

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Ely L.D.S. Stake Tabernacle

other names/site number Centennial Fine Arts Center (White Pine Community Association Building)

2. Location

street & number 900 Aultman Street not for publication

city or town Ely vicinity

state Nevada code NV county White Pine code 033 zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage/Other (Mormon)
 Architecture

Period of Significance

1927-1928

Significant Dates

1927-1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
one		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
one		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals/

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof asphalt shingle

other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Ely L.D.S. Stake Tabernacle, constructed in 1927-1928, is a prominent reminder of the presence of the Mormon church in Ely, Nevada. While the name of the building's architect is not known, the design incorporates many characteristics of the Colonial Revival, indicating that the designer had formal training. The Tabernacle, originally used as a church and community meeting place, is now owned by the White Pine Community Choir for an auditorium. Future plans include use as a community center. The building retains its historic integrity.

The former church is located on Aultman Street, the main east-west thoroughfare through Ely; the courthouse and public park are one block to the west. Various commercial establishments occupy these blocks of downtown Ely. A motel is located directly east of the Tabernacle and the high school is across eighth street to the west. To the north, a residential neighborhood occupies the hill above the downtown district.

The Ely Tabernacle is a T-shaped, two-story brick building on a concrete foundation, with a gable roof across the base of the "T" and a hip roof across the top of the "T." The main entrance to the church is located in the gable end of the building, and is emphasized by a large, Palladian motif doorway and a multi-lite, hexagonal window in the wall above. Of note is the brick coursing: the walls have only stretchers and no headers; they may be only a facade. The main elevation is further emphasized by alternating quoins of concrete and brick, and cornice returns. The cornice around the remainder of the building is dentiled and the roof has asphalt shingles.

The side and rear elevations have multi-lite, double hung wooden rectangular and arched windows, many of which are boarded over. A second entrance is located on the west wing, and has a pedimented doorway with a transom and an arched window above. A second row of windows is located just above ground level and lights the lower floor. A third row of windows, illuminating the gallery, is found in the rear wing.

The first floor and second-floor gallery retains its historic integrity, and has fine wood floors and architectural detailing. The foyer leads into a central auditorium with side aisles which can be closed off with french doors. The basement level, not distinguished architecturally, includes meeting rooms and a kitchen.

The building is being restored by the White Pine Community Choir Association.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

The Ely L.D.S. Stake Tabernacle is significant under criterion A because of its association with the history and development of the Church of the Latter-day Saints in Nevada and under criterion C for its noted use of Colonial Revival architectural design. The Tabernacle was built in 1927 and serves as an excellent expression of the regional character of White Pine County for Ely, which was the seat of government. Situated in a mining community in a region once beyond the boundary of Nevada and within the sphere of influence of the Mormon Church, the Tabernacle is a symbol of diverse cultural elements meeting on a common ground. In addition, the use of Colonial Revival motifs for the building, highlighted by a striking contrast of light and dark building materials, creates an excellent example of twentieth-century monumental architecture in eastern Nevada.

The Mormon State of Deseret, founded in the mid-1840s as a refuge for members of the faith fleeing persecution in the eastern states, originally encompassed the entire Great Basin including what is now Nevada. The Great Basin is a unique portion of world geography, draining into itself rather than an ocean. It occupies an enormous amount of western North America and a majority of Nevada and Utah are within its boundaries.

When Congress created the Nevada Territory in 1861, it included only the part of the Great Basin to the west of the 116th longitude. This created a territory about half as wide as the present-day state. When mineral deposits were discovered in the Austin area (in what is now central Nevada), Congress added to Nevada in 1862 so that it included those parts of the Great Basin to the west of the 115th longitude. Further discoveries of minerals in the Pahranaagat Valley inspired an 1866 modification of the boundary so that Nevada - a state after 1864 - extended still further east to its present border at the 114th longitude.

