation measuring approximately 34 ft (N-S) by 24 ft (E-W). The outline of the foundation is neither square nor rectangular, but takes on a stair-stepped shape in plan view. Most of the foundation is comprised of dry-laid sandstone cobbles, however some sections of the foundation are mortared. In the spring of 2001, during the course of survey, this residential structure burned to the ground. Prior to the fire, the structure had been standing and relatively intact. At the time of recordation, all that remained was the burned foundation of the structure.

It is apparent from the remaining foundation that the original structure had been a small one room cottage (Room 1) with a full length porch, on a partially mortared sandstone cobble foundation. The structure appears to have been added to three different times. The first addition consisting of a single room (Room 4) on what appears to be a sandstone cobbles foundation added to the west side of the structure. The second addition consisting of two rooms (Rooms 2 and 3) on a dressed sandstone foundation added to the north side of the structure. The third addition consisting of two rooms (Rooms 5 and 6) on a lumber foundation added to the west side of the first addition (Room 4).

The porch area constituted the eastern portion of the south wall of the structure. This area measures 5 ft 4 in. (N-S) wide by 16 ft 6 in. (E-W) long. This area is defined by a broken concrete slab lying atop a mortared sandstone cobble foundation.

Room 1 is adjacent to the north side of the porch. This room measures approximately 12 ft (N-S) by 16 ft 6 in. (E-W). The east and north sides of the room are fairly well defined by the foundation alignment of mortared sandstone cobbles. The west side of the foundation is almost entirely absent. All that remains are a few sandstone cobbles. The south side of the room abutted the concrete porch slab. Remnants of household plumbing are centrally located (Cont.)
Site 42SA22681.C (Ogden Center Outer Portal). Feature 1.
*15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Outer Portal (Cont.) along the former east wall of this room. Several stove parts are also identifiable lying on the ground in this vicinity.

Room 4 is poorly defined in comparison to the rest of the structure. This first addition to the structure was attached to the west side. Its approximate measurements are 17 ft 6 in. (N-S) by 7 ft 6 in. (E-W). The east side of this room abutted the west side of Room 1 and the west end of the porch. The foundation on the north and south sides of Room 4 was constructed of lumber. The lumber has been charred, but still has visible form. The foundation of the west side of the room is comprised of three large, dry-laid sandstone boulders and a few smaller sandstones lying in a north-south alignment. Based upon the assumption that Room 4 was the first addition to the structure, this foundation remnant was, at one time, the west side of the structure.

Room 2 is well defined by the remaining dressed sandstone foundation. This first portion of the second addition was attached at the east end of the north wall of the structure. Room 2 measures approximately 16 ft 5 in. (N-S) by 13 ft (E-W). The east, north, and west sides of the foundation are comprised of dressed sandstones and mortar. The south side of the room abutted the north side of Room 1. A very large sandstone boulder is present on the exterior of the northeast corner of this room. Whether or not the placement of this boulder has any purpose is unknown. Two small concrete pads, representing entryways, are associated with Room 2. The first pad is located along the exterior of the south end of the east wall of the room. The second is located along the north end of the exterior of the west wall of the room. The concrete pads measure 3 ft 4 in. (N-S) by 2 ft (E-W) and are elevated 1 ft 8 in.

Room 3 is well defined along its east, north, and west sides by a dressed sandstone foundation. This second portion of the second addition was attached at the west end of the north wall of the structure. Room 3 measures 8 ft 9 in. (N-S) by 10 ft (E-W). The east, north, and west sides of the foundation are comprised of dressed sandstones and mortar. The south side of the room abutted the north sides of Rooms 1 and 4.

Rooms 5 and 6 represent the third addition to the structure. These rooms are defined by what appears to be a lumber foundation. Room 5 measures 17 ft 6 in. (N-S) by 6 ft 9 in. (E-W). Room 6 measures 17 ft 6 in. (N-S) by 8 ft (E-W). The east side of Room 5 abutted the west wall of Room 4. The foundation on the north, west, and south sides of the rooms was constructed of lumber. The lumber has been charred, but still has visible form.

The artifacts found in the vicinity of F1 include barbed wire, mesh screen fragments, stove parts, window glass fragments, wire fragments, door hinges, press on lids, a sanitary can, screw top lids, oval can lids, and an extraordinary number of wire nails. In addition, many of the cans and can parts show signs of reuse and modification.

