

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: J.M. Wilbur Company Blacksmith Shop

Other names/site number: J. M. Wilbur & Son Blacksmithing, Glen Wilbur Blacksmithing

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 2145 N. 5500 East

City or town: Eden State: UT County: Weber

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p><u>Utah Division of State History/Office of Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title :</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN:

Commercial

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Jesse Wilbur Blacksmith Shop is a single-story brick building constructed in 1898 and located along the west side of 5500 East street in the rural town of Eden, Utah. The form of the building is a 1-part commercial block, with Victorian commercial stylistic characteristics. The building is approximately 37 feet x 25 feet with a gabled roof and a stepped parapet. The gable is elongated along an east-west axis with the primary façade facing east onto 5500 East street. The interior of the building consists of one large open space with exposed brick walls, saw-cut timber flooring, and two brick blacksmithing forges.

The building has been meticulously restored recently, and is in nearly original condition. It is now the anchor of a new commercial development that is contextually appropriate in terms of scale and orientation to the street. The development consists of a new single-story brick-faced structure directly adjacent to the south-wall of the blacksmith, followed by an access drive to a parking lot located at the rear of the buildings, followed by 2-more new single-story brick faced structures to the south of that. The development is contextually sensitive in that it mimics late 19th and early 20th century commercial block architecture, while reading as separate from the original blacksmith building in materials and detailing. The building planes and parapets also provide visual delineation of the new structures separate from the original blacksmith building.

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The blacksmith shop sits approximately 300 feet south of the Eden General Store. Located near the intersection of 5500 East and 2200 North streets, this small clustering of commercial buildings has historically provided essential services including groceries and supplies to this rural community.

Narrative Description

The Wilbur Blacksmith Shop is a single-story brick building built in 1895. The building type is a 1-part block, with a gabled roof and a stepped gable front parapet. The building is approximately 37 feet x 25 feet and the gable is along an East-West axis with the primary façade facing east.

The east (primary) façade is symmetrical with a large central bay door, and a single window opening on either side. The window and door openings have segmental arch brick lintels. The windows have concrete sills. The original windows are wood double hung sashes that have been painted a hunter-green color. The original door is made of rustic timbers and slides on a barn-door track mounted on the inside of the wall. The brick is a soft-fired pink brick, and is laid in a common (American) bond pattern. Above the central door the stepped parapet is a new sign painted with large all-capitalized serif letters. The top row reads "JM WILBUR & SON" and is 8 brick courses tall. The second row reads "SINCE 1893" and is 2 courses tall. The third line reads "GENERAL BLACKSMITHING" and is 5 courses tall. The fourth line reads "HORSESHOEING A SPECIALTY" and is 3 courses tall. The first, third, and fourth lines are painted a hunter green with a yellow outline. The second line is painted in black. The sign is a modified reproduction of the sign appearing in figures 1 & 7, but with the addition of "& SON" which appears in figure 3. The original sign clearly had been repainted over the years to reflect the changing ownership structure of the company, and to accommodate the painting of the building.¹

The north wall of the structure continues the same soft-fired red brick and continues the common bond coursing. There are two chimneys extending from this wall spaced at every third interval. The gabled roof is visible from this angle, and is covered with cedar shingles. The wood soffit and fascia are painted hunter green.

The west (rear) wall of the structure reveals the gable end of the roofline, and continues the same brick and coursing as the previous elevations. There is a door opening located slightly to the right of the central axis of the building. There are two single window openings located on either side of the door opening. They are the same size, but not symmetrically placed. The door opening has a square brick lintel. The door is a four-panel wood door and is painted hunter green. The window openings continue the same segmental arch brick lintels and concrete sills as the front of the building. The windows are double hung wood windows. The fascia and soffit are wood painted in the same hunter green as the doors and windows.

The south wall of the structure is obscured by a new commercial building, directly abutting the blacksmith shop. The new development is stepped back from the east and west facades of the building, with a different brick type and architectural detailing from the blacksmith shop.

The interior of the blacksmith shop is one large open space, with exposed trusses, and brick walls. The trusses are of rough-sawn timbers. The ceiling height is approximately 10 feet to the bottom of the

¹ According to a previous owner, the current sign is a restoration of the actual lettering that they found on the building when they removed the white paint. This would be consistent with Glen Wilbur joining the company in 1924 and historical photographs which show a 1930s version of the building having been painted.