The growth of Nevada at the expense of Utah was inspired by a general dislike of Mormons over polygamy and the perception that they were insular and autonomous. In addition, the Church of the Latter-day Saints attempted to discourage mining because mineral strikes often caused rushes importing non-Mormons and thereby threatening the utopian, faithful society the Mormons hoped to establish. The federal government regarded Nevada, founded as a mining state, to be the best manager of mineral rich lands, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

The Church of the Latter-day Saints assumed an early role in Ely, but for two decades met in temporary, borrowed or rented facilities. An Ely Branch of the Church was organized in 1915. In 1920, the nearby McGill Ward acquired jurisdiction over the Ely Branch, but in 1926, Ely was formally organized as a Ward with George A. Wilson as Bishop. At the same time, the Ward was placed under a newly-organized Nevada Stake (a still larger component in the Church organizational chart). Under Bishop Wilson, the Church erected its stake tabernacle in Ely (granting that community pivotal importance for the region) at a cost of about \$60,000. The building included an auditorium with seating for 600, an amusement hall in the basement, a baptismal font, Relief Society room, and several classrooms. In all the building became an important center of Church activity in the area. Although the building was opened in 1928, a formal dedication ceremony by Church President Heber J. Grant did not occur until April 26, 1935. The building was replaced by a newer facility in 1957, but the first building remains as a symbol of the earlier, dynamic community and its relationship to its Mormon roots, reestablishing itself in land formally under the preview of Utah, now in the midst the Nevada's twentieth-century mining boom.

The Ely L.D.S. Stake Tabernacle is also significant under criterion C because of its local interpretation of Colonial Revival architecture in a part of the Great Basin with few such monumental buildings. The two-story, brick building occupies a prominent corner of the main street in Ely. The design of the building was part of a ten year effort (1922-1932) by the Church of Latter Day Saints to consciously upgrade the architecture of its churches. In this building, the bold architectural features, including a Palladian motif for the front door, cornice returns, quoins of alternating colors, and arched windows with keystones, create a commanding presence. The contractor for the construction was Joseph Van Carolos Young, grandson of Brigham Young. There are very few buildings in rural Nevada of this style, and, fortunately, the building is in the process of being restored for the use of many future generations.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

so its boundaries expanded eastward as prospectors explored the previously little-known hinterland and identified ore bodies.

Although Nevada acquired and oversaw the exploitation of mineral resources in its new found lands, the eastern fringe of the state was close to Salt Lake City and remained in that capital's sphere of influence in many ways. This created a fundamental dichotomy in the resulting settlements. For example, Panaca in Lincoln County to the south was a Mormon agricultural settlement while nearby Pioche was a non-Mormon mining town. The two coexisted for economic and geographic reasons, but they remained insulated from one another. Similarly, White Pine County, founded in territory once entirely in Utah beyond the original Nevada border, had long been the object of Mormon settlement and expansion. Its mining potential contributed to irregular population trends. Hamilton, to the west of Ely and the first White Pine County seat, was founded and largely abandoned within two decades. A few other mining areas suffered similar fates. At the turn of the century, however, a major copper strike occurred in central White Pine County creating a basis for long-term settlement and economic prosperity. Ely, founded at the center of the strike, became the seat of government for White Pine County, and an infrastructure for a stable community soon took root.

Mining towns based on gold and silver mining almost by definition can prove difficult for Mormon expansion. A diversity of faiths and ethnic backgrounds provide the community with little cohesion. The booming nature of their economies can lead to a free-wheeling life style. In addition, the tendency of boom towns to disappear as quickly as they were founded creates an atmosphere which is not conducive to the growth of an institution such as the Church of the Latter-day Saints which thrives on stability and continuity. Copper mining, on the other hand, typically involves the development of a large diffuse ore body, the mining of which can take decades, providing a long term economic basis for a community. Ely - based on copper mining and situated on land previously part of Utah - provided, therefore, an ideal soil for Mormon roots. The Ely L.D.S. Stake Tabernacle can be seen as a symbol of the synthesis between the Nevada mining economy and the Mormon sphere of influence.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

