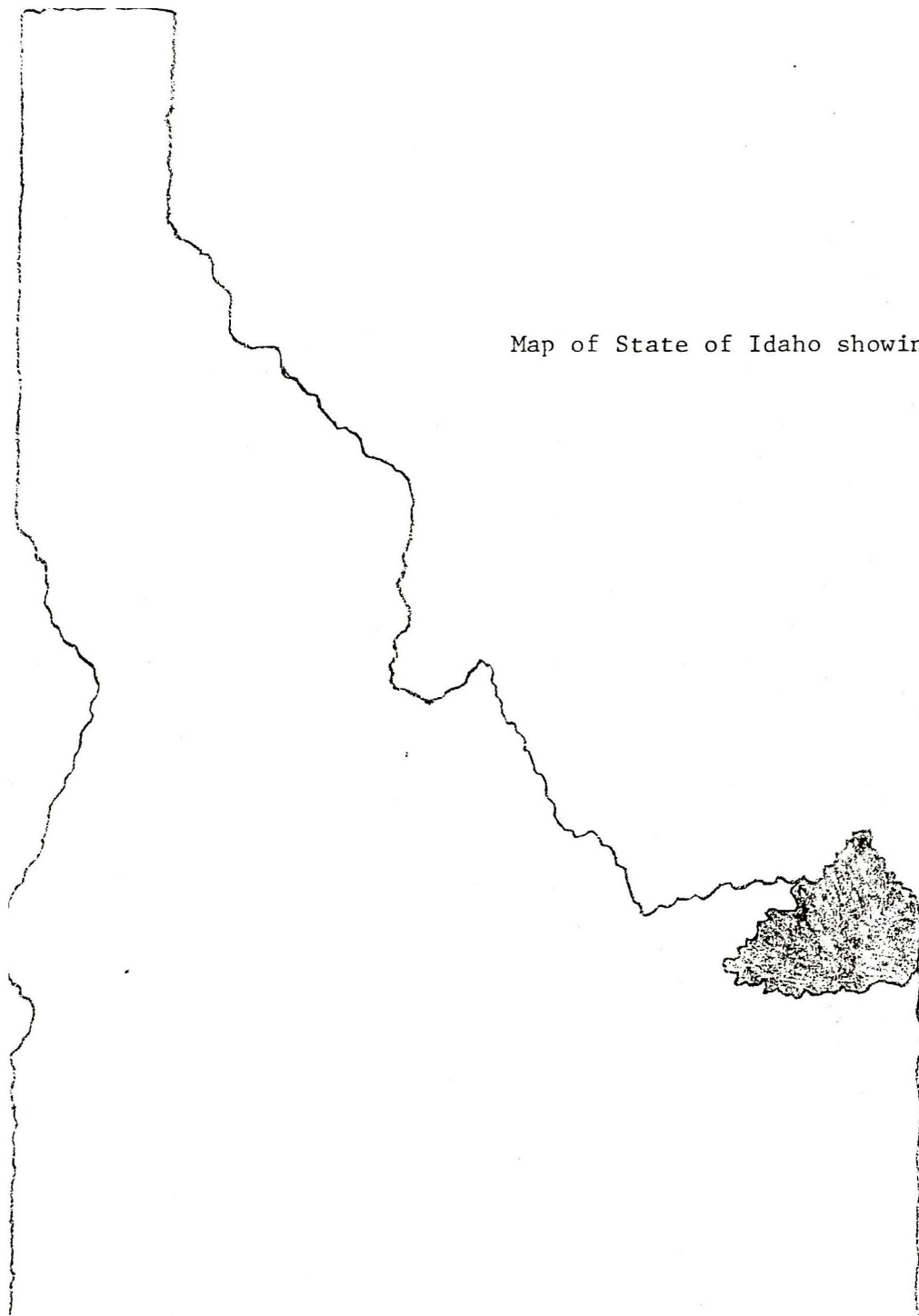


## Administrative Office

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FREMONT COUNTY, IDAHO,  
SCHOOLS FROM EIGHTEEN EIGHTY  
TO NINETEEN NINETY

Garnot C. Bischoff

Map of State of Idaho showing Fremont County



Old School District Numbers

COMMON  
District No.

- 1 North Salem
- 2 Ora
- 3 Vernon — *Market Lake, Roberts*
- 4 Cedar Point or Mountain View
- 5 Fall River — *ville, Chester*
- 6 Camas Meadows — *House*  
Also Sheetz (*Kelly*)
- 7 Oasis  
Canyon  
Ellis  
Cedar Butte
- 8 Leigh  
Lava  
Newdale — *became Indep. #9*
- 9 Canyon Creek  
Highland
- 10 Union  
Winsper
- 11 Independence  
Rice
- 12 Archer  
Jacoby
- 13 Rudy — *unorganized #13, Lake*  
Cottonwood
- 14 Wilford — *Berry*
- 15 Lillian  
Drummond — *also Indep. #5*
- 16 Moody Creek  
Big Springs — *quilt*
- 17 Center — *Herman*
- 18 Warm River
- 19 Dubois  
Crescent View
- 20 Egin
- 21 Popular  
Midway
- 22 Grant
- 23 Chaplin - Chapin
- 24 Small Also #34  
Medicine Lodge (*Clark Co.*)
- 25 New Hope
- 26 Camas
- 27 Hibbard
- 28 Parker
- 29 Chester
- 30 Lyman

INDEPENDENT  
District No.

- 1 Rexburg — *Kentucky*
- 2 St. Anthony — *Central & Lincoln*
- 3 Roberts
- 4 Sugar City
- 5 Rigby
- 5 Drummond — *Also #15*
- 6 Marysville — *Also #33*
- 7 Teton City — *Also #33*
- 8 Ashton — *also #47*
- 9 Newdale — *also #8*

COMMON  
District No.

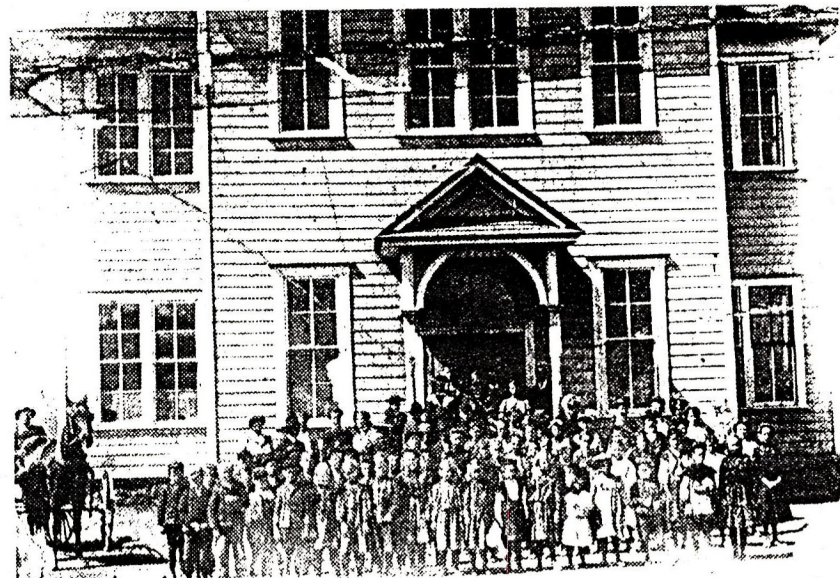
- 31 Twin Groves
- 32 ? *Marysville*, also *Indep. #6*
- 33 East Wilford
- 34 Small also #24
- 35 Rudy — *also #13*
- 36 Lorenzo
- 37 Hayden
- 38 LaBelle also #59
- 39 ? *Summit Hill*
- 40 Hancock
- 41 Hamer — *Lake*
- 42 Menan
- 43 Burton
- 44 Hawthorne
- 45 Kaufman  
Bowerman
- 46 Edmunds
- 47 Ashton — *also Indep. #8*
- 48 Bates
- 49 ? *Annies*
- 50 Svea Falls — *Hugginsville*
- 51 Victor
- 52 Kilgore
- 53 Teton — *also Indep. #7*
- 54 North Wilford - Franklin
- 55 ? *Berry*
- 56 ? *Alamo*
- 57 Spencer
- 58 ?
- 59 LaBeile also #38
- 60 Driggs
- 61 Humphrey
- 62 Clementsville
- 63 Cedron Heights — *Bates*
- 64 Farnum
- 65 Badger
- 66 Cache
- 67 Lake
- 68 ?
- 69 Squirrel
- 70 Green Hill  
Karney
- 71 Sarilda
- 72 Green Timber
- 73 Herbert
- 74 Clawson
- 75 Heise
- 76 Lincoln
- 77 Butter Island
- 78 King
- 79 Edie
- 80 Hunnidale
- 81 Woodrow — *at Brassy Ridge*
- 82 Lamont
- 83 Wilson  
Olive
- 84 Deseret  
Island Park
- 85 Sand Creek

Jefferson County	was	organized	in	Jan.	1913	from	Fremont	County
Madison County	"	"	"	"	1913	"	"	"
Teton County	"	"	"	"	1915	"	"	"
Clark County	"	"	"	"	1919	"	"	"

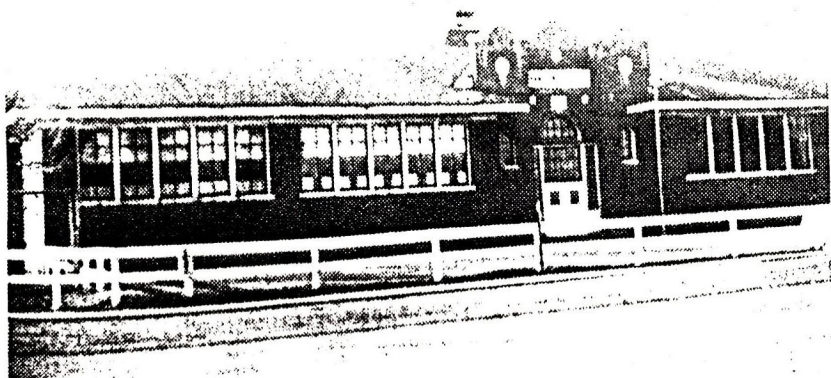




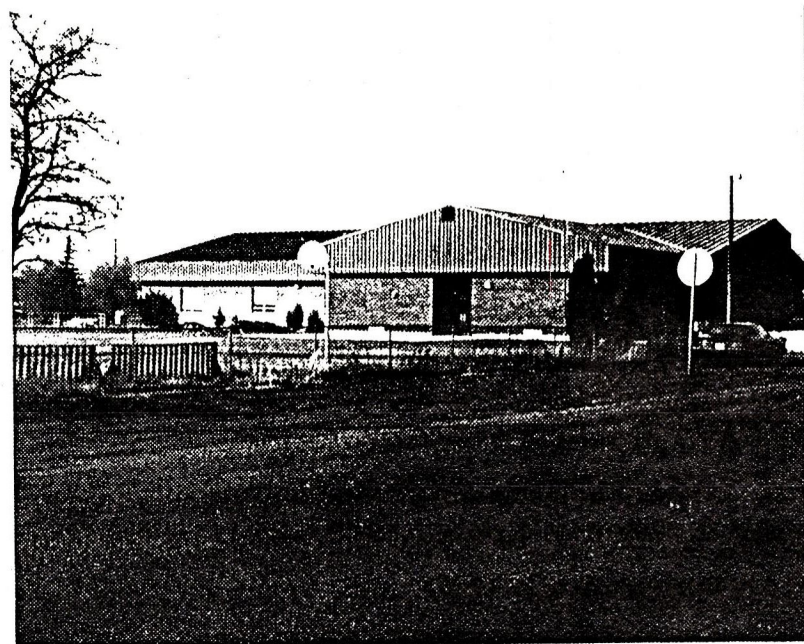
#25 - New Hope School



#28 - Parker School



#28 - Parker School



#215 - Parker Elementary



Idaho became a territory in 1863 and Bingham County was created from Bonneville County on January 14, 1885. Congress gave Idaho statehood in 1890. In March 4, 1893, an act of the Idaho Legislature created Fremont County from Bingham County, making it the first county named after Idaho became a state. In 1913 Madison and Jefferson Counties were created; in 1915 Teton County was organized and in 1919 Clark County was also created from Fremont County so that it now covers approximately one thousand eight hundred nineteen square miles.

In 1885 the LDS church members were dis-enfranchised by the Election Test Oath through the efforts of the anti-Mormon forces under the leadership of Fred T. Dubois. His deputy, H. W. Smith, worked to get the Election Test Oath written into the Idaho Constitution in 1890, which prevented any LDS person from voting or holding any elective office. The people in the largely LDS districts got around the problem by encouraging some of their non-LDS friends and neighbors to serve as school trustees, so that the school would not be closed. The law was repealed in 1893 but remained on the books until 1982 when it was rescinded by a constitutional amendment with a majority vote of 191,474 to 99,113.

Sometime after 1899 Miss Gusta Fletcher became the first Superintendent of Fremont County Schools. Historically the first building considered after the homes of the early settlers was one to be used for the education of the children. Most of the first schools were private ones, usually held in someone's home. Then, as the number of children increased, a log building would be built on a site chosen by the families and someone would be hired as a teacher. Some of the older people remember that school would have to be held for a time, around six weeks, in order to create a district and build a schoolhouse. As the children walked or rode ponies to school, most buildings were established about six miles apart with the idea that no child would have to travel more than three miles one way to school. Because the county is so large, with the few towns located in the southern part of the county, the Superintendent of Schools could approve unorganized schools in the open territory in the northern, eastern and western areas. Books would be furnished so that a teacher could be hired for the children, thus enabling the parents to remain in their farm homes year around instead of moving down near to the early settlements during the school term.