F3 is small depression/possible privy located approximately 80 ft northwest of the residential structure identified as Feature 4. It is likely that this feature represents a privy associated with Feature 4. This feature measures 7 ft 9 in. (N-S) by 7 ft 6 in. (E-W) and has a maximum depth of 2 ft. It is mostly overgrown with sagebrush and filled in with soil. The depression is roughly square in shape and is partially bound by the remnants of a cut lumber and sandstone cobble foundation. It appears that salvage materials may have been used to construct this feature. Some of the sandstone is dressed, some undressed, and the lumber varies in size. There were no artifacts found in association with this feature.
**15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Outer Portal (Cont.)**

F4 is a rectangular sandstone and mortar residential foundation with associated concrete pad/porch. The structural foundation measures 34 ft (N-S) by 18 ft (E-W) and the adjoining concrete pad/porch measures 34 ft (N-S) by 9 ft (E-W). The outline of this one room structure is fairly well defined, although many of the sandstone cobbles which once constituted the foundation are absent. The porch was attached to the east side of the structure and is defined by a broken concrete slab lying atop a mortared sandstone cobble foundation. The east side of the concrete porch is faced with sandstone which created a low “lip” along the outer edge of the porch. This facing appears to have been a simple aesthetic/decorative element. Because the ground naturally slopes downward to the east, the porch was elevated 2 ft above the ground surface. Artifacts identified in association with this feature include a stovepipe, a whiteware fragment, many window glass fragments, lumber, and wire nails.

F5 consists of several components of a culinary water storage and distribution system set on a knoll a short distance southwest of the remainder of features within the Outer Portal. Components observable include a large above ground poured concrete tank, a poured concrete subterranean tank attached to the north side of the above ground structure, a triangular poured concrete platform on the west side of the tank, and a rectangular, poured concrete, subterranean box for accessing piping located on the east side of the tank.

The above ground tank measures approximately 18 ft 1 in. (N-S) by 14 ft 10 in. (E-W) and is constructed of poured concrete covered with plaster (possibly to reduce leaking). The tank appears to have two separate chambers, dividing it roughly in half from east to west. The northern tank chamber measures 9 ft 4 in. (N-S) by 14 ft 10 in. (E-W) and is subterranean while the southern tank chamber measures 8 ft 9 in. (N-S) by 14 ft 10 in. (E-W) and lies above ground surface. Each of these chambers has access portals and breather pipes. The northernmost tank has three features. A rectangular access portal is located in the southeast corner of the roof. It measures 1 ft 10 in. square and has a low 2½ in. wide concrete lip. A smaller rectangular opening, measuring 1 ft by 1 ft 3 in. is located in the northeast portion of the roof, and a 4 in. diameter breather pipe is located in the northwest corner. The southernmost tank measures 8 ft 9 in. (N-S) by 14 ft 10 in. (E-W) by 4 ft 5 in. high. The roof has one rectangular access portal in the southwest corner, and a single 4 in. diameter breather pipe in the northwest corner. In addition to this, there are two pipe vents, measuring 4 in. in diameter, on the top of the south wall of the tank. By their placement, it appears that they may represent overflow holes. A much smaller 2 in. diameter galvanized pipe, was observed protruding from the east wall of the tank, 1 ft 4 in. above the ground surface. It is likely that this was a drain pipe. Attached to the east side of the tank structure is a rectangular concrete box measuring 5 ft (N-S) by 4 ft 9 in. (E-W). This board-formed concrete box is 6 in. thick and is set into the ground. Galvanized 3 in. diameter water pipes with attached valves are located at the bottom of the box (approximately 1 ft 6 in. below ground surface). These pipes, presumably, distributed water from the tanks to buildings within the Outer Portal community. This box allowed access to the pipes for maintenance and regulation of water flow. On the west side of the northernmost section of the above ground tank structure is a triangular poured concrete pad. This pad measures 8 ft by 8 ft by 9 ft (side parallel to the adjacent tank) and has a 6 in. diameter pipe hole located in its center. It appears that this pad represents the remnant foundation of windmill which pumped water from a well, up through the 6 in. pipe and into the adjacent tanks. No other visible remnants of the windmill structure are left on the site.
KEY:

- ▲ Protruding Pipe (1'4" above surface)
- --- Pipe with Valve
- R1 Reservoir (4'5" above ground surface)
- R2 Reservoir (4" above ground surface)
- ■ Breather Holes
- ○ Pipe Breather Holes
- A Access Valve (level with ground surface)

Site 42SA22681.C (Ogden Center Outer Portal). Feature 5.
15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Outer Portal (Cont.)

It is likely that this system supplied culinary water to the residents of the Outer Portal. The structures lie at an elevation 10 to 15 ft above the buildings that it served in order to supply sufficient water pressure through gravity feed. How many gallons per day could be, or were, pumped from the well by the windmill is not known. The number of people using the water in the Outer Portal at any one time is also not known. A U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers’ Bulletin on Farmstead Water Supply, published in 1925, indicates that constructing a culinary water system similar to this would require 40 gallons a day per person (not including livestock) (Warren 1925:33).

F6 is a rectangular sandstone and mortar residential foundation with associated basement and structural debris. Documentary research has identified this feature as the probable location of the Mens Dormitory structure. The structural foundation measures 36 ft (N-S) by 41 ft (E-W). The outline of this three room structure is well defined by a mortared sandstone cobble foundation.