- Arrington, Leonard J., The Mormons in Nevada (Las Vegas: Las Vegas Sun, 1979).
- Elliott, Russell R., Nevada's Twentieth-Century Mining Boom: Tonopah, Goldfield, Ely (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1966).
- Hulse, James W., Lincoln County, Nevada: 1864-1909 (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1971).
- The Silver State: Nevada's Heritage Reinterpreted (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1991).
- Jensen, Andrew, Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1941).
- Sample-Bernstein, Rebecca, "Mormons" draft prepared for the Nevada Comprehensive Preservation Plan ed. by Ronald M. James (Carson City: Nevada Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, 1st ed. 1989; 2nd edition 1991).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

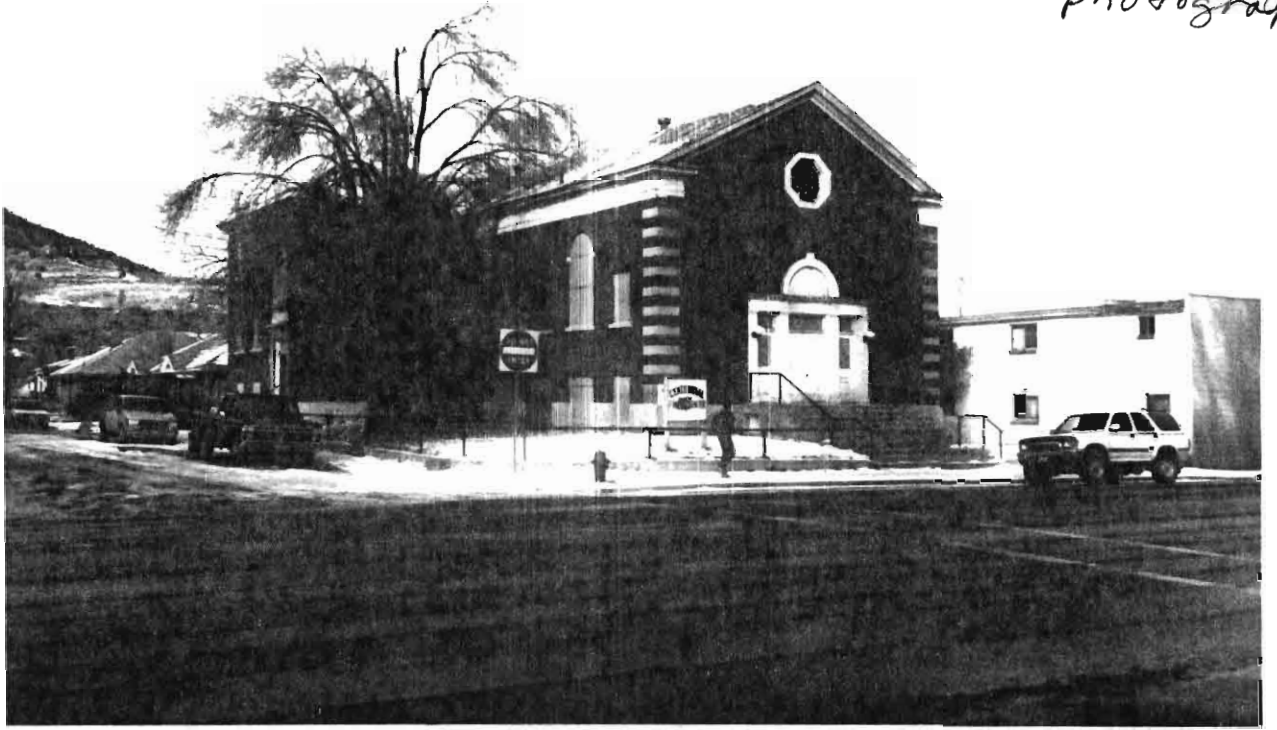
Verbal boundary description

Legal parcel number 01-199-06.