Fremont County had many small Common School Districts as listed;

- #2 Ora - This school is thought to be the second school granted after Fremont County was formed in 1893. It was built in 1894 and was located northeast of St. Anthony. The first school in that area had been held in the living room of the Sadoris family. By 1894 there were enough children to move the school to a one-room log building on the Kerr place. Then in 1906 a new two-room frame building with high ceilings was erected. It had a wide hall and a bell in a belfry. The playground lay on the north side of the building and a well was drilled for drinking water. There was a barn for the horses; also a wood shed and two outhouses for the students. The building was heated by a pot-bellied stove. Edwina Hunnicott was the teacher in 1909-1910. Joseph Young was the teacher in 1910-11 and Bessie Tinsley served as teacher in 1941-42. Because of lack of students no school was held in 1942-43. Then it opened again and ran until the last school term in 1947-48. The school



#2 - Ora School



#3 - Vernon School



was consolidated into the new County District in February, 1948, and the students were bussed into Ashton Elementary. After standing empty for a few years, the building burned down.

- #3 Vernon - The first school was located about three miles southwest of Ashton and was a stone building. Martha Miller taught in 1909-10. Later the school was moved to a building that had been a former Methodist Church. It was a tall one-room frame building with a pot-bellied stove and was also used as a social center for the local people. Agnes Spafford taught in 1910-11. Winifred Fuqua was the teacher in 1916-17 and Vera Davis was a former teacher. In 1935 less than a dozen students were in attendance so it was closed and the children were bussed to the Ashton School. It is now owned by Mr. Lynn Lossli for use as a shed.

- #5 Fall River - The school was situated on the Curr dry farm near Fall River and started in 1914. It was a frame building and was also used as a social center for the community. The story goes that "After the school was built, no one had the same team of horses he had when the building was commenced," so it became known as Swapping Center School. Grace Ashmead was listed as the first teacher in 1914-15. Grace Pease taught in 1916-17, and Geneva Goulding was the teacher in 1925. When it was closed in 1927, the children were sent to the Chester School. Sometime later the building was moved down to Chester for use as a home. When the new free-way was built through Chester, it was destroyed.

- #5 Franz Siding - The name was changed to France Siding during World War I. It was a one-room building and all grades were handled by one teacher. She lived in a nearby teacherage. The school was located down over the knoll from the France grain elevator. In 1943 a city lady named Miss Sally Hopkins was hired as the teacher. She was afraid to stay alone so one of the young girls in the community lived with her for a time, then a local farmer let her have a dog for protection and company. As she visited the outhouse one day a passing bobcat jumped up on the little building. When she tried to get him to leave by hitting the wall and shouting, he growled and this terrified the teacher. She stayed in the building yelling for help long after the cat had gone until someone came to tell her that it was safe to come out. She had left the watchdog in the house and he slept through the whole episode. Keith Nyborg, former ambassador to Finland, remembers Patrick Whittle and Gertrude Tanner as his teachers. He and Joe Miller were the last graduates from the building as it caught fire and burned.

- #5 Grainville - This one-room frame building was located near the railroad in Grainville. A well was dug for drinking water and is still there. The boys rode horses to school in the summer and traveled by skis in the winter; many were pulled by dogs. One of the teachers was Kate Thomas Lamont and around a dozen children attended the school. After the children were moved to other schools, the building was used as a home for the hired man of a local farmer. It stands empty now.

- #6 Sheetz (Kelly) - The school was located on the reclamation road. The D. H. Kelly family lived there and was instrumental in getting the building constructed. It was a one-room



#5 - Fall River School



#8 - Newdale School  
Later Jt. Indep. #9



building with a cloak room and was heated by a pot-bellied stove. Mrs. Duke, one of the Kelly daughters, was the first teacher. It was sometimes called old #6. Isabell Donaldson taught in 1934-35. No school was held after 1941-42. It is still standing and is used as a grainery. Hazel Duke's teaching year was 1920-21.

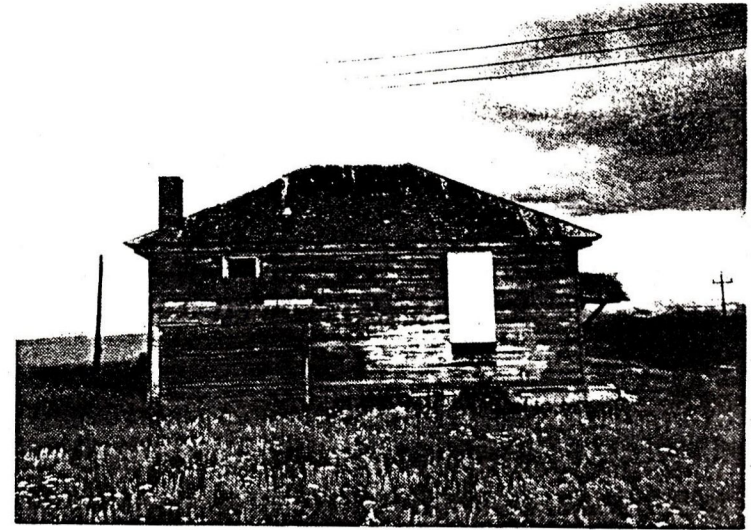
- #8 Newdale - The first school was an empty building on Main Street that also served as a church house. The brick school was erected in 1919 on land donated to the district by Mr. Sam Schwendiman. The teachers in 1919-20 were Ether Helm, Anna Becwar, Elizabeth Blevins and Mrs. M. Baumberger. The building had a cultural hall and auditorium with four basic classrooms. It had two rooms for athletics located at each end of the building and sometimes the custodian lived in one room. Although ample space had been provided for a furnace, one was never installed. Pot-bellied stoves heated each room and it had outdoor restrooms. In 1921 the district was changed to Jt. Independent #9. After graduation from the eighth grade the students traveled to Teton School for the Freshman and Sophomore years and then went on to Sugar-Salem High School. After the elementary students were transferred to another school, the building was destroyed and the ground developed into the Schwendiman Newdale Park.

- #9 Highland - The frame building was erected for students in the country area. It had two outhouses and one teacher taught all eight grades. A teacher's cottage was located nearby and a barn erected for the horses. Hazel Scott taught in 1920-21. Later Gertrude Tanner and Erna Larsen Chantrill served as teachers. No school was held in 1942-43. The building was later moved to the Lamont School site to serve as the new Lamont building. It is still standing empty by the side of the highway.

- #13 Island Park Ranch - School was held for some time at the original Railroad Ranch for the children of the employees who remained there during the winter time. In 1931 the teacher was Neta Brower and school was held in a room of the big ranch house. The last school year was 1937-38. The land is now part of the Harriman State Park.

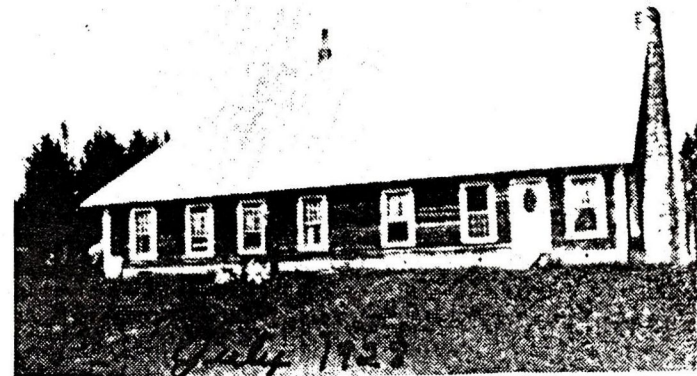
- #13 Railroad Ranch - School was held in a building of the Harriman Ranch with the ranch foreman, J. W. Hibbert, serving as the teacher. Elladean Taylor and Blanche Young also taught school here at one time. The last school year was 1953-54. This land is also part of the Harriman State Park. Mr. Hibbert taught in 1937-38.

- #14 Wilford (Berry) - The first school was held in March 25, 1885, in a log building. Some people say William Zack was the first teacher but others say Elizabeth Jane Howard was the first teacher. She taught in the old log building which also served as the meeting house. She died October 2, 1896. At first only three months of school were held each year and about sixty students attended with one teacher. After being dis-enfranchised, the name of Wilford was changed to Berry for a time. No LDS person could serve as school trustee so they started their own school. Mr. James T. Birch said that two schools were held in Wilford at the same time--one was a tuition school and the other was a district school. The students ranged in age from tiny tots to men about twenty-five years of age. The school district was organized



#9 - Highland School

*Harriman House*



#13 - Island Park Ranch



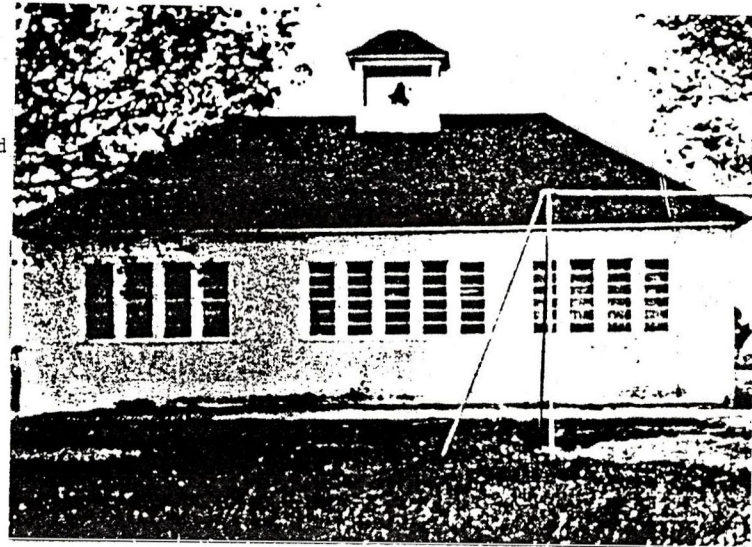
January 16, 1891. Mr. Sam Orme and Eric Johnson Sr. had worked very hard to interest the people in getting a good school building by bonding the district to raise money. Mr. Orme was appointed to the school board and the building was erected about 1900. John M. White taught in 1909-10. Additions to the building were made in 1911. It had originally been a two-room frame building with a hall and small room for the principal. The hall was located in the middle of the building and was later partitioned to create another room, making a total of four rooms for classrooms. There was a stove in each room and the building had a large bell in a belfry. The school was graded in the new building and Eric Johnson graduated from the eighth grade at the age of seventeen. Later a coal furnace was installed and a room renovated for restrooms. It became a Jt. Common district in 1924-25. Mr. Johnson was a teacher and principal at the school from 1911-12 to 1935-36 for a total of twenty-five years. The number of teachers ranged from one to two and up to four teachers depending on the number of students attending the school. After the hot lunch program started, the food was cooked at the Central School and transported to Wilford. In 1958-59 Wilford was consolidated with Teton School and the building was closed. In August 1960, the building and grounds were sold to the Wilford LDS Church for \$500.00 for development as a community recreation center. The big bell was found by Mr. O. K. Meservy after the Teton Dam flood and was mounted on the southwest corner of the new church building.



#14 - Wilford (Berry) School

- #15 Lillian - The two-room frame building had a basement and was located on the Drummond Highway. Roy Duke was the teacher in 1909-10. It was also used as a community center for meetings and dances. After the district was consolidated in February, 1948, the building was moved to Ashton to be renovated for a rental unit for teachers. When it was no longer needed for rental housing, it was sold. The building foundation can still be seen by the side of the highway.

- #15 Drummond - The three-story brick building was erected around 1913 when the village of Drummond was a thriving community with a fairly large farm population. It was located near the railroad and was very well constructed - being three bricks thick so far up from the ground. At first it was used for an elementary and two year high school. The basement contained a coal furnace, coal room, storeroom and the building was steam heated. There were two large classrooms on the first floor, wide entry hall and restrooms for the students. There were two large classrooms on the top floor and a big room where volleyball was played. There was also one classroom in the basement. The school became Independent #5 in 1917-18. W. A. Caldehead, E. G. Cowles, Florence Armount and Alice Fitzpatrick taught in 1916-17. Later when the high school students boarded in Ashton, St. Anthony or other towns in the valley, the walls were removed on the top floor and it was used as a gym for the elementary grades. Many of the local people began maintaining homes in Ashton or other towns in order to keep their children in school. As the population dwindled, there were fewer elementary students. The district was consolidated on February 20, 1948, and bus service started to carry the students down to the Ashton schools. During the later years Mrs. Helen Hawkes was the lone teacher with twenty-two students. About 1952-53 she taught two students - her daughter, Margaret, and Don Harshbarger. In 1953-54 Margaret was the only student so the school was



#14 - Wilford (Berry)



closed at the end of the term. The building stood empty until it was purchased in 1961 by Mr. Merle Harshbarger for \$500.00 and the school ground was farmed. Because people kept going through the big building and removing anything of value they could find, it became a hazard and Mr. Harshbarger worried about someone getting injured or killed. The roof began to cave in so it was torn down in 1982.

- #16 Big Springs - School was held in one of the buildings at Guild, a small community of about four hundred people. Beth Seiler taught in 1916-17. John Cooley, son of a forest ranger, was one of three children attending at the time of his graduation. His teacher was Zona Leatham. He remembers that he had to travel down to Marysville to take the final examination. The snow was six feet deep so they drove a dog team down as far as the Railroad Ranch and stayed overnight and then traveled on to Marysville. Mr. Ward Reynolds signed his test certificate and later reminded him of his long trip. Mr. Reynolds is now over one hundred years old and is still alert despite his great age. Zona Leatham taught at Guild in 1925-26 and in 1931-32.

- #17 Heman (Center) - A private school was first held in a log building which served as a church house and school. In January 1885, the first public school was established on the Heman corner in a log building, which burned February 1886. Then a small white frame building, called the Old Center School, was erected and was also used as a church house. Angela McDonald was the teacher in 1909-10. Sometime later the frame building was moved across the road to be remodeled for a home and a large brick building was constructed on the school site at a cost of \$50,000.00. It had three big rooms and a hallway with beautiful hardwood floors. One classroom had divider doors that rolled up. A large storeroom or classroom was located at each end of the building. At times these rooms were used as living quarters for the teachers. There were a well with pump and real brick outhouses for the students. Mercedes Davis and Ida Davis taught in 1910-11. The school was closed in 1948-49 and was consolidated with Parker School in February 20, 1953. The building was sold at auction in January, 1955, to the high bidder, Mr. Orgill, for \$751.00 and was used as a shed and shop. It later burned.