Room 1 measures approximately 36 ft (N-S) by 25 ft (E-W). This room has a 3 in. thick concrete slab floor which is broken and/or missing in many places. The walls which once framed this room have fallen, but have not been entirely dismantled. Portions of the frame structure are still apparent; windows, doorways, and roof style are still discernable. It appears that the west wall had five windows and one door and the roof over this section was likely pitched and covered with tar paper. The two entryways to the structure are associated with Room 2. The first entryway is an indented (1 ft) entry measuring 3 ft wide located at the east end of the north side of the room. The second entry is located near the east end of the south side of the room and consists of a concrete pad, measuring 3 ft 6 in. long by 1 ft wide, supported by a sandstone slab foundation.

Room 2 is abutted to the northern portion of the east side of Room 1. The room measures 16 ft 6 in. (N-S) by 16 ft (E-W). The remaining portion of this room consists of a scatter of juniper (?) floor boards. Room 3 is abutted to the southern portion of the east side of Room 1 and the south side of Room 2. The room measures 19 ft 6 in. (N-S) by 16 ft (E-W). A cellar was present beneath Room 3, and the superstructure of the room has collapsed into the cellar which is now represented by a 5 ft deep depression. Portions of the stone foundation have collapsed and fallen into the cellar. Some of the original juniper floor joists remain in place. These joists are 1 ft 6 in. by 7 in. and extend horizontally between the east and west walls, resting on juniper sills which lie atop the remaining portion of the foundation. Some of the vertical support posts are still standing beneath the floor joists. In the southeast corner of the cellar area is a depression which may have served as an entryway. This depression measures approximately 9 ft by 9 ft. and has been partially filled in by collapsed foundation stone.

There is a large amount of structural lumber scattered inside and around this feature in addition to wire nails, aluminum coffee cans, ceramic flower pots, mesh screen fragments, window glass, tar paper, and decorative pressed aluminum scraps.

F7 is a collapsed privy feature located approximately 80 ft south of Feature 6, believed to be the Mens Dormitory. The feature area, including collapsed milled wood plank wall remnants, measures 15 ft (N-S) by 16 ft (E-W). An almost complete wall of the structure lies on the ground showing that it had a gable roof with a door on the gable end. The structure appears to have been constructed with 1 in. by variable width boards held together with 2x4s. A 7 in. (Cont.)
**15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Outer Portal (Cont.)**

Deep depression was found near the center of the feature, which likely represents what is left of the privy hole. It has been filled in, either intentionally and/or by slumping of soils over time.

Artifacts found in the vicinity of the feature include wire nails, a mason jar lid, a clear glass salt shaker fragment, a ham can, an evaporated milk can, and an aluminum can lid. It is likely that this feature represents a privy associated with Feature 6.

**F9** is a concentration of structural debris and a possible root cellar. There are over 200 pieces of structural debris scattered in an area which measures approximately 20 ft (N-S) by 21 ft (E-W). There is no evidence of a stone foundation at this feature. It is possible that there was once a lumber foundation at this location. Adjacent to the exterior of the south wall, near the southeast corner, is a depression which may represent a root cellar. This depression measures 11 ft (N-S) by 11 ft 9 in. (E-W) and has a depth of 10 in. There are a significant number of artifacts associated with this feature. A large, two-oven stove was located near the west wall of the feature. It measures 7 ft long by 2 ft 8 in. wide by 3 ft high. In addition, mesh screening, a refrigerator, crockery fragments, two shell buttons, can fragments, tar paper, lumber, and wire nails were found in and around this feature. This structure may represent a former kitchen area associated with F6 (Mens Dormitory) and F10 (Community House).

**F10** is a rectangular dry-laid sandstone foundation with associated structural debris. Documentary research has identified this feature as the probable location of the Community House structure. The structural foundation measures 18 ft 9 in. (N-S) by 41 ft (E-W). The number of rooms within the structure is unknown. The north side of the sandstone foundation is capped in a thin layer of concrete. There were two, 3 ft wide, entryways located in the north side of the structure. These entries were spaced 8 ft apart and centered on the midline of the structure. The gable roof which once sheltered this structure has collapsed, but is still intact. The roof was constructed of juniper lumber covered with tar paper. Sections of tar paper are still intact, as are a few vent holes. Lumber is scattered in and around this feature in addition to wire nails, stove parts, chicken wire, and barbed wire.

**F12** is a series of seven standing, rough-cut juniper posts located north of F10. The posts average between 2 ft and 4 ft high and the distance between them ranges from 13 ft to 80 ft. There are no additional pieces of fencing, nor any wire between the posts, however, it is probable at one time they helped to create an enclosure.

**F13** is a concentration of structural debris located 12 ft east of Feature 10. There are over 100 pieces of structural debris scattered in an area which measures approximately 15 ft (N-S) by 11 ft (E-W). There are no visible foundation remnants associated with this material. Along the east side of this feature stands a single juniper post, possibly associated with F12. Artifacts located in and around this feature include lumber, wire nails, and barbed wire.