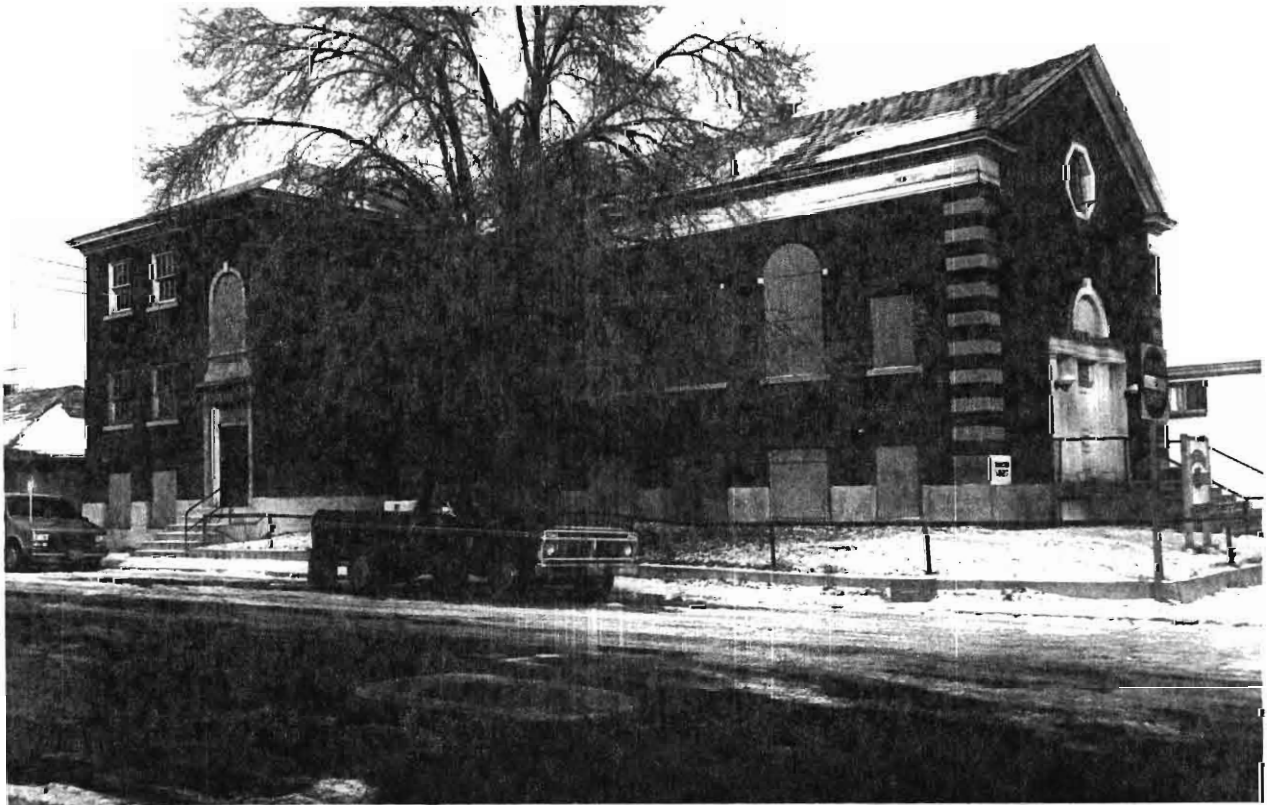
Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the tabernacle.