- #18 Warm River - The first school was a rock building with a basement and upper room and was situated at the foot of the Warm River dugway. W. J. Barlow taught in 1909-10 and Carrie Johnson was the teacher in 1916-17. At one time there were two teachers with about forty-five students. One teacher recalls that during her tenure dance classes would be held with one teacher playing the piano and the other serving as dance partner and instructor for the students. After the building burned, a frame building was erected at the top of the dugway across the road from the Howell home and became the school. The local children attended there for several years until a bus route was started to take them down to Ashton Elementary. In 1948 the district moved the building up to Macks Inn, and set it on a foundation for use as a school.

- #20 Egin - This was the first settlement in the county. In 1882-83 the first log school building also served as a meeting house. At one time it was a private school. George Wood is shown



#15 - Drummond School  
Later Indep. #5



#17 - Old Center School



as the first teacher in the Egin Bench school. Another early teacher was Alfred Klinger. Later a frame building was erected and sat back off the road in a field. Egin was designated as a Jt. Common School District. O. L. Wilson and Geneva Bybee taught in 1909-10. Sam Trude and Mrs. Ellen Peterson taught in 1910-11. An addition was made to the building and it was later bricked, so that it had three large partitioned rooms. A big pot-bellied stove sat in each room, and it had a large bell in a bell tower. There were outhouses for the students but no well was ever dug. Water for the students was carried from an open well on the nearby Branson farm. It was about four feet square and water was raised from it by dipping in a bucket on a rope. One time a local man disappeared late one night after a dance. The neighbors searched for him in vain. He was located sometime later after the owner of the farm dreamed that he had fallen into the well and called the local police. The deputy reached down into the well with a hook and raised the body. The school had continued to use the water and it was rather a shock when they realized the well had another occupant. The school was consolidated with Parker School at the time of district consolidation in 1948. The building was sold at auction to Mr. Bradshaw for \$900.00 on July 16, 1948. Mr. Bradshaw still has the big bell.



#17 - Heman (Center) School

- #25 New Hope - The school was located north of St. Anthony and was a two-room frame building with one room for classes and the other room for a teacherage with cookstove, bed and table. It had a well and outhouses for the students. Mable Hunter taught in 1909-10 and Lenore Brinker was the teacher in 1910-11. W. R. Taylor taught in 1916-17. The building was later moved to Parker in two sections and remodeled for an amusement hall.

- #28 Parker (Garden Grove) - About 1882-83 the first one-room log school house was erected in the W. M. Parker field, and also served as a church house. After the town of Parker was established the school was moved over to where the Jed Earl store stood. About 1910 a two-story building of two rooms held the first six grades and the upper grades were taught in the upstairs of the church building while the new brick school was being constructed. In 1909-10 the teachers were David Williams, Blanche Smith, Grace Williams and Carrie Larson. Margaret Costley was one of four teachers in 1910-11. C. Elmo Cluff taught in 1916-17. The new building was completed in 1917 and had eight rooms, a small stage, an auditorium, a principal's office, kitchen and two restrooms. It was heated by a big coal furnace. In 1920 the Parker High School was established in the building and covered the Freshman and Sophomore years. Earlier some of the students had attended high school at Ricks in Rexburg, but then started high school at the Central building in St. Anthony. Mr. Les Stoddard provided bus transportation in a home-made bus until a county school bus was acquired. Mrs. Lena Mackert worked to establish the hot lunch program at the school in 1937, and she, with the help of other ladies, provided the food and equipment to make it a success. At first the lunches were free but later five cents was charged. In 1965 the forty-eight year old building was demolished and the new Parker School was erected. Lawrence Farley served as bus driver and custodian for twenty-nine years until his retirement in June, 1969. Many years ago a man from the State Department inspected the old building and remarked that it had the cleanest furnace room that he had seen in the state. Mr. Farley put in so many



#20 - Egin School



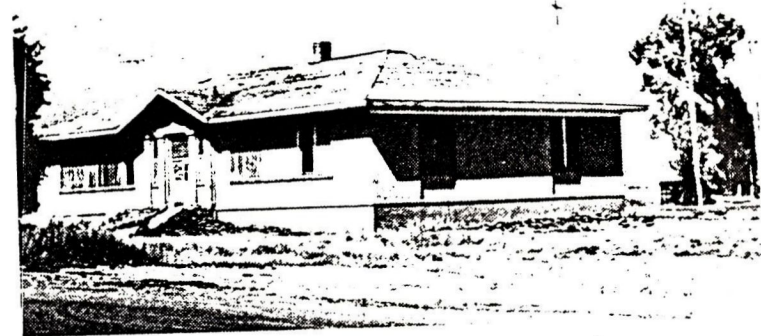
hours at the building and kept it very clean. The teachers appreciated the way he would lift each one of their flower pots up so that he could dust the wide window sills and then replace them in the same spot.

- #29 Chester - The first school was a one-room frame building that had one teacher and also served as a church house. In 1901 Annie Craven was the teacher. After the building burned around 1907, a two-story frame building was erected. It had four rooms for the eight grades and a large bell in the belfry. It was called the Joe Young School for one of the men teachers. Augusta Fletcher and James Lupton taught in 1909-10. It also burned about 1914 so the students finished the school year by attending school in the old Relief Society storehouse and the Chester LDS church house. The new brick building was erected across the road from the church and had four rooms, two restrooms, a cloak room and a nice library. Later three rooms were used for classes and one room held the hot lunch program. The district hired from three to five teachers depending on the enrollment. The attendance dropped so in 1954 the students were transferred to the Central School and the building stood empty for a time. In 1957 a special education class was started in one room for the handicapped students in the county. Jane Krueger taught the class for four years until her retirement. Marie Watts was the teacher for four more years. In 1966 the students were moved to the special education division of the new Central School and the building was closed. The School Board accepted Mr. Covington's offer to demolish it for the material and it was torn down. Later the Board traded the four acres of ground to the Chester LDS Ward for one acre of church land in Ashton that the elementary school had been erected on in error. The Chester Ward has developed a community recreational center.



#29 - Chester Joe Young School

- #31 Twin Groves - The first school was a log cabin on the Snake River just west of the river bridge. Then Charles H. Law donated land to the community for a school building and a church house. The three-room frame school building had two doors, with the older students entering one door and the smaller students using the other door. The higher grades were housed in the large room and the lower grades studied in the small room. There was a kitchen and lunch room with sink and faucet and the building was heated by a stove in each room. The building had a large bell in a belfry and was fenced in with trees planted around the playground. It had swings and slides and outhouses for the students. A large barn was erected for the horses. Edward Johnson and Lillian Arnold were the teachers in 1909-10. One record shows about eighty students attending in 1914-15. The principal was C. L. Gray and Jeanette Barr and Delia Jensen served as the teachers. J. A. Young and Etta Ford taught in 1916-17. The last year of school was held in 1946-47; then the students were moved to Central School. The district was consolidated in 1948. Later that year the Twin Groves LDS Ward purchased the building and it was removed so that the land could be used for community recreation. Mr. Cazier took the school bell.
- #32 Marysville - The first school was held in the William Hardy home with Barbara Hardy serving as teacher. People paid tuition for their children. Lena Thompson and Lena Moon also served as teachers. Then the local people constructed a one-room log school house in 1892



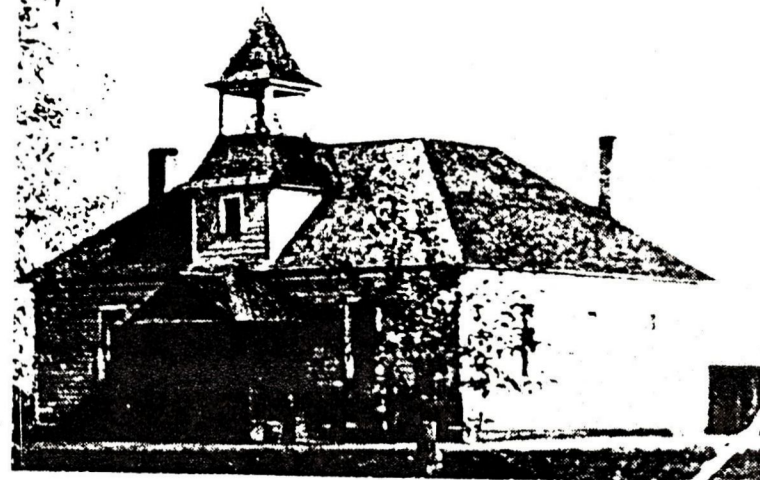
#29 - Chester School



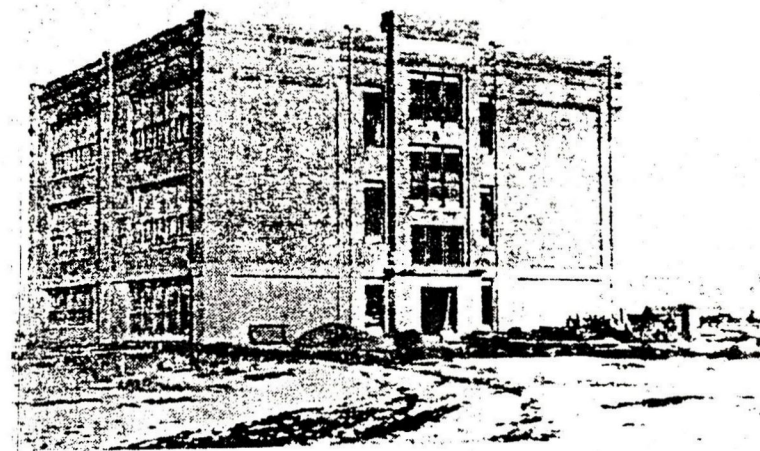
and Mr. M. M. Hammond was the teacher. A two-story frame building was erected for use as a school in 1899. In 1909-10 teachers serving in the building were Lloyd Niendorf, Robert Helm, Martha Jacobs, Jennie Duke and Orpha Bayett. The two-story brick building was built in 1913 for the eight grades. It was designated as Independent #6. It had a full basement, big furnace, modern restrooms and a gym where the students played volleyball and basketball. Albertina Frazer was one of seven teachers in 1916-17. Two classrooms on the first floor housed the first, second, third and fourth grades. The fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades were located in two rooms on the top floor. It had a big assembly room with a stage that was used for all school, scout and church programs. The building had a fire escape--unusual in the district in those days. After the school was consolidated with Ashton Elementary in February 20, 1948, the building was rented by the Marysville LDS Ward for a time. It was also used for many social events and dances. It was sold to Mr. Parker in January, 1952, for \$1,575.00 and was torn down for the material.

- #33 East Wilford - The first school house was a log building on a small knoll about two miles east of the Wilford townsite. The first record found on the building was 1899-1900 with Edith Burson and Harriet Hill as teachers. Clifford Kitchen taught in 1909-10. The log building burned down and another log building was used to house the school and church. A one-room frame building was later erected near the first school site. Clarence Daw, Ione Nyborg and Frank Huskinson were the first class to graduate from the building and their teacher was Roy Duke, who taught in 1911-12 and 1912-13. The building had a high ceiling and was heated by a pot-bellied stove. It had one door opening on the north. Some of the older students said that it was a cold building during the winter weather with the wind sifting snow in around the door. No school was held when the weather got too cold. The students would bring water from home in a container or used the water from the nearby canal as no well was ever dug. Sometimes a student was paid to bring a container of water from home for the children's use. The teacher served as custodian by starting the fire early in the winter morning to warm the building. Several of the boys rode ponies to school and one student, Earl Hansen, got to school on his horse, a distance of seven miles a day from his home on the dryfarm. Skis and sleighs pulled by dogs were used by many of the students in the winter time. Approximately twenty-five children attended the school in later years. The district furnished swings and a giant stride for the students. In 1939-40 attendance dropped so low that the school was temporarily consolidated with District #14 Wilford. It was permanently closed on August 14, 1942, and combined with Wilford. The building was sold at auction to Mr. Rash, who tore it down and farmed the ground.