**Middle Portal.** For individual locations of features, refer to site map. Five residential structures (F1, F7, F9, F10, and F11), one large commissary structure with cellar (F5 and F5a), five structural foundations (F8, F12, F13, F14, and F15), two wells (F6 and F11a), four privies (F2, F7a, F9a, and F10a), one collapsed barn (F3), and one corral (F4), were identified within the Middle Portal.


**15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Middle Portal (Cont.)**

F1 is a wide, low angle, gable roof, residential structure reminiscent of the Minimal Traditional style and type common from the middle to late 1930s into the middle 1950s (McAlester and McAlester 1984:478). The relatively poor construction and materials used to build this particular structure make it difficult to identify significant stylistic elements.

This seven room structure measures 32 ft (E-W) by 14 ft (N-S) and rests on a foundation partially constructed of native sandstone and mortar foundation (north and west sides) and board formed concrete (south and east sides). The structure has a partial basement which is accessed from the interior of the building. The main floor is supported by juniper post supports set into the ground and visible in the basement. There is a small window well feature on the west side of the structure made of sandstone and mortar. It is likely that this window provided light to the basement on this side of the house in the absence of electric lighting. A large, semi-circular cobble feature is located adjacent to the east side of a projecting bay on the east side of the house. This feature measures 18 ft 6 in. (N-S) by approximately 6 ft 6 in. wide (E-W). This feature is only partially intact and served an unknown function.

The frame structure is constructed of 2x4 in. framing and exhibits at least two different external wall treatments. In some areas it appears that there is true board and batten construction, and in others, it appears that the framing is overlain by plywood and vertical wood striping to resemble board and batten construction. The south side of the building has a short projecting bay, typical of Minimal Traditional cottages, also covered with board and batten siding. On the east side a large modified shed roof addition has been built onto the house.

Fenestration around the structure is relatively simple with rectangular board framed windows and several pedestrian door openings. On the south side of the structure are two window openings, one in each half of the house, measuring 2 ft 4 in. high by 2 ft 10 in. wide. On the east side are two sets of paired window openings and two pedestrian door openings. One of these pairs is located in the projecting bay adjacent to one of the door openings. There are three rectangular window openings in the north side of the shed roof addition to the structure, and another four in the west side of the addition along with one pedestrian door opening.

The roof of the main structure is deteriorating rapidly and is partially collapsed on the south end of the east side. Tar paper is visible over portions of the roof, along with some remnant green and red asphalt shingles. One partial oval scrap of green shingle near the crest of the roof on the west side suggests that a stove pipe hole once existed in that location. Most of the roof of the shed roof addition gently slopes up to a crest near the west side of the house. Here the roof slopes more sharply, following the same angle as that on the main house.

F2 is a privy location located approximately 65 ft northwest of the residential structure identified as Feature 1. The feature measures 3 ft 10 in. (E-W) by 7 ft (N-S). The remaining portion of the structure stands approximately 6 ft high. It has a collapsing front gable roof structure constructed of 2x4 framing covered by board and batten siding. Siding consists of 1 in. thick milled lumber boards held together with wire nails. It apparently rests on the ground with no visible foundation support. A pedestrian door opening is located in the south portion of the east side of the structure. The roof of the structure appears to have once been covered with green tar paper, some remnants of which are still attached. It is likely that this feature represents a privy associated with Feature 1.
**15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Middle Portal (Cont.)**

F3 is a largely collapsed wooden barn or shed. Its original configuration is difficult to establish, though it appears to have been a shed roof structure with batten and board construction. It measured approximately 21 ft (E-W) by 24 ft (N-S) and had a pedestrian door opening in its south side. Adjacent to the south and east sides of the former structure, a white enamel stove and wringer washer were found. Whether these were once associated with the structure is not known. Deteriorating wood debris from the barn lies scattered under and around the structure.

F4 is a corral with associated loading chute. Overall, this feature covers an area approximately 190 ft (E-W) by 120 ft (N-S). More than half of the fenceposts associated with this feature have fallen. The corral, which is divided into two cells, is constructed of juniper posts and strands of barbed wire. Within the eastern cell is a loading area. The squeeze/loading chute is 60 ft long and tapers from approximately 6 ft 6 in. wide at its entry (west) to 2 ft 9 in. wide at its exit (east). A collapsed barn (F3) is located near the center of the western cell.

F5 is a large, partially intact, open structure built with very simple, yet strong Colonial Revival style characteristics. This style was very popular in Utah in residential construction from the 1890s up to about 1940 (Carter and Goss 1988:147). Documentary research has identified this feature as the probable location of the Commissary structure. Overall, the structure measures 40 ft (E-W) by 20 ft (N-S). It has a first story, with an open half-loft, and a basement. The basement of the structure provides entry to the large adjacent sod covered cellar structure (F5a). The first level of the frame building has three rooms and two stairwells. One stairwell leads to the enclosed half-loft, and the other leads to the basement. An external basement entrance is located on the northeast corner of the building and measures approximately 4 ft (E-W) by 7 ft (N-S). The structure rests on a sandstone rock and mortar foundation and has an attached dugout, semisubterranean structure (F5a) butted up against its west end. The first floor of the building is supported by milled beams set in the ground beneath 2x8 in. floor joists. The structure is built of wooden framing covered with batten and board siding.