Ron Healy
photographer



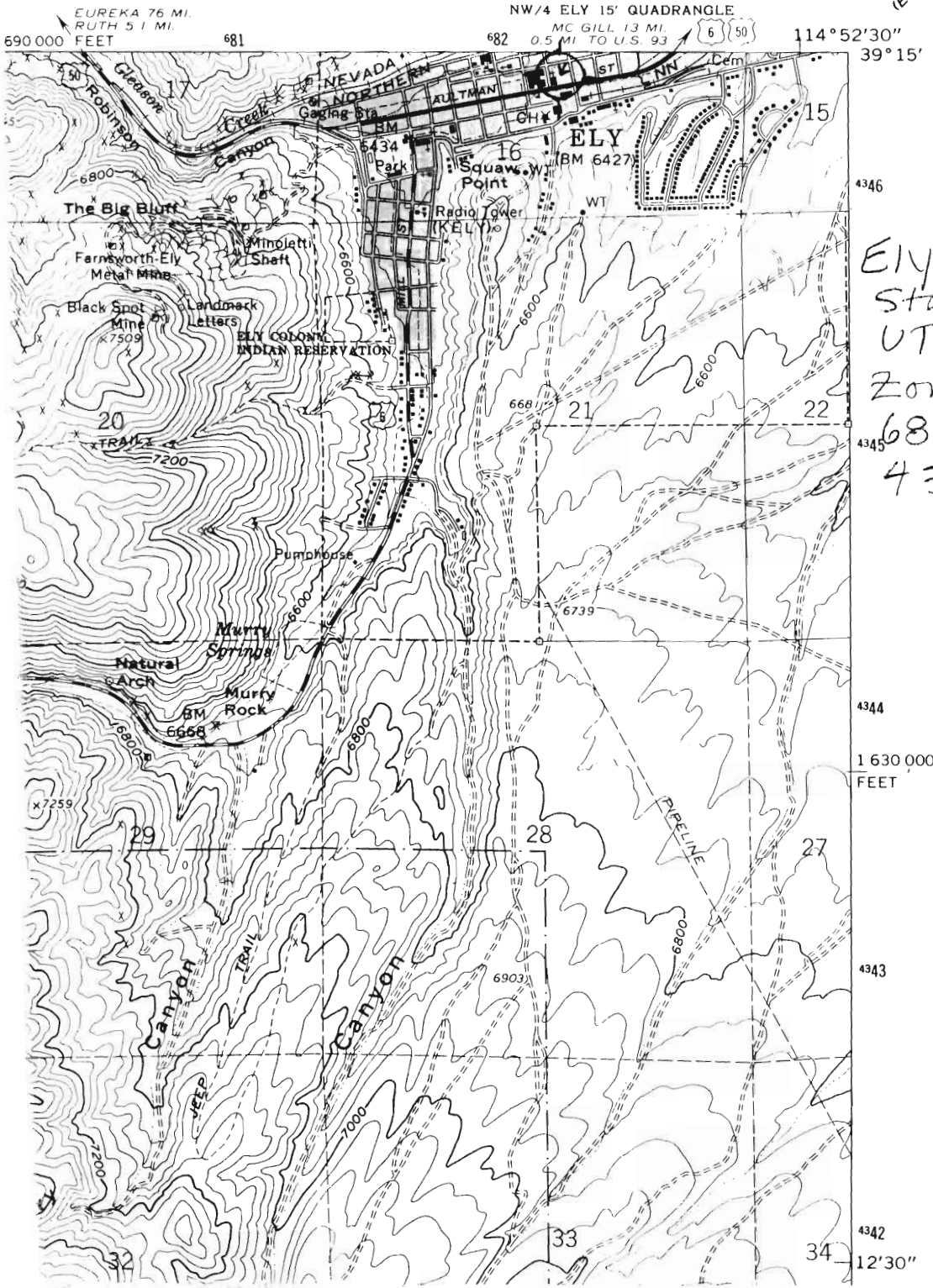
Ely L.D.S. Stake Tabernacle. *looking NNE*



looking ENE

ELY QUADRANGLE
 NEVADA—WHITE PINE CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3062 IV SE
 (EAST ELY)



Ely L.D.S.
 State Tabernacle
 UTM's:
 Zone 11
 682270 m E
 4346315 m N