- #47 Ashton - The first school in 1891 was a log building located just north of Ashton. In 1895 a log cabin situated one mile north of Ashton was called the Lodi School. It was used until December 1, 1906, when a two-story four-room brick building with a basement was erected in Ashton at a cost of \$15,000.00. The first principal was C. F. Cowles. It was located north of the present Ashton Elementary building on the same lot. The district was designated as Independent #8 in 1913-14. James A. Nelson, J. W. Johnson, Caroline Duncan, Birdie Whittington and Blanche Slattery were the teachers in 1909-10. Frances Hargis and James Morrison were among the thirteen teachers in 1916-17. The building was gutted by fire in the late 1920's. The students were housed in the Ashton High School gym, which was partitioned



#31 - Twin Groves School



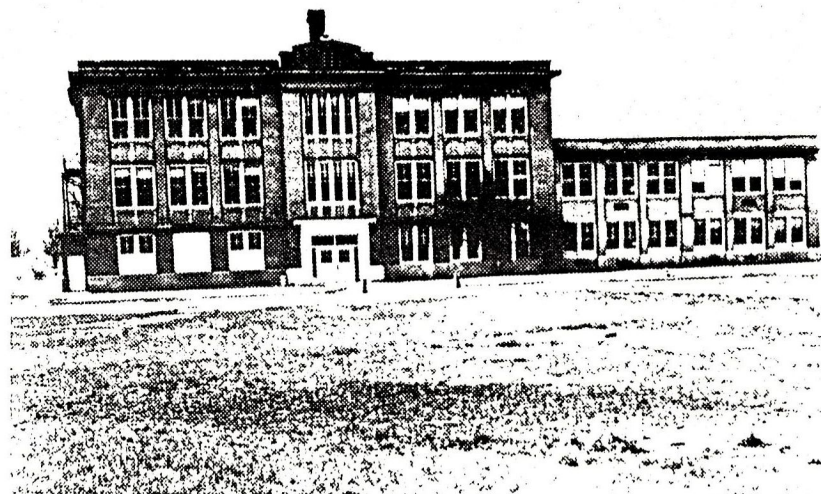
**Marysville New School 1913**

#32 - Marysville School





#47 - Ashton Elementary  
also Independent #8



#47 - Ashton High School  
also Independent #8



Kirk with his dog team



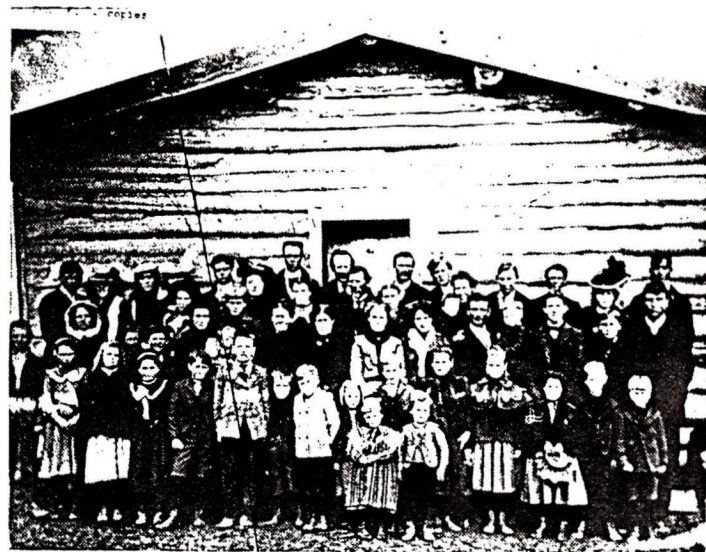
#215 - Ashton Elementary



off into rooms. This was a three-story building that had been constructed around 1910 on the same lot. An addition was erected on the building to hold the elementary students until the new high school could be constructed. After the high school was completed in 1953 and the secondary students moved out, part of the old building was demolished and a new addition built onto the now elementary school. In 1971 the rest of the old building was demolished and another new addition made so that the building could be all new. Earl George Kerstetter started as custodian in the Ashton School in July, 1924, and served in that position for thirty-six years. He retired in 1954 but continued to work as part time custodian in the elementary building. He was an outstanding custodian and always assisted the teachers and students in any way he could. He did woodworking in his spare time as a hobby and helped students to make Christmas presents, building play houses and countless other ways. During World War II when coal was rationed he would stay at the building and feed logs into the furnace to keep the building warm. "Kirk" as he was known tried to attend all the local games and support the teams during the school term. On October 30, 1959, the new football field was officially named "Kirk's Field". With a jig saw Kirk created a dog team of five small dogs and a driver from pine wood. After being painted, they were operated by a motor and a set of ten pulleys as if they were running. They had been patterned after the dog teams in the Ashton Dog Derby.

- #50 Svea Falls - This school was also called the Hugginsville School because a family named Huggins lived near the building. The first school was held in the summer of 1906 in the Dan Kirkham home with about eight children in attendance. Maude Hillman was the teacher. That fall a school house was built of logs--it was later sided with lumber. Sometime after 1912 the building burned and a new one-room frame building was constructed on the site. It had a cloakroom, was heated by a stove and was the center for community activities as had been the first building. It was closed in 1944-45 and consolidated in February, 1948. The building was later moved to Ashton and set on a foundation for use as a rental unit for teachers. After several years it was purchased by Fred Hossner, who remodeled and built onto it so that it is now a lovely home.

- #53 Teton - At first the Teton children attended the Moody School which is situated about two miles south of the village of Teton. After Teton District was established, the first official act of the new trustees was to divide the school district. They moved half of the school equipment from the Moody school and installed it in the log church house. Some Teton people had earlier started a private school. In 1898-99 Mrs. Luella Gardner became the first principal of Teton School with Maud Raybould and Lillie Graham as teachers. There were about one hundred students. Mrs. Gardner was also the principal of the rock structure built around 1899-1901. Twelve grades were held in the rock building until 1928 when the high school students were sent to Sugar City. Later they attended school in Rexburg. The south wall of the rock building began to pull away from the structure so a new building was planned. The brick building was begun in May, 1936, and was constructed by the Public Works Administration. That year students attended school in the church house and in a local seed house. School was first held in the new building after Christmas in 1937, for grades one



#33 - East Wilford



#33 - East Wilford

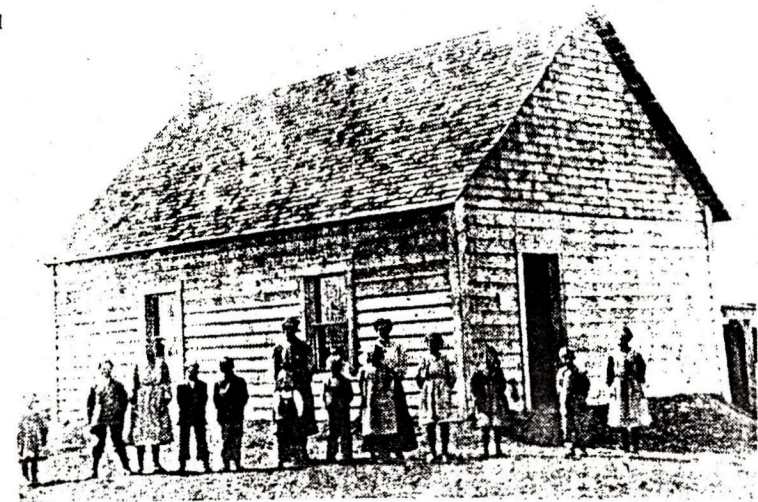


through eight. The school had earlier been designated Independent Joint #7. In 1943 the secondary students started attending high school in St. Anthony. In 1957 Wilford #14 consolidated with Teton. In 1965 the Junior High students were bussed to the South Fremont Junior High building. Teton School has been enlarged by additions, remodeling and a new pitched roof. It is the focal point of Teton and in 1946 an ambitious plan for ground beautification was started by the community with trees planted, new bleachers, fireplace, tennis court, cinder block concession stand, shelter and picnic tables so that the large school yard has become a popular recreation center. Orey Clark, longtime bus driver and custodian at the school, began working for the district in 1947 and put in many hours while caring for the building and the big school yard. In addition to his regular bus route, he drove an activity bus on student trips. He also began refinishing of the floors in the various school buildings. Orey resigned in 1966 to care for his growing floor finishing business and worked at Ricks College for six years until his retirement at seventy-two. He couldn't stand being retired and so at eighty-two he is still refinishing floors throughout the valley. He does have an assistant now to help him keep up with the demand for his services.



#215 - North Fremont HS and Jr. Hi.

- #54 Franklin (North Wilford) - The first record shows that the school was started by Frank Cox on October 15, 1895. Ellen J. Robb was the teacher in 1899-1900. In 1907 Jess Brandon was the teacher and worked to get the name changed to Franklin according to some of the older people. The two-room frame building was constructed in an L-shape with the younger students being housed in the smaller room and the older students in the large room. There was a big stove in each room and folding doors separated the rooms. There was a bell tower with a big bell. It was a community center for the people in the area and was used for farm meetings, dances and parties as it was the only building large enough for big groups to gather in. An organ was supplied for musical accompaniment. It had a large fenced playground with trees planted on all sides of the building. The average student attendance was around fifty. The story goes that in the fall of 1916 two businessmen from St. Anthony fired the building while trying to smoke out a swarm of bees located in an opening by the west window in order to get the honey. The building burned to the ground so the students were sent into the Central School. Because of the flu epidemic the local schools were closed much of the time. The trustees cleared away the debris to erect a new building on the same site. They worked until the weather closed in and started again in the spring. School started in 1917-18, although the building was not yet completed. The students attended in the one big room. Big stoves with tall black outer jackets encircling them to protect the students were installed in the southeast and southwest corners. The new building was frame construction with big banks of windows on the east, west and north sides and had a north porch supported by colonnades. It was covered with a light stucco that had mica scattered through it to glitter in the sunlight. The two rooms were separated by slate folding doors and it had hardwood floors. Big blackboards were hung on the north and south walls in each room. A south door opened from each room where the outhouses were located. A well had been drilled in the yard and water was carried into each room where the students drank from a common cup. In the late 1930's another well was drilled east of the building near the large canal and has been used continuously to the present.