The batten and board covering has been removed from most of the south and east sides of the structure. Fenestration includes simple window openings and pedestrian door openings. On the east and west ends of the building are three window openings, two on each side of the lower story, and a single, centrally located window opening in the second story. On the north side of the building are three pedestrian door openings, and at least two located on the south side. The tight, gambrel roof is covered with green asphalt shingles underlain by tar paper.

F5a is a semi-subterranean cellar/cold storage area covered with native soil attached to the west side of the Commissary (F5) structure. The structure has a trapezoidal shape in plan view, with soil mounded up to approximately 6 ft high over the roof. The structure measures approximately 29 ft wide (N-S) on the west end, and 36 ft wide (N-S) on the east end. The north and south sides of the structure are approximately 32 ft long, and it is 29 ft on the east side. Along the crest of the structure are two wooden box vents covered with a small gamble roofs which protrude from the roof line approximately 2 ft. The structure is bordered by a rock wall on its western edge, beyond which is a wooden cellar entrance. This entrance measures approximately 8 ft (E-W) by 5 ft (N-S). It consists of a vertical plank structure over the entry with a very shallow gable roof and a 6 ft high pedestrian doorway. The cellar roof is supported by a lattice work of juniper logs and covered by sod.
Site 42SA22681.B (Ogden Center Middle Portal). Feature 5 and 5a.

KEY:

- Vent
- Cellar Entrance
- Dirt Mound
- Juniper Logs
- Entry to Subterranean Dugout
- Cobbles/Rocks
- Presumed Shape of Subterranean Dugout
**15. Buildings and Structures - Describe:** Middle Portal (Cont.)

**F6** is a standard style American farm windmill. The structure is approximately 25 ft high and rests upon a 12 ft (E-W) by 10 ft (N-S) concrete pad. The concrete pad rests on a 2 ft high mortared sandstone foundation. Two steps made of board-formed concrete, measuring 2 ft wide, are located on the south side of the foundation. A 2 ft 10 in. square vent is located in the northeast corner of the concrete pad. Random screws with bolts and washers protrude from the surface of the concrete pad. This hardware appears to have once been used to secure some form of fixture to the pad. On the exterior of each corner of the concrete well pad are what appear to be broken wooden footings. The structure itself consists of an open framework metal taper tower, vertical crank, arms/blades, steering rudder, ladder, and pump. No manufacturing information was visible on any portion of the structure. The well itself is not visible beneath the concrete pad.

**F7** is a small one story, vernacular adobe residence resting on mortar and native sandstone cobble foundation. The structure is in deteriorating condition, but still retains most of its physical integrity. It measures 14 ft 6 in. (E-W) by 22 ft 9 in. (N-S). The house currently consists of a single room with plank flooring. The structure has a 1 ft 6 in. to 2 ft high cobble and mortar foundation upon which rests a thick adobe brick structure. Much of the adobe is melting in exposed conditions, but continues to be partially protected by the roof line.

Fenestration of the house includes two pedestrian door openings and five window openings. The north side (front?) of the structure has one window and one pedestrian door opening. The window is a small, one-over-one, double hung window set into a deep, milled wood frame. The window sill is made of poorly poured concrete. The lintel is milled wood. The door opening is framed with milled wood, the door is absent. A concrete stoop extends out a few feet from the door opening. The west side of the house has one rectangular window opening, which once probably held a double-hung window frame, and a pedestrian door opening with frame. The south side of the house has one square window opening in the center of the wall. The east side of the house has two rectangular window openings which both, most likely, once held double hung-window frames.

The house has a front gable roof with tar paper and remnants of shingles still attached in some areas. A metal stove pipe protrudes from the roof near the center of the west roof slope. The gable ends appear to have been constructed using vertical planks over which was placed smooth white stucco.

**F7a** is a collapsed privy feature located approximately 65 ft south of the residential structure identified as Feature 7. The wood present consists of milled 2x4s holding together sets of 1 in. thick boards of variable widths and lengths. One two-board piece has a toilet seat hole sawn out of it. It is likely that the privy depression lies beneath the pile of lumber and that this feature represents a privy associated with Feature 7.

**F8** is a poured concrete and sandstone residential foundation with associated root cellar. The structural foundation measures 14 ft (N-S) by 32 ft (E-W). The outline of this one (?) room structure is well defined by the remaining portions of the foundation.