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trusses. The flooring also is composed of large rough-sawn heavy timbers with an oiled finish. The surface is aged and worn and has large burn marks near the forges and anvils. Along the north wall there are two brick forges spaced at approximately 12 foot intervals, dividing the north wall into thirds. In front of each forge is an anvil set on a stump base that is set into the ground below the floor surface.

The south wall of the space contains a door opening located at approximately a 1/3 interval from the west wall. This door is an old wood panel door with glass in the upper third of the door that appears to be original. There is a transom above the door. The eastern half of the wall contains an iron band laid into the brick coursing at about 4 feet off the ground. Several iron tie rings are anchored into this band, presumably for tying horses to for shoeing. Located at approximately 1/3 interval from the east wall there are two vertical timbers, that contain the remnants of hinges, that once supported horse stall panels.

The structure was originally constructed in 1895 (as is corroborated by the numbers "1895" branded into the barn doors on the front of the building). A wood framed addition located at on the south side of the building was added sometime between 1898 and 1930 based on historical photographs. Another wood framed addition was added onto the south side of the first addition sometime between 1930 and 1970 based on historical photographs. No other historic documentation was found to verify the dates of these additions. They were in poor condition and were demolished as part of the blacksmith shop restoration that occurred in 2011-2014.

Brick repair below the windows was necessary, as was replacement of the original sills. The wood windows were repaired, and the broken glass panes replaced with new glass. The roof structure was repaired, and a new wood shingle roof installed. Both chimneys had collapsed prior to restoration and were re-built using existing and salvaged bricks. All of the exterior brick was stripped of paint and repointed. The lettering on the front of the building was re-created based on historical photos.

A new concrete slab was added under the timber floor. This necessitated numbering and removing the floor piece-by-piece, excavating under the structure and re-installing all of the timbers to their exact original locations.

The blacksmith shop sits approximately 300 feet south of the Eden General Store Located near the intersection of 5500 East and 2200 North, this small clustering of commercial type uses has historically provided essential goods and services to this rural community.

A new small commercial development adjoins the blacksmith shop to the south. A new brick-faced structure directly adjacent to the south-wall of the blacksmith, followed by an access drive to a parking lot located at the rear of the buildings, followed by 2-more brick faced structures to the south of that. All the structures are aligned with the front of the blacksmith, with the primary facades and entrances facing 5500 East. This layout is consistent with late 19th and early 20th century commercial development. The buildings are located across the street from a park, and the surrounding properties are rural residential. The new development to the south of the building is contextually appropriate to the blacksmith shop in terms of massing, form and relationship to the streetscape. The new development also reads as separate and distinctive from the blacksmith shop with architectural details different from that of the building. The wall planes of the new structure are offset from that of the Wilbur Blacksmith Shop allowing the buildings to read as two separate structures.

8. Statement of Significance

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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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1898-1951

Significant Dates

1898

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jesse Wilbur (builder)

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

The J.M. Wilbur Company Blacksmith Shop, built in 1898 and rehabbed 2011-2014, is a brick, one-part block commercial building with a stepped gable parapet and Late Victorian Commercial details. The building is both historically and architecturally significant under Criteria A. With a period of significance dating from 1898, when it was built by Jesse Wilbur, to 1951, when Jesse passed away. Jesse partnered with his son Glenn in 1924, and they used this building as a commercial outlet providing primarily blacksmithing and other related services to local farmers and the surrounding communities. Following Jesse's death, Glenn carried on the business for two more decades. It is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Industry and Commerce because it provided essential services in a developing community and played a vital role in the development and success of the village of Eden, Utah and surrounding Ogden Valley. The building was originally designed and constructed to facilitate the needs of the

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blacksmithing industry, a once very common and necessary business in frontier life, and following a recent careful rehabilitation continues to operate as a blacksmith shop today.

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

Historical Significance

Industry

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Utah, when horses were the primary mode of travel, blacksmithing was a busy and prosperous enterprise. Travelers did not commonly bring tools with them and, therefore, blacksmiths were strongly relied upon. Emigrants would gather scrap iron as they crossed the plains and would often trade the iron or grain or food. Blacksmiths in Ogden, specifically, not only shod horses and set wagon tires, but also made necessary items for household and farm use. In 1850, the Weber County census listed 22 blacksmiths. The town of Liberty (four miles from Eden) had two blacksmiths, which did not last very long. The J.M. Wilbur Company Blacksmith Shop proved to be the more successful and provided blacksmithing business for these communities.