#50 - Svea Falls





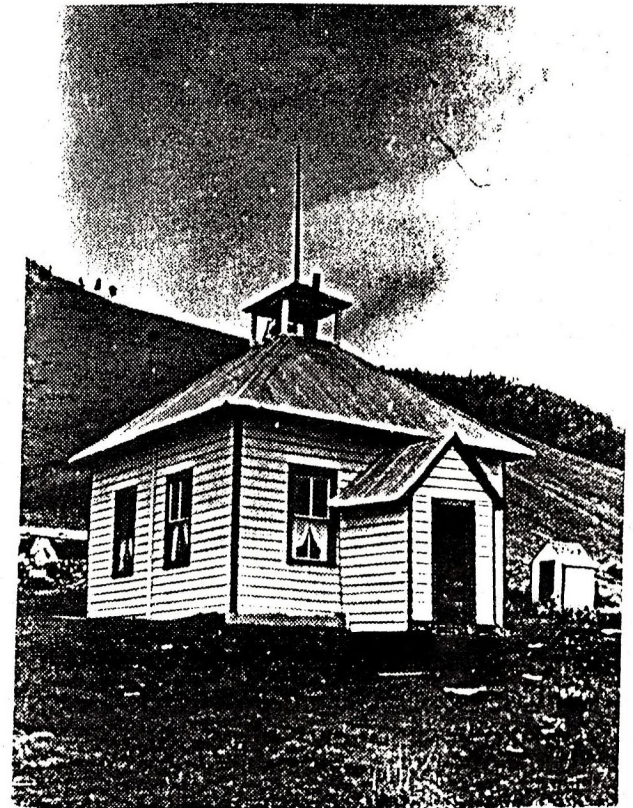
#64 - Farnum



#67 - Lake School

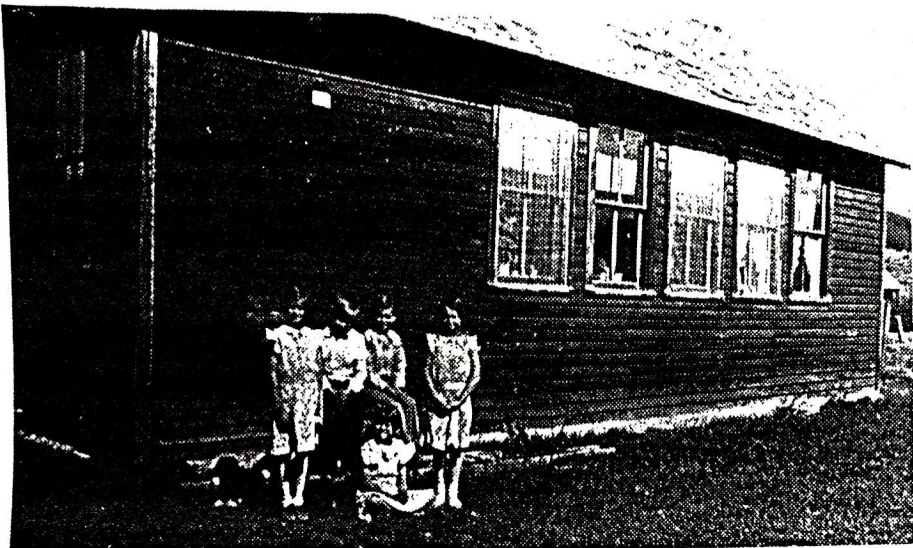


#67 - Lake School



#67 - Lake School





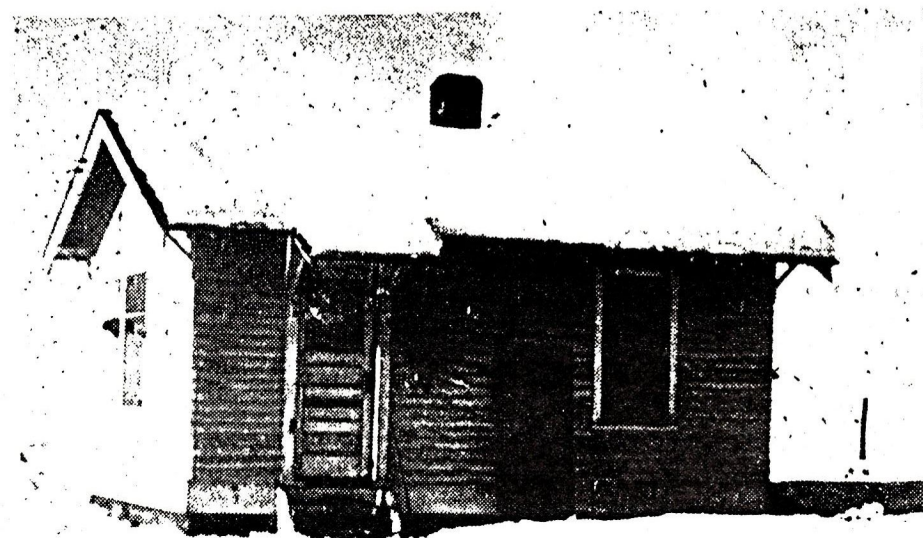
#67 - Lake School



#69 - Squirrel log school building



#69 - Squirrel School

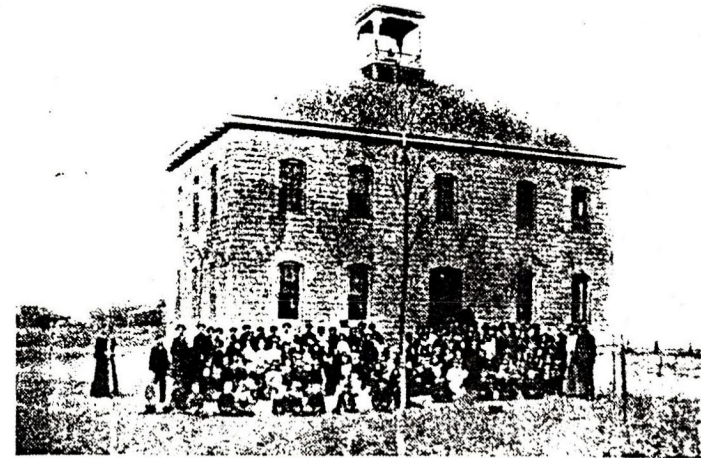


#69 - Squirrel Teacherage

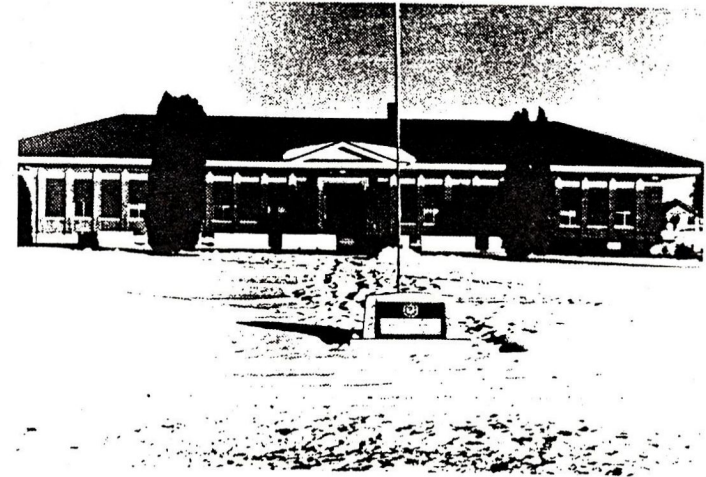


Later a cooler was placed on the front porch and the water poured into it but the students still used the one cup. The children entered the building from the north and placed their coats and boots in the hallway that ran across the north side. A large swing set and a big giant stride were furnished for the children. The building had two teachers each year until 1939-40 when the attendance had dropped so that one teacher was used. The last year of school was 1944-45. The building remained empty except for dances and parties. The district was consolidated into Fremont District in February, 1948. Requests were made to rent or buy the building - the District trustees even considered having it renovated for a teacherage. It was rented a few times until October 27, 1950, when it was sold at public auction to Eldon Jacobsen for \$2,275.00. He remodeled it for use as a home. In 1956 he sold it to the Alex Bischoff family and it is still their home.

- #64 Farnum - About 1899 a small log building was erected near the Frank Bratt farm. At first school was held only in the summer. Sunday School was held there until a church house was built in 1909. The Farnum School District was formed in July 9, 1900. As more settlers arrived, a new rock one-room school was built in 1909. Marion F. Higgenbottom taught in 1909-10. In 1911 another room and hall were added to the building and two teachers were hired. Hugh Davis and his brother were the contractors. A well was dug and large stoves stood in one corner of each room. There was a belfrey with a bell. A teacher's cottage was built later. Frances Hargis and Rachel Hardy taught in 1913-14 and Melvin Neeley and Helen Enou were the teachers in 1916-17. A barn was provided for the horses and many boys rode skis pulled by dogs in the winter time. Jean Murdock Blanchard remembers that her teacher jumped her from the fifth grade up to the seventh grade and let her work with some of the fifth grade students. No school was held in 1944-45 and the building was closed with the students being bussed to Ashton Elementary. The teacherage was moved to Ashton and renovated for a rental unit. The building was sold for \$250.00 to Mr. Henry and is now used for storage.
- #67 Lake - School was held in a one-room homestead log building in the middle of Henry's Lake flat with Amy Roland Steele serving as teacher around 1915. Charles (Chick) Kennedy was a student in the building at one time. Emma Anderson taught at one of the schools in 1909-10 and Edna Pattee was a teacher in 1910-11. Ruth A. Vibrans also taught in one of the buildings in 1911-12 and 1912-13.
- #67 Lake - A frame building was erected about one-half mile from the old homestead building. School was held there for about ten years. Albertina Frazer, Amy Roland and Beth Seiler served as teachers at one time. Chick Kennedy also attended this school. He recalls the 1938-39 school term.
- #67 Lake - One school sat on the north side of Henry's Lake near the Sherwood Store. Azalia Stratham Kooch taught the Kennedy boys at this school. In the fall of 1932 Erna Larsen Chantrill was offered a contract for about seven weeks. She had only two students, Donna



#53 - Teton Rock School



#215 - Teton Elementary



and Calvin Rote, in the one-room white frame building. Living quarters for the teacher were in a small room adjoining the classroom. Because school could not be held for just two students, it was closed permanently after thirty-three school days. The building was later cut in two to be moved but burned the next day. Because of the harsh winters the students had only attended school in the summer. The old bell was stolen.

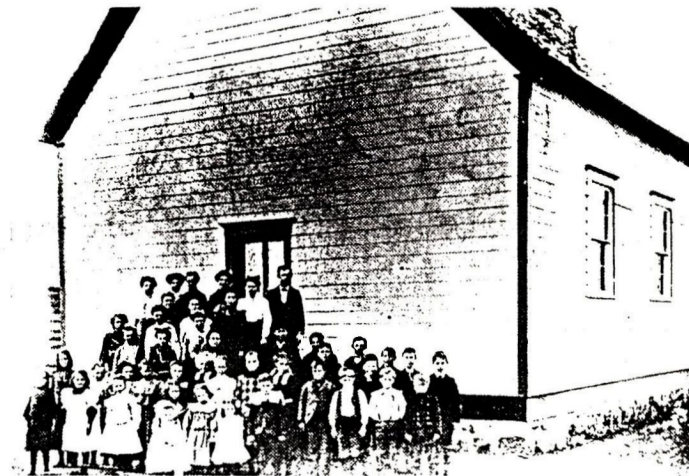
#67 Lake - In March, 1934, Erna Larsen Chantrill was given a contract to teach a full school year at the Henry's Lake school located on the southwest side of Henry's Lake. Because of winter conditions, school started the first of April and ran through the summer. There were five regular students and three others who attended part-time. The building had been a dark red color and was painted white in 1935. Erna received \$600.00 for the term. County Superintendent E. Glen Cameron offered her a seven-month contract for \$525.00 the following year. School was held from June 26th to July 23, 1935 and then the school was permanently closed because the families moved away. Mrs. Rita Kennedy was given an old organ from the building with the stipulation that it would have to be returned if the district needed it within a few years. She was never contacted about it and the organ is still in the family.

Pond's Lodge - An unorganized school was held in a cabin for the students in the locality. Lydia Cook was a teacher at one time. The School District minute book reports that it was closed in 1928-29. School was held at the Island Park Dam in 1937-38.

Last Chance - An unorganized school was held for a few years for some children of the local residents.

Trude Siding - The unorganized school was located east of Elk Creek on the railroad for a time to serve some of the local students.

#69 Squirrel - The first school was a one-room log building south of the Larry Orme home. The second building was a homestead two-room shack located on the Carl Lenz ranch. Emma L. Anderson taught in 1909-10 and Minnie Carlson was the teacher in 1910-11. A new two-room building was erected in 1916. The rooms were large, with one serving as a classroom and the other room being used as a gym, where the students played volleyball and basketball in later years. It was probably used as another classroom at an earlier time. The earliest record of the school was in 1904 with thirty-one boys and twenty-three girls. In 1906 there were fifty-eight boys and forty girls - evidence of the large number of families living in the vicinity in the early days. A small two-room teacherage was built near the school for the teacher and a barn erected for the student's horses. About 1932 the local ladies formed the Squirrel Friendship Club and met in the building during the summer months. The school was closed in 1953-54 and the students traveled by bus to Ashton. After standing empty for a time, the building was sold to Mr. Bergman in 1961 for \$500.00. He moved it about four miles to Grainville and placed it on a basement foundation. It was remodeled by the Albert Scafe family and is a very attractive farm home.



#54 - Franklin School  
(North Wilford)



#54 - Franklin School

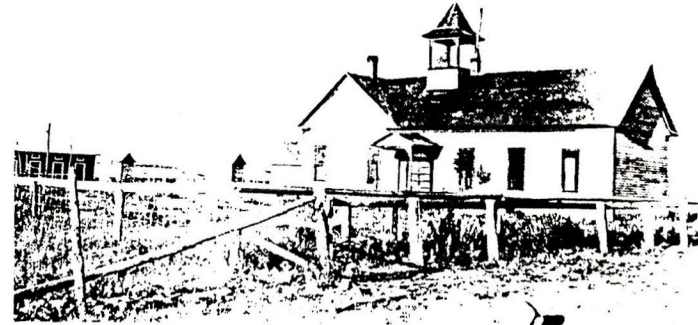


#71 Sarilda - The first school was a one-room building with a foyer in the front and a porch on the back. It was also used as a community center by the local people and housed the church services. Joseph Young was the teacher in 1910-11 and Elizabeth Porter taught in 1916-17. The second building was a one-room frame structure erected on a basement and was constructed by Public Works Administration labor. A teacherage was built and is still located on the property. The school was consolidated with Fremont County in 1948. The last year of school was 1953-54; then the children were bussed to other schools. Mr. Sam Moon rented the building and later purchased it and the land for \$300.00. It was remodeled into a home for his son, who still lives there.

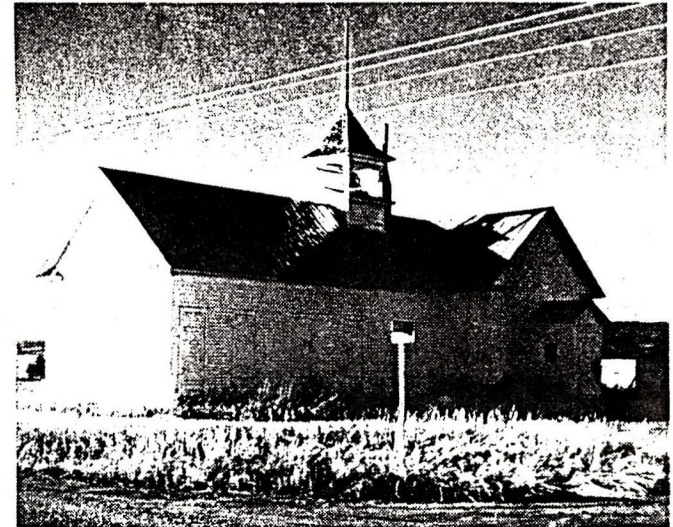
#72 Green Timber - The first school was held in a log house at Grubes. Then in 1907 the frame one-room building was erected. Grace M. Taylor taught in 1909 and Rolla Corico was the teacher in 1911-12. Later another room was added and the building had a belfry with a large bell. Outhouses were built for the students and a fence was erected around the school ground. A nice barn was built for the horses and a shed held the firewood. No school was held in 1935-36 and the students were sent to the Warm River School and the Ashton School. It opened again in 1937-38 and school continued through 1951-52; then it was closed permanently and the students bussed into Ashton. The building has always been the social center for the farm residents and was leased by the District to the local ladies when they formed the Greentimber Good Fellowship Social Club. It is still very active with dances, parties and card games being held in the building. School children are brought to the building to let them experience what it was like to go to school in the old desks so many years ago. Miss Yoland Tinsley came from Rupert to teach at the school in 1934-35. One of the local farmers, Earl Hossner, decided that she was just the teacher he wanted, so she became his wife. They lived in a log house near the school until a modern home was built. She still lives beside the school although Mr. Hossner has passed away. Several years ago the big bell was stolen from the building, perhaps by some zealous college students. It was located three years later in Rexburg. Mr. Hossner brought it back and purchased it from the School District to be sure that it stayed with the building and hung it back in the belfry. The Club takes very good care of the old building. It has been remodeled, with a library installed, hardwood floor and water piped into the nice restroom. It is kept freshly painted and looks so good sitting by the side of the highway.

#81 Woodrow - The school was a log building at Grassy Ridge, lying west of the Parker-Heman area over by the county line. School was held here for the children of families living far away from the more populated areas. W. A. Johnson taught in 1912-13. Howard Hale was the teacher in 1916-17. Albertina Frazer and Mrs. Louise McMinns also taught here at one time.

#82 Lamont - The first school building was a log cabin. J. T. Madden taught in 1913-14 and Ralph Lamont was the teacher in 1916-17. Then a frame building was constructed near the Lamont Store. It had a classroom, a cloakroom, a room where the teacher lived, and a large room used for recreation at the time Mrs. Morrison taught in 1938-39. It was heated by a floor oil furnace that was blamed for the fire when it burned in early 1950. The students were housed for the balance of the school year in a small building at the rear of the store that was rented



#72 - Green Timber



#72 - Greentimber School (Club)



to the Fremont School District. In 1951 a basement foundation was laid and the vacant #9 Highland school building was moved over and set up. A coal furnace was installed to heat the building and a garage furnished for the Lamont school bus that hauled the secondary students on down to North Fremont High School. The school was closed in the spring of 1954 because only four students planned to attend and they were bussed down to Ashton Elementary School. The Lamont building was leased for years by the local ladies for the Lamont Community Club. Many of the members have died or moved away so that it now stands empty by the side of the highway. Supt. Melvin Gruwell marveled at the efforts made by all the parents in the remote areas of the big county to see that their children received an education. He submitted a report to a school transportation publication telling of the miles covered by one of the Lamont students. Randall Frederickson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frederickson, traveled with his brothers and sisters over five miles each day by pony or on foot in the summer and by riding skis pulled by dogs in the winter time for eight years to the grade school. Then he would meet the Lamont bus at the school and ride close to forty miles each day down to the North Fremont High School. After getting off the bus in the summer time, he would head east for home. In the winter time he would board in the Lamont School basement during the week and then slog on home through the snow on Friday night. At the time of his high school graduation, Mr. Lawrence Lindsley, a school trustee, told the audience that Randall's mileage would go a long way toward a trip around the world. He had covered approximately thirty-five thousand miles. Randall now lives in Ashton and works for the Forest Service. A Lamont resident, Don Niendorf, drove the Lamont school bus for twenty-nine years from 1947 to 1976. During that time he worked part-time in the District Bus Shop in Ashton to keep busy during the day until his retirement.