The east side of the foundation is constructed of board formed concrete reinforced with rebar. The root cellar staircase entry is located in the southern portion of the east wall. The wooden (juniper) staircase is 4 ft 6 in. wide and descends a distance of 5 ft to a partially buried (Cont.)
Site 42SA22681.B (Ogden Center Middle Portal). Feature 8.
*15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Middle Portal (Cont.) door. The door frame and door are wooden and have been constructed with wire nails. The eastern half of the north side of the foundation is absent. The intact western portion of the north side of the foundation consists of a 16 ft long section of mortared sandstone cobbles. The west side of the foundation is completely intact, and consists of a 14 ft long section of mortared sandstone cobbles. The south side of the foundation consists of board formed concrete reinforced with rebar. A 7 ft wide opening is located in the eastern section of the south wall. It is presumed that this opening once represented an entryway. In order to facilitate the attachment of floor boards to the concrete foundation, inverted nails were set into the drying concrete. Damaged sections of the concrete foundation are randomly scattered across the interior of this feature. There were no additional artifacts found in association with this feature.

F9 is a one-story frame residence resting on a mortar and sandstone cobble foundation. The structure measures about 17 ft (N-S) by 20 ft (E-W) and consists of one room with an attic or loft. The foundation of the structure is approximately 1 ft 6 in. high and consists of native sandstone cobbles held together with mortar. A 2 ft 6 in. wide, dressed sandstone and mortar, cellar entrance is located on the south side of the house adjacent to the east side of the front door. Between the dressed stone walled entrance are a series of poured concrete steps which lead down to the cellar beneath the house.

The frame structure is built of 2x4 framing over which was placed vertical milled planks. Over these was placed a layer of asphalt shingle siding. It appears that an awning once existed on the front (south side) of the structure which has since collapsed and now lies on the ground. The collapse of this awning appears to have been the cause of much of the tar paper exterior covering on the building being stripped off of the area around the front pedestrian door.

Fenestration on the house is fairly simple, consisting of six windows, two pedestrian doors, and a vent opening. The south side (front) of the structure has one rectangular one-over-one, double-hung window near its east end. The window measures 3 ft high by 3 ½ ft wide. A pedestrian door opening, measuring 7 ft 4 in high by 3 ft wide, is located on the west side of the structure. The east side of the structure has a wooden framed pedestrian door opening near its south end with two concrete steps beyond the door. A 3 ft by 3 ft 6 in. window opening is located north of the door opening. The north and west sides of the building each have a set of paired window openings, measuring 3 ft 10 in. high by 2 ft 6 in. wide. Though the frames are missing, it appears that these may have been single pane windows.

The building has a front gable roof with exposed rafter tails. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles over another set of older wooden shingles. A metal stove vent pipe protrudes from the southern edge of the eastern slope of the roof. A 3 ft high by 1 ft 4 in. wide vent opening is located in the attic portion of the house. It appears that the structure was electrified at some point in its history as evidenced by a small white porcelain insulator which was found in artifactual debris on the south side of the building.

F9a is a small depression/possible privy located approximately 100 ft southwest of the residential structure identified as Feature 9. Materials at this location consist of 1 in. milled wood planks and 2x4s in an area measuring approximately 6 ft square. It is likely that this feature represents a privy associated with Feature 9.

F10 is a large, 1½ story, front gable, Minimal Traditional residence which measures 28 ft 8 in. (NW-SE) by 28 ft 6 in. (SW-NE). The building has a basement and substantial shed roof (Cont.)
*15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Middle Portal (Cont.)

addition on the north side of the house. The house is divided into four rooms on the main floor. The building rests on a native sandstone cobble and mortar foundation and has a wide stone and mortar porch landing attached to the northeast side (front) of the house. This landing measures 22 ft long by 6 ft 9 in. wide and is covered by a smooth layer of mortar. A 3 ft 6 in. long by 6 ft 9 in. wide stairway leads down from the landing five steps (north) to the ground surface.

The house is a wood frame structure with wooden shingle siding. The overlapping wooden shake shingles are laid over horizontal plank siding. This shingle siding extends up and throughout the gable ends and on the addition of the house as well. Fenestration on the house is quite extensive with each side having multiple windows and with doors on two sides. The northeast side (front) of the house has a centrally placed pedestrian door opening, flanked by two pairs of rectangular, six-over-six double hung windows. The northwest facing side has two rectangular, six-over-six double hung windows which flank the centrally located shed roof addition to the house. The shed roof addition measures 10 ft by 11 ft 9 in. and has a pedestrian door on the northeast facing side. A pair of three pane, fixed windows are located on the northwest facing side of the addition. The southwest facing side of the house has a pair of six-over-six, double hung windows and a pedestrian door with concrete stoop. The door, which is still in place, is a three paneled wooden door with a rectangular, single pane window (now missing) in its upper portion. The upper half-story of the house has a large, vertically oriented window opening in the center of the southwest wall almost reaching the peak of the roof, flanked by two smaller vent openings.

The gable roof of the house is covered with wooden shingles. A regular brick chimney with concrete cap is located on the peak of the roof near the center of the house. Two metal vent pipes protrude from both the middle of the west facing roof gable, and just below the chimney on the same gable.

F10a is a small depression/possible privy located approximately 65 ft south of the residential structure identified as Feature 10. This feature consists of a 4 ft by 4 ft concrete privy foundation with metal bolts. Materials at this location consist of a fallen milled wood frame structure, bricks, clear bottle glass, and a broom. It is likely that this feature represents a privy associated with Feature 10.

F11 is a long, one story, utilitarian shed roof building, accommodating a residence, a workshop, and garage. Documentary research has identified this feature as the probable location of the Master Builders residence. The structure is 80 ft long (E-W) by 21 ft 6 in. wide (N-S) and has an added corral area which extends south of the building approximately 60 ft. The structure rests on a native sandstone cobble and mortar foundation.

The structure is wood frame with horizontal planking covered by stone facade and rolled tar paper. The west end of the structure is covered with corrugated metal sheathing. The rear of the building is highly deteriorated, but appears to have been covered with decorative tar paper. The structure is divided into three sections roughly equal in size. The eastern third of the structure consists of the residential portion of the building. The central third consists of the workshop, and the western third consists of the garage area.

Fenestration on the building includes a variety of window treatments, pedestrian doors, and other door types needed for the multiple functions taking place within the building. The north side of the structure (front) has three windows and one pedestrian door within the
15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Middle Portal (Cont.) residential area on the east end of the structure. A three pane swinging window is present on the east side of the door. Two two-pane windows are located on the west side of the entryway and appear to also be swinging windows. A fourth window is located along the north side of the structure within the shop area to the west of the residential portion of the structure. This is another two-pane, swing(?) window, perhaps helping to light the shop area. The windows are all wooden frame. The shop area is accessed via two separate sets of large swing-out doors made with vertical planking located just west of the shop window. A large open-bay garage is located at the west end of the structure. The west side of the building contains no window or door openings and is covered with corrugated metal. The south side of the building has been altered to accommodate livestock holding pens and activities associated with care of livestock. This side of the building has at least three pedestrian doors, a paired window, a single pane window, and a triple pane window. A large hole has been broken through at the east end of the south wall. The east wall has two windows, a single fixed pane window, and a second, larger window opening which is covered with a wooden pallet.

The structure has a shed roof sloping to the south from the front. Along the south side of the roof, rafter tails are exposed. They appear to support wood planks and are covered with corrugated metal.

F11a is a well located approximately 85 ft northwest of the Master Builders Quarters (F11). The present structure consists of a modern 5x5 ft concrete pad with a painted steel shed pump housing. This modern structure appears to have recently replaced a historic structure at this location. Fragments of a sandstone cobbles foundation are scattered around the new concrete pad indicating that a sandstone foundation once occupied this location.

F12 is a rectangular sandstone and mortar foundation with associated basement and structural debris. Documentary research has identified this feature as the probable location of the Home of Truth Chapel. The structural foundation measures 39 ft (N-S) by 61 ft (E-W). The structure is well defined by partially standing walls and remaining portions of the sandstone foundation. No internal division of the building is apparent.

The north wall of the structure remains as the most intact portion of the building. The remaining portion of the wall stands between 4 ft and 8 ft high and measures 1 ft 3 in thick. The north wall of the structure had a large chimney and two visible basement entries. The centrally located chimney (28 ft west of the northeast corner of the structure) was constructed of mortared sandstone cobbles and measured 7 ft wide (E-W) by 3 ft 10 in. deep (N-S). A juniper framed rectangular vent, measuring 1 ft high by 10 in. wide is centered on the north side of the chimney. The first doorway was located 6 ft west of the northeast corner of the structure. The second doorway was located just west of the chimney, 35 ft west of the northeast corner of the structure. The juniper doorframes remain relatively intact and measure 3 ft 6 in. wide. The basement of the structure has accumulated a great deal of sedimentary fill, making the height of the doorways impossible to measure without excavation, only the upper 3 ft of the basement remains unfilled.

The remaining portion of the east wall of the structure stands between 2 ft and 4 ft high and has a single basement window with an intact juniper frame which measures 2 ft 6 in. by 2 ft 6 in. The west wall of the structure stands between 2 ft and 4 ft high has no observed features. The south wall of the structure is absent.
'15. Buildings and Structures - Describe: Middle Portal (Cont.)

The first story floor of the structure is constructed of milled juniper boards and remains relatively intact. The floor consists of 2x10 in. horizontal floor joists which extend between the east and west walls. The joists rest on juniper sills which are embedded in the sandstone walls. The sills vary in size, but are primarily 10x10 in. In addition, many of the vertical support posts under the floor joists are also 10x10 in. The floor boards on the west side of the structure are still in place. There are sandstone cobbles, numerous wire nails, and lumber scattered in the vicinity of this feature.