#83 Wilson - The school was a two-room frame building located north of St. Anthony. Classes were held in one room and the other room served as a teacherage with cook stove, table and bed. Josephine Slater taught in 1913-14 and M. N. Brisbin and Eva Hix were the teachers in 1916-17. Later LaVon Law Guthrie served as a teacher for a time. After the building was closed in 1924-25, it was moved over near Twin Groves and renovated for a home.

#84 Island Park - School was held there for a time for the local students but closed in 1928-29 because of lack of pupils. Ida Rudd taught there in 1925-26.

#85 Sand Creek - The school was a log one-room building with a log barn for the horses and a shed held wood and coal for the stove. The teacher boarded with nearby ranchers. In 1926-27 Hulda Clark was the teacher and Louise McMinn Cook taught in 1927-28. Theodosia McMinn was the teacher in 1930-31. Harry Crain was one of the last trustees. The school was closed in 1932-33.

Mr. Ephriam Jenkins erected a log building on the E. W. Jenkins farm north and west of Parker to be used as an unorganized school for the local children for a few years. Mrs. Louise McMinn also taught there.



#82 - Lamont



Lady on drifted road in Wilford



Upper Sand Creek - Shirley Dancliff lived in a two-story frame building on the Roseborough ranch and held school in one room for a few students. It was an unorganized school. Harold, Delbert and Fern Crain were the only students in 1931-32 and it closed that spring.

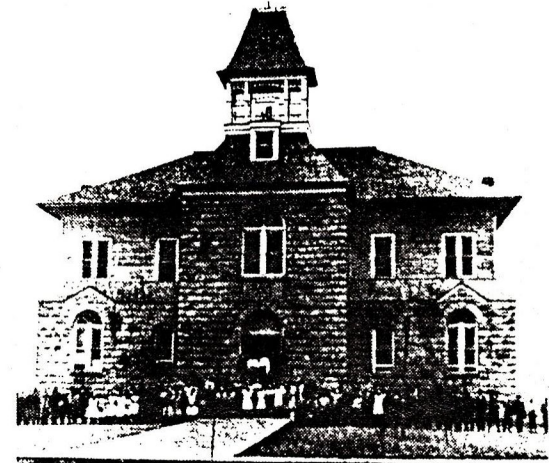
The Independent Class A District in the county was at St. Anthony and it consisted of the following:

- #2 Central - The first school house was a small frame building. Shortly after 1899, Charles C. Moore arrived on the first train into St. Anthony. H. G. Fuller arrived in town, as did Miss Gusta Fletcher and her sister, Susan Fletcher. Mr. Moore and Mr. Fuller both taught in the Central Building. A four-room rock school building was erected, and for a few years, school was also held in the Bartlett Opera House until it burned down. The frame building was moved to make room for the new building erected after 1913, and is now used for the VFW Memorial Hall. The new Central School was a three-story building with twenty-four classrooms and served as both elementary and four-year high school. A gym with showers was located in the basement and the building was heated by a large furnace. It was covered with a light red brick, and was modern with restrooms and water fountains. The first floor included a large auditorium with a stage and library. One record shows ten teachers serving in the Lincoln and Central building in 1909-10 and there were sixteen teachers in 1913-14. Miss Margaret Costley was one of the early teachers in 1916-17. The building was later remodeled with two rooms in the basement serving as a hot lunch department and eighteen rooms being used as an elementary school. It was a solid, well-built building and Supt. Gruwell said, that in case of a bomb attack, he would feel safer in it than any other building in St. Anthony. It was torn down in 1974 and the new Central School was erected just north across the highway. Gerald Clark worked as custodian at the school for nine years and then was District Maintenance Supervisor for twenty-one years until his recent retirement. He put in so many extra hours and worked very hard to keep the district school buildings running smoothly. Mr. Charles Moore later served two terms as lieutenant governor and then two terms as governor of Idaho.

- #2 Lincoln - The first school was a small building on the south side of St. Anthony and Susan Fletcher was a teacher there. In 1907 the brick building was erected on the same site. It was a two-story school with a furnace in the basement; a large bell in the belfry and was modern with indoor plumbing. The little playground was fenced in to keep the small students off the busy highway. The first four elementary grades were taught there in the eight rooms, and it was later remodeled for a hot lunch room in the basement. It was sold in July 28, 1966, for \$10,000.00 to the Beneficial Stamp Company and was torn down to make way for the new freeway running through the city. The new Lincoln School was built in 1965 and is located a few blocks south and west from the highway. It has a large playground and the big bell is mounted by the door. Edwin (Ed) Kremin started work as custodian in August, 1947, and retired in August, 1969, for a total of twenty-two years. He was a favorite of the little children as he was always so kind and patient with them. He wiped a lot of noses and dried many tears as he listened to their problems and comforted them when hurt. He even kept a pair of clippers at the school to trim the hair of children who wanted a clip job.



#85 - Sand Creek



#2 - Central Rock School

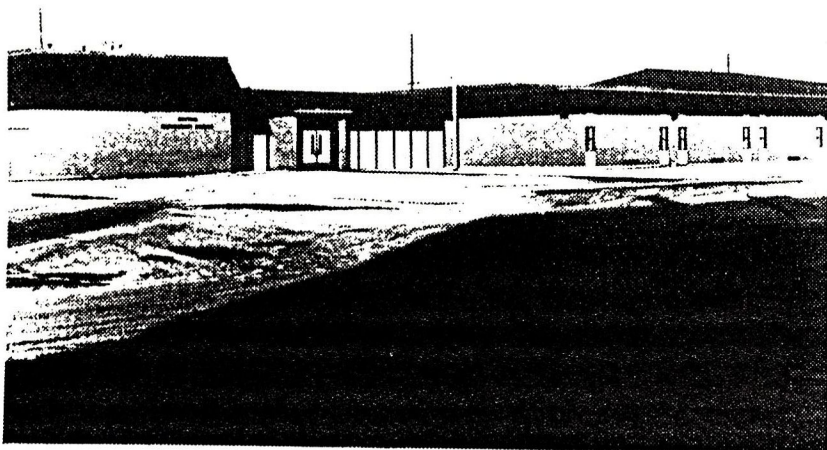




#2 - Central Elementary & High School



#2 - Lincoln School



#215 - Central Elementary



#215 - Lincoln Elementary

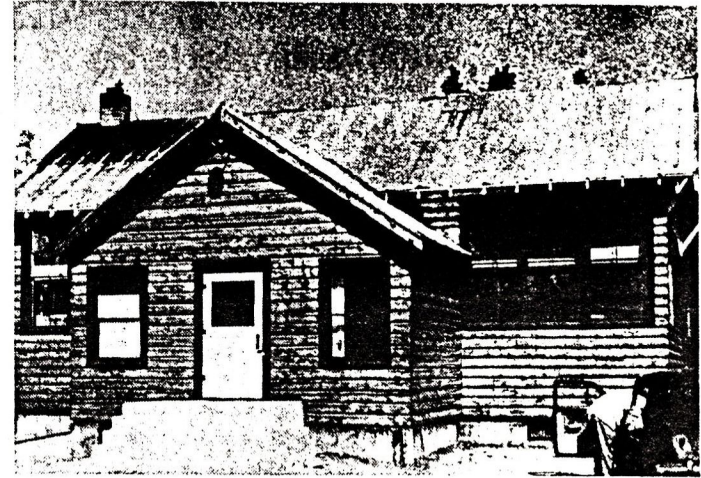


- #2 South Fremont Jr. High School - The building was constructed in 1937 with Public Works Administration labor for use as the new South Fremont High School, across the street south of the Central building. Later a west wing was added to handle the over-crowded conditions. After the new high school was erected in 1971, it became the South Fremont Jr. High for the southern end of the county.

Macks Inn - About 1948 a group of families lived year around in the Island Park area. They had a fairly large school population and wanted a school established up there so that their children would not have to make the long bus run down to Ashton. The District moved the empty Warm River #18 building up to Macks Inn and installed it on a basement foundation. A porch was added to the building and a furnace installed in the basement. It had water piped in and indoor restrooms. The building was covered with peeled, varnished log siding to blend in with the location and was a picturesque structure. Josie Cook was the first teacher. The school population gradually dropped so that in February 4, 1966, it was closed and the bus carried the elementary students down to Ashton Elementary. The building was rented to the Fremont County Commissioners as headquarters for the road crew in the northern area and later the title was given to Fremont County in return for much ground work done on the North Fremont and South Fremont school grounds. The County later constructed a county shed and disposed of the building. It was removed so that another building could be erected. In 1949, when the big blizzard closed all of the other schools in the county for almost three weeks, the Macks Inn School continued to operate. The parents would bring the children in by snow plane to Macks and board them with a family during the week. They would pick them up on Friday and take them home. The snow planes came in very handy when the snow was so deep and the roads were still closed.

Chick Kennedy signed a contract to serve as a bus driver in the Island Park area in 1948 and he or his wife drove the route for nine years until 1957, a distance of about seventy miles a day to school and back to pick up the students at the different homes. He used his private car and at one time was picking up the children in his Cadillac. This was reported to a publication by a local resident and some of the eastern papers published the astonishing news of students being bussed to school in a Cadillac.

In the fall of 1957 Lee and Caroline Jacobsen were hired as bus drivers for the Island Park area and drove for twenty years without an accident. They would drive from their home down the eighty-four mile trip to Ashton, picking up students all along the way. When the West Yellowstone School Board had to make a decision to send some high school students either to Bozeman or Ennis, Montana, they contacted the Fremont District to see if the children could be bussed from West Yellowstone to Ashton. Mr. Jacobsen would leave the bus in a garage in West Yellowstone and would drive his pickup twenty-eight miles up the highway, park it at the garage, load the bus with about a dozen students and head back down the highway for his regular run. This route was driven for three years until West Yellowstone added a high school onto their building and the students would attend school at home. Tuition on the students



Macks Inn School



Mr. Kennedy with bus-car



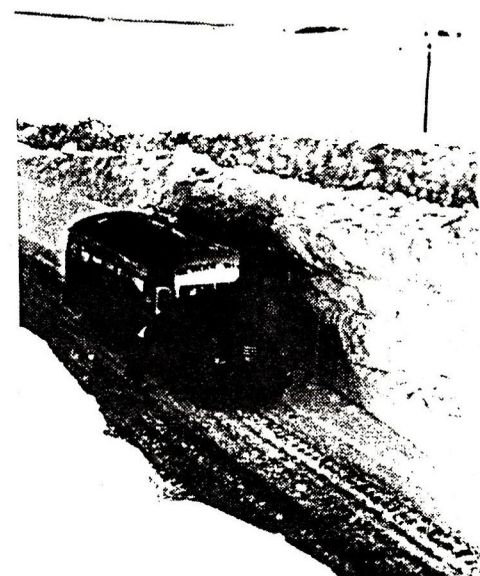
and mileage for transportation was paid to the district. Caroline drove much of the twenty years and tried to keep busy during the day by working at different jobs in Ashton. When the Special Education children were added to the Central School, she worked at different schools in St. Anthony. She recalled that Lee had been trapped in a bad blizzard after dropping off his students out on the Henry's Lake flat, along with some other cars. The people left their cars to come and sit in the bus to keep warm. Lee had plenty of gas so would run his engine enough to ward off the cold. The State Road crew finally got the road open in the early morning so Lee drove on home. He was having trouble with the generator and he hooked his car battery up in the bus and started the long drive back to Macks and on down to Ashton. Another time Caroline left St. Anthony about two o'clock with the sun shining brightly. She dropped off her special education children, picked up the Island Park students and started up the Ashton hill. By the time she got to Phillips Lodge there was such a bad blizzard that she and the students still on the bus had to stay at the Lodge overnight. The big trucks traveling the long highway began watching out for the yellow bus, if any help was needed.

In 1947 the Idaho State Legislature passed a law to effect a reorganization of school districts in Idaho. At that time Fremont County was divided into twenty-one districts of thirteen common, two joint common, three independents, two joint independents and one independent Class A district. St. Anthony, the county seat of Fremont County, was #2-independent Class A district and had one high school and two elementary schools - Central and Lincoln. To the west and southwest of St. Anthony were the districts of Parker and Heman, both common and Egin - joint common. South of St. Anthony were Twin Groves and Franklin, both common and Wilford, joint common. Further south and spreading across the county line into Madison County were #7 - Teton jt. independent and #9 - Newdale jt. independent districts. Chester, a common district, was located between St. Anthony and Ashton. The village of Ashton was #8 independent district with a combined elementary and high school. Northwest of Ashton were Ora and Sarilda, both common. #5 - Drummond and #6 - Marysville were both independent districts. Northeast, east and southeast of Ashton were the common districts of Lamont, Greentimber, Squirrel, Farnum, Warm River and Svea Falls. North of Ashton leads to Island Park and on up to Yellowstone Park. Northeast of Ashton and northwest of St. Anthony lay the unorganized territory.

So a Committee for Reorganization of Schools for Fremont County was chosen by the districts. After many hearings and an election on February 20, 1948, the Fremont County Joint School District A-215 was organized, after a vote of 1,099 in favor of reorganization and 351 against. The new Board of Trustees elected L. Edwin Hirschi as Superintendent of Schools in 1948 and appointed E. O. Rich, former County Supt. of Schools, to be the Clerk of the new Board. Supt. Hirschi had the thankless task of encouraging the people in the new district to accept the many changes needed. At that time a joke was told of two men as they watched a building being moved along the road. One asked "What is that?" and the answer was, "Oh, that's just that d--- Hirschi moving another school building."



Chick shoveling out car garage



Bus on route during hard winter  
between Marysville and Greentimber



The school had been the center of each district and it was not easy for many of the people to give up their identity as a separate school district. Mr. Hirschi resigned in July, 1950, to accept another position and Melvin Gruwell was appointed as the second Superintendent. He resigned in June, 1957, to accept a position in North Dakota and Max Snow was appointed as the third Superintendent. He resigned July, 1966, to accept a position in Boise and Don Blakeley was appointed as the fourth Superintendent. He resigned in July, 1968, to accept a position in northern Idaho and M. Duane Handy was appointed as the fifth Superintendent. Mr. Rich served many years as Board Clerk until his retirement in 1966. Fred Hossner was appointed as Business Manager for the District in 1968.

Before consolidation the different county schools had four buses, two other buses used just to transport the high school students, private vehicles and covered sleighs used in the winter time at Ashton to transport students. The first year after consolidation the district had thirteen buses, a car, station wagon and a jeep to handle the students. By 1955 the district owned seventeen buses. They covered one hundred twenty-four thousand miles to transport nine hundred nineteen pupils to school that year. The district now has twenty-two buses on the routes in the county. The Fremont County Commissioners have worked hard to build up their heavy road equipment for the sprawling county and have up-graded the many miles of road over the years. Their road crews work closely with the district officials during the bad winter weather to keep the roads open so that the buses can run their routes to pick up and then deliver the students back to their homes.

In 1956 the School District approved sale of a parcel of school ground on the North Fremont High School lot for \$50.00 to erect a National Guard Armory, with the stipulation that any time the property ceased to be used for National Guard purposes, it would revert back to the district. About 1966 the building was turned over to the district, and later renovated to be used as the School Transportation headquarters. Here the buses of the district are serviced and repaired by competent mechanics. Gary Taylor, a former teacher in 1967, became the Transportation Supervisor about 1969 and is still working in that capacity.

For many years the district residents living in the Dubois area, near the county line, have kept encouraging the District Board to work with the Fremont County Commissioners to improve the nine-mile road cutting west from Parker to Dubois so that their children could attend school in their own district. The parents could then travel east for business and shopping purposes. Fremont District furnished a bus during some of the years and had one of the residents drive it so that the students could be transported to school in another district. After much negotiating by the Fremont and Jefferson County Commissioners with the Bureau of Land Management, the road has finally been up-graded. It can only be used during the summer months under conditions set up by the BLM. Mr. Taylor used to have to drive down past Rexburg out to Sage Junction and up the highway to get out to Dubois to service the bus. The one hundred twenty mile round trip and the time spent servicing the bus would take the better part of a day. At the present time the district pays tuition and in-lieu-of-transportation for the children still in Fremont District who have to attend another district.



Snow on Island Park highway



#215 South Fremont High School



After re-organization many of the people living on the border line into Madison County had expressed a desire for their children to continue school in Sugar City. The school, purchasing and church ties of the Newdale residents have traditionally been to the south in Madison County. In 1954 they voted to withdraw from the Fremont District #215 and to consolidate with Sugar-Salem District #322.

At the present time the North Fremont High School, North Fremont Jr. High and Ashton Elementary serves the students in the north end of Fremont County. North Fremont High School has one hundred ninety-three high school students. This two-story brick structure was erected about 1951. It is heated by a large coal furnace and has a big gym. An auditorium was added on in 1974. The North Fremont Jr. High was built onto the east side of the high school building. It opens into the high school so that the students have access to the auditorium and the gym. About one hundred seventeen students attend school. The long-time custodian, Reed Murdock, began work on February, 1966, in the Ashton Elementary building and moved with the Jr. High into the new facility. He was devoted to the school and the students. Mr. Seeley remembers him as a very congenial, hard-working individual, who liked the students and they liked him. The Jr. High building is heated by electricity and he said that made it an easy building to care for. Reed always said that he didn't want to retire and he didn't. He was still on the job when he passed away from a heart attack at his home in September, 1986, with twenty years of service in the district.

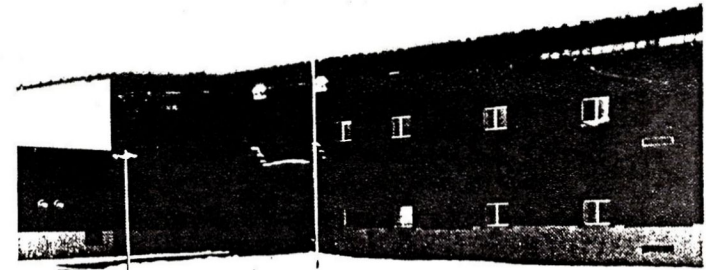
The Ashton Elementary building serves three hundred fifty-nine students from kindergarten through the sixth grade. It is heated by a coal furnace, has twelve classrooms, a nice library, hot lunch department, multi-purpose room and other departments.

South Fremont High School, South Fremont Jr. High, Central, Lincoln, Teton and Parker serve the students in the south end of the district. The South Fremont High School was constructed around 1971. It is a coal-heated facility with a large gym, auditorium and hot lunch department with a cafeteria. There are five hundred nineteen students enrolled.

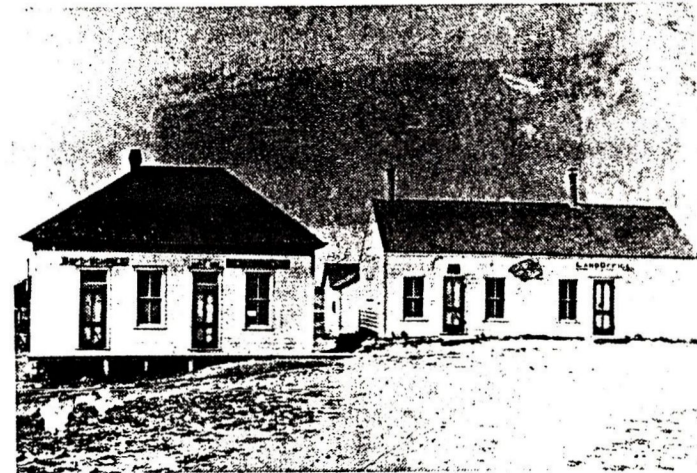
South Fremont Jr. High has three hundred fourteen students enrolled. It is heated by a coal furnace and has fifteen classrooms; a gym and auditorium. It houses the seventh and eighth grades. The band and algebra class are held in the South Fremont High School.

Central Elementary was erected about 1974 and has electric heat in the sixteen classrooms and the county-wide TMR department. There are five hundred eight students enrolled in the third through sixth grades.

Lincoln Elementary handles three hundred fourteen students in kindergarten through second grade. It has eleven regular classrooms and two trailers contain the pre-school, special ed. and migrant ed. classes. Each classroom has a self-contained library, and the students play on the large playground.



#215 - South Fremont Jr. High



School Supt. office about 1900



Parker Elementary has one hundred seventy-three students from kindergarten through fifth grades. It has electric heat, six regular classrooms and a multi-purpose room with a stage that also houses the hot lunch cafeteria. It has a resource room and the library is being up-dated at the present time. The students have a large playground.

Teton Elementary has two hundred nine students from kindergarten through sixth grades. It is heated by a coal furnace and has twelve rooms, two offices, and a multi-purpose room in the large gym that also houses the hot lunch cafeteria. It has a big playground.

Mr. Gomer Williams, of Chester, entered school in 1906, and recalls that Miss Gusta Fletcher drove a one-horse cart in the summer and a one-horse cutter during the winter when she taught at Chester. Harriet C. Wood served ten years as County Supt. and then was principal at Central High School. Gomer graduated from the eighth grade in 1917 and Supt. Frances Hargis signed his certificate. Other Supts. were Margaret Bean, H. C. Lambert, Annie Clark and Florence Martineau. E. Glen Cameron became Supt. in 1929 and served to 1942. Eugene O. Rich became Supt. in 1943 and served through 1947; then was appointed Clerk of the reorganized Fremont Joint School District A-215.

The first County School Office had been a small frame building in early 1900. It was later located in the east office on the second floor of the Fremont County Court House. After the new school district was established in 1948, the office of the School Superintendent was located across the hall from the Clerk's office. In 1969 the Fremont County Commissioners needed more space for county offices so the School Board trustees purchased the vacant Seminary building for about fourteen thousand dollars. It is located across the street west of the Court House, and the school office was moved there. Later a storeroom and a storage garage were added to the building. This enables the business manager to keep all the district school supplies in one location.

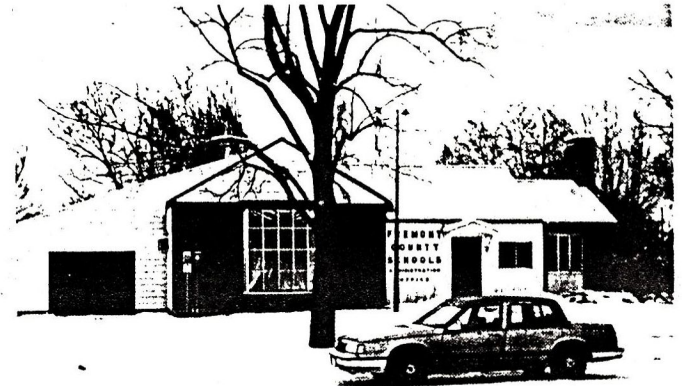
Around 1973 the old Forest Service office building in St. Anthony was obtained and the District Hot Lunch office and storeroom are located in the basement. The Special Education and Service personnel offices are situated on the first floor of the building.

The Union Pacific Railroad played an important role in the lives and education of many people living in the outlying areas of Fremont County. The parents would send their students down to the boarding home on Sunday and then would pick them up at the train stop on the week end. After a big blizzard the train, usually with two engines, would leave Pocatello with a big blade or snow plow on the first engine, headed north on their run to Fremont County and then northeast up to Teton Basin. It would be so interesting to see the snow-covered engines return south with the big blade packed with snow from the push through the drifts. The road runs parallel to the track much of the way. Some people tell of driving a team and sleigh along the railroad track between train runs. A dangerous practice but easier on the horses than forcing them to buck the drifted roads. Oscar Smith, who had boarded in St. Anthony while attending

County Court House,  
St. Anthony, Idaho



Fremont County Courthouse about 1913



Administrative Office



high school at Central, was traveling along the track through the deep drifts with two other youngsters, when they were caught by the train. He managed to push the two other young people up on the drift out of the way but was hit by the train before he could scramble up out of harm. The engineer had been unable to get the train stopped in time. A teacher passed away at Lamont during a bad blizzard. The railroad and road were drifted shut, so the body was loaded onto a snow plane and brought down to Ashton. Farmers in the Lamont area remember how accomodating the train engineer could be with the residents. They tell of seeing the train stop in a field so that a person could dismount and head on home instead of riding down to the scheduled train stop. Randall Frederickson recalls that his parents milked cows and would ship the cream in large cans on the train down to the creamery. If the boys were late getting the cans to the stop, the engineer would hold the train until they could arrive and load the cans on. Other farmers tell of shipping eggs in large wooden cartons down to Pocatello on the train. The cream and egg money furnished groceries for the family between crop harvest.

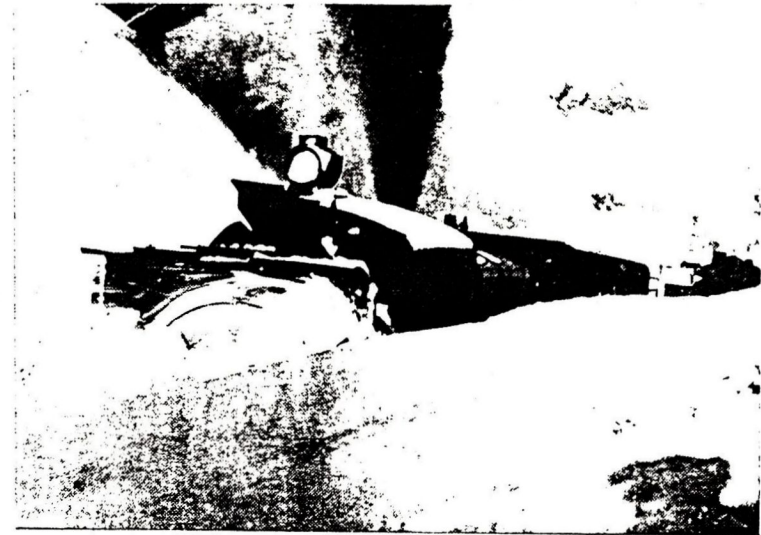
While working toward his Master of Education, in August, 1956, Dr. Daniel Stewart Hess compiled "An Evaluation of Fremont County, Idaho Schools, Comparing Certain Select Features Before and After Consolidation". He noted "That the reorganization plan has unified the people in the district. The quality of teaching personnel has improved. A salary schedule has been established district-wide, improving the wages of the teachers over the years. The teacher load has been equalized and curriculum offering has been expanded and equalized throughout the district. Financial efficiency has come through equalized tax burden. Inadequate buildings have been eliminated and there are increased centralized facilities. The transportation program has been expanded and improved".

This report would not be complete without much credit being given to the many fine hard-working school board members, superintendents, business manager, treasurers and board clerks, teachers, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, hot lunch personnel, building and bus maintenance people and all the other dedicated individuals who have helped to keep the school district running in an efficient manner. Many thanks must go to Dr. Hess for his kindness in allowing use of material from his Master's Thesis.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the wonderful people in the school district, and some out of the county, who tried to help recall information on the old buildings and so kindly lent their precious pictures for use. Everyone that I talked to, in person or by telephone, would suggest the name of someone else to contact for further information. I have so much respect for all the people who worked very hard to erect adequate buildings and to institute a teaching program for the children in the district from the beginning of Fremont County to the present time. Thank you all again.