F13 is a rectangular dry-laid sandstone foundation and depression located approximately 80 ft northwest of the Home of Truth Chapel (F12). The feature measures 15 ft (N-S) by 12 ft (E-W). A sparse scatter of sandstone cobbles are all that remain of the foundation. The depression within the foundation has an approximate depth of 4 in. There are wire nails and sections of juniper batten and board walls strewn about the feature. The function of this feature is unknown.

F14 is a dry-laid sandstone foundation associated with the smaller Home of Truth Chapel (F12). Documentary research has identified this feature as the probable location of the Home of Truth 1,000 Person Chapel. Construction of this Chapel was well underway in the spring of 1937 (Dewitt 1937:27), although evidence suggests that the structure was never completed. The structural foundation measures 58 ft (N-S) by 61 ft (E-W). The structure is relatively well defined, although foundation cobbles are sparse in places and there appears to be little depth. The southeast and southwest corners of the foundation are intact and in line with the corners of F12. The west side of the foundation is visible and is also in line with the west side of F12. The east side of the foundation is difficult to discern. There were no artifacts or structural debris identified in association with this feature.

F15 is a rectangular dry-laid sandstone foundation measuring 40 ft (N-S) by 50 ft (E-W). The majority of the surviving portion of this foundation lies at ground surface. What appears to be the remnants of a mortared sandstone chimney were identified along the eastern wall of the foundation. Two sides of the possible chimney remain, standing 3 ft above ground surface. The southwest corner of the foundation has been disturbed by a dirt road which passes the feature. There were no artifacts found in association with this feature.
IMACS SITE FORM

PART C--HISTORIC SITES
(Continuation Sheet)

Site No. 42Sa22681

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Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of the Outer Portal of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement; view to the west-northwest.

Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 1, Outer Portal; view to the north-northwest.
Site 42SA22681.C.  Overview of Feature 1, Outer Portal; view to the southwest.

Site 42SA22681.C.  Overview of Feature 2, Outer Portal; view to the north.
Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 3, Outer Portal; view to the south-southwest.

Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 4, Outer Portal; view to the north.
Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 5, Outer Portal; view to the south-southeast.

Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 6, Outer Portal; view to the northwest.
Overview of Feature 6, Outer Portal; view to the southeast.

Overview of Feature 7, Outer Portal; view to the north-northeast.
Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 8, Outer Portal; view to the northeast.

Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 9, Outer Portal; view to the west.
Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 10, Outer Portal; view to the west.

Site 42SA22681.C. Feature 10, close-up view of stone foundation remnant and collapsed roof, Outer Portal; view to the northwest.
Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 11, Outer Portal; view to the west.

Site 42SA22681.C. Overview of Feature 12, Outer Portal; view to the west.
Overview of Feature 13, Outer Portal; view to the northwest.

Overview of Feature 14, Outer Portal; view to the east.
Site 42SA22681.B,C. Overview of historic roadway between the Middle and Outer Portals; view to the west.
Overview of the Middle Portal of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement; view to the east.

Overview of Feature 1, Middle Portal; view to the southeast.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 1, Middle Portal; view to the north-northwest.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 2, Middle Portal; view to the northwest.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 3, Middle Portal; view to the northwest.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Features 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11, Middle Portal; view to the west.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 4, Middle Portal; view to the north-northeast.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 5 and 5a, Middle Portal; view to the south-southeast.
Site 42SA22681.B. Feature 5a, entrance to cellar, Middle Portal; view to the east.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 5, Middle Portal; view to the northwest.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 5, with Feature 1 visible in background, Middle Portal; view to the northeast.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 5a, with Feature 6 visible in background, Middle Portal; view to the north-northeast.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 6, with showing Feature 3 and 4 visible in background, Middle Portal; view to the northwest.
Site 42SA22681.B. Feature 6, foundation of windmill, Middle Portal; view to the north-northwest.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 7, Middle Portal; view to the northeast.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 7a, collapsed privy, Middle Portal; close-up view.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 8, with Feature 7 visible in background, Middle Portal; view to the east.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 9, Middle Portal; view to the north-northeast.

Overview of Feature 9a, Middle Portal; close-up view.
Overview of Features 10 and 10a, Middle Portal; view to the north-northwest.

Feature 10, stone patio on south side of structure, Middle Portal; view to the west.
Overview of Feature 11, Middle Portal; view to the south.

Feature 11, corrals at rear of structure, Middle Portal; view to the east.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 11a, Middle Portal; view to the southeast.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 11b, Middle portal; view to the west.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 12, Middle Portal; view to the northwest.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 12, Middle Portal; view to the southeast.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 13, with Feature 12 visible in background, Middle Portal; view to the southeast.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 14, with Feature 12 visible in background, Middle Portal; view to the north.
Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 15, Middle Portal; view to the north-northeast.

Site 42SA22681.B. Overview of Feature 16, with Feature 3 visible in background, Middle Portal; view to the northwest.
Site 42SA22681.A. Entrance to the Inner Portal of Ogden Center and the Home of Truth Cooperative Settlement; view to the north.

Site 42SA22681.A. Overview of structures within the Inner Portal; view to the northeast.