Special Service Building



Train with blade cutting through drifts after a big blizzard



# MAP OF ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN FREMONT COUNTY (1947)

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

UNORGANIZED  
TERRITORY

Sarilda  
#71

Ora  
#2

Green  
Timber  
#72

Warm  
River  
#18

Marys-  
ville  
Ind. #6

Ashton  
Ind. #8

UNORGANIZED  
TERRITORY

Parker  
#28

Heavy Fork  
Falls

Falls River

Squirrel  
#69

Conant Creek

St. Anthony  
Ind. #2

Chester  
#29

Farnum  
#64

Drummond  
Ind. #5

Lamont  
#82

Twin Groves  
#31

Egin  
Jt. #20

Heman  
#17

Franklin  
#54

Wilford  
Jt. #14

Fremont Co.  
Madison Co.

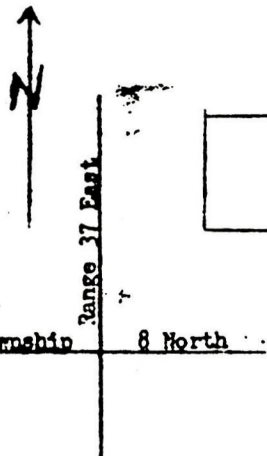
Teton

Newdale

Jt. Ind. #7

Jt. Ind. #9

Teton River



## SCALE

$\frac{1}{4}$  inch = 1 mile

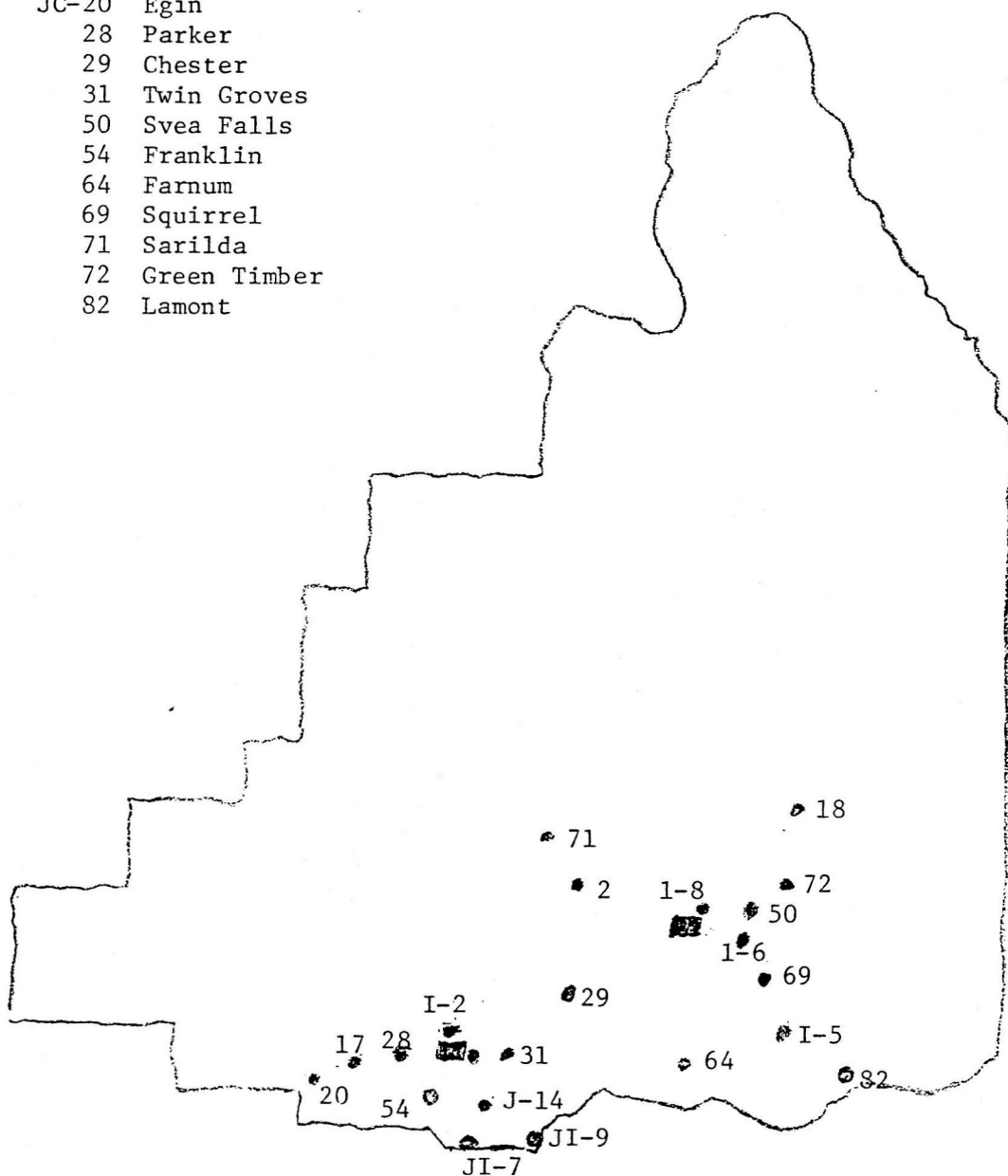
Total Valuation of all Organized  
school districts within the  
boundaries of Fremont County \$6,297,141  
Total Valuation of all Unorganized  
Territory \$1,128,829



District No.    Name & Location

Type of District

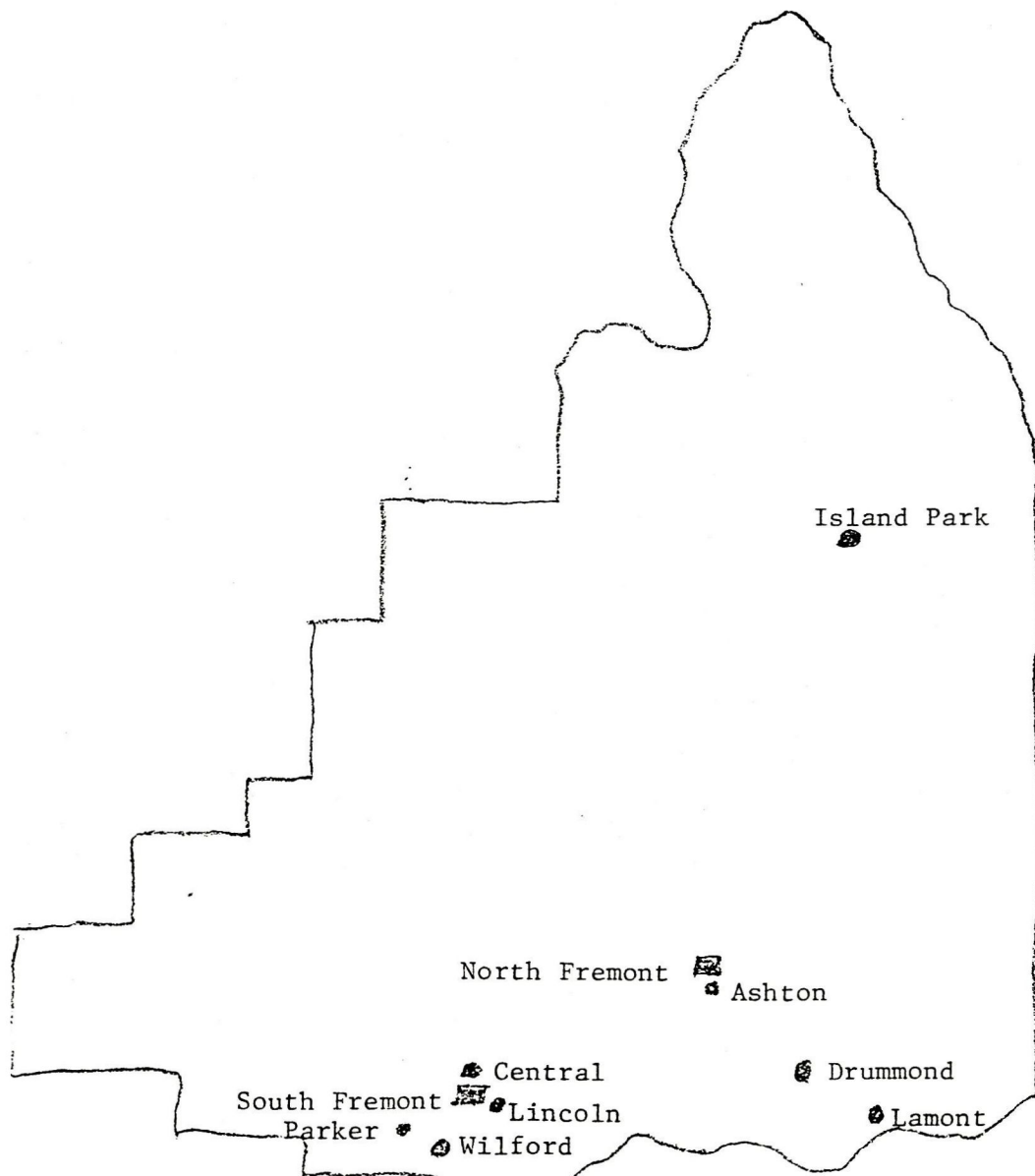
2	Ora	Common School
I-2	St. Anthony High School	Independent Class A
	Central Elementary	
	Lincoln Elementary	
I-5	Drummond	Independent
I-6	Marysville	Independent
JI-7	Teton City	Joint-Independent
I-8	Ashton High School	Independent
	Ashton Elementary	
JI-9	Newdale	Joint-Independent
JC-14	Wilford	Joint-Common
17	Heman	Common
18	Warm River	Common
JC-20	Egin	Joint-Common
28	Parker	Common
29	Chester	Common
31	Twin Groves	Common
50	Svea Falls	Common
54	Franklin	Common
64	Farnum	Common
69	Squirrel	Common
71	Sarilda	Common
72	Green Timber	Common
82	Lamont	Common



Map of Fremont County showing location of twenty-one schools before reorganization. Numbers of districts correspond to names in upper left-hand corner

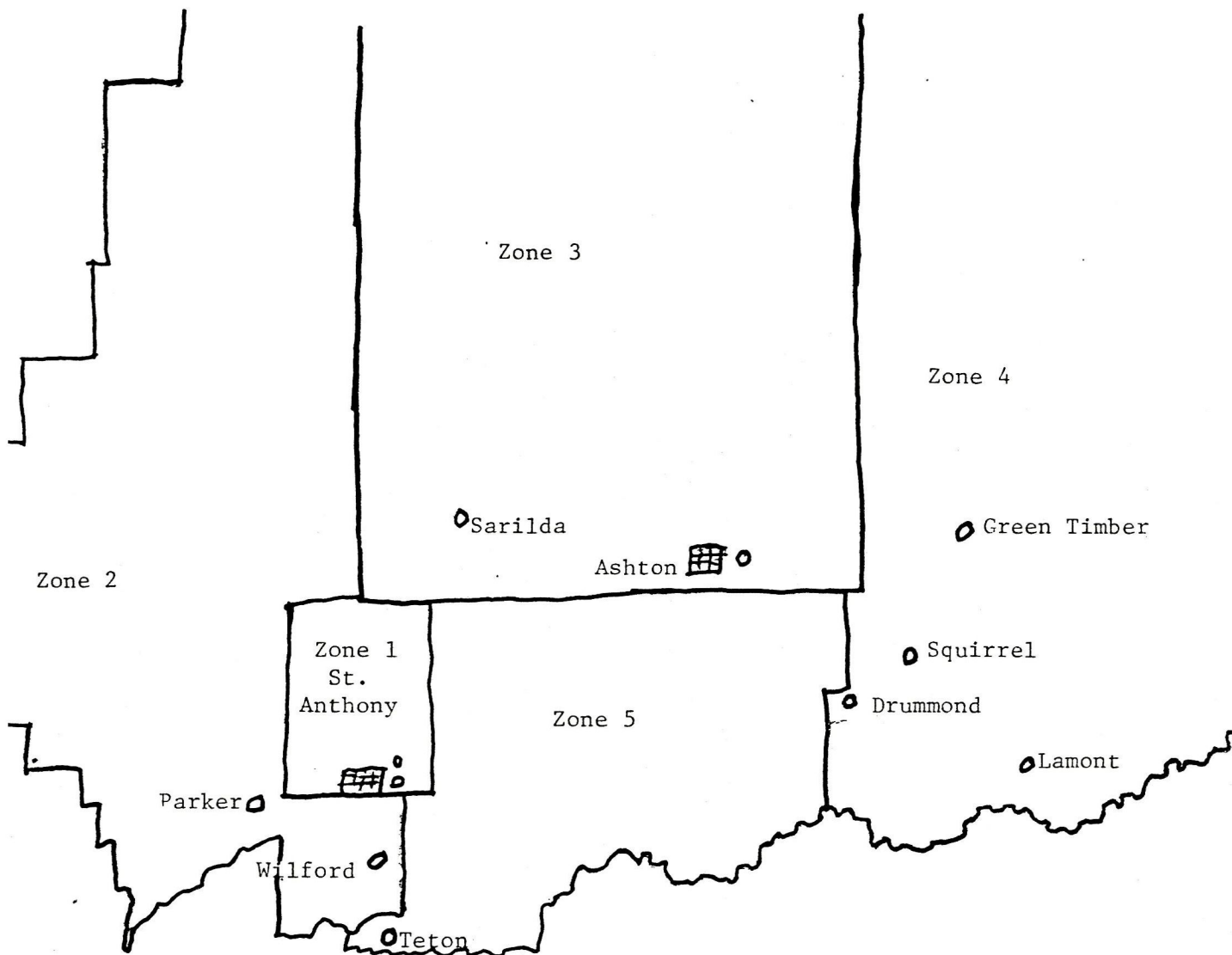


Map of Fremont County showing location of schools in the Fremont County  
Joint School District A-215 for 1955.





Map of Fremont County Joint School District A-215, showing zones for purposes of representation reorganization.





# School District Trustee Zones before 1985.



Yellowstone S.C. District  
FREMONT CO.

LOCATION MAP