The Wilbur Blacksmith Shop began operation in Eden, Utah, in 1898. Located about 12 miles east of Ogden, Eden lies between the north and middle forks of the Ogden River in Ogden Valley, originally called "Little Valley"² by Shoshone Indian Chief Little Soldier. In 1825 British trapper Peter Skeen Ogden and others employed by the Hudson Bay Fur Co. were the first white men to explore and trap wildlife in the valley, which then became known as "Ogden's Hole" or "New Hole."³ Later, President Brigham Young of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sent two exploration parties in 1848 and 1852 to the valley. This led to the establishment of three Mormon communities of year-round residents: Eden, Huntsville, and Liberty. The first cattlemen came in 1856, and by 1860 small farms were beginning to form.

James Burt (b. 1822), an experienced blacksmith, immigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1862. As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he crossed the plains with other Mormon pioneers to the Salt Lake Valley, Utah where he was invited to do blacksmithing work for Church president Brigham Young. He had acquired sufficient funds by 1870-71 to purchase a piece of land in Eden and became one of the first permanent settlers in the area. He built Eden's first blacksmith shop, which served the other nearby settlements of Huntsville and Liberty as well. In 1895, James Burt sold the blacksmith shop to his assistant, Jesse Wilbur (b. 1874), who replaced the building with a new one (the subject building) in 1898 and changed the name to his own.⁴ The J.M. Wilbur Company Blacksmith Shop is historically significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement because it provided essential services and support for this growing agricultural community. Blacksmithing was a vital industry in any settlement of this era and this building retains significance as the industry's only vestige in the Ogden Valley. Common blacksmithing services needed by these farmers included replacing parts for farm equipment, shoeing horses, constructing tools, providing tilling equipment, and

² "Early History of Liberty, Weber, Utah".

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Biography of Elisha Wilbur," p. 6.

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building steel wagon wheels.⁵ The Wilbur blacksmithing trade was a practical service and a boon to the farming industry, which contributed significantly to the growth and success of the community.

Commerce

After many years working in James Burt's Blacksmith Shop in Eden, Jesse Wilbur purchased the shop in 1895, built a new shop on the property, and established the J.M. Wilbur Company. Because the community was agricultural, his skills were indispensable to the farmers there. Interchangeable parts were not mass-produced in those days, and so much of Jesse's time was spent in building new parts to replace homemade ones for equipment needing repair. He fitted horses with shoes using steel purchased from Ogden, then heated it and shaped them with his homemade hammer. His custom design of the "Wilbur Bale Hook" became known as the best tool in the Mountain West for hooking bales of hay and was sold in several states outside of Utah as well ("Eden Blacksmith").⁶ He built snow plows, bob sleds, tilling equipment, and steel wagon wheel tires, which was an especially laborious and painstaking process. Tire setting was one of the most significant and difficult repairs offered at the Wilbur shop.

On February 1, 1924, Jesse's son Glenn became a partner in the business and the business name was changed to J.M. Wilbur and Son, which remained until Jesse's death on June 19, 1951.⁷ As technology caused an evolution in transportation and automobiles became the dominant mode, the Blacksmith Shop adapted to the times and offered automobile and gasoline service in addition to blacksmithing.⁸ Expansion of amenities to include automobile service appears to coincide with the additions that were added to the south side of the original blacksmith shop (and more recently removed). This is supported through photographic evidence of the service station component; however, no other documentation exists to confirm the dates or extent of the service station activities.

Additional Context

James Burt, Sr.

In the early nineteenth century, child labor was common in many countries. Nine-year-old James Burt (b. 8 January 1822) began his life of manual labor in his birthplace of Blontyre Lanark Scotland. During the next few years, he found himself working with machinery, water wheels, and blacksmith equipment. After refusing to fulfill the role of striking workers at the Blontyre Works, he found himself unemployed and homeless at the age of fifteen. It was at this time that he began learning the trade of blacksmith, often working eighteen-hour days. Economic downturns often forced him to change jobs working for the railway, sugar factory, and ironworks. In spite of these challenges, he consistently found enough work to marry and support his childhood sweetheart, Mary McBride, when he was only seventeen. Of all his jobs, he loved blacksmithing the most and took every opportunity to learn the trade well.

⁵ "No Town Could Make it without a Blacksmith"

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "Biography of Elisha Wilbur," p. 6.

⁸ "No Town Could Make it without a Blacksmith"

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In 1850 James and Mary were introduced to and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which greatly impacted the future of this family. They left Scotland in 1862 and sailed across the Atlantic to begin the arduous journey across the plains to Utah in hopes of joining others of their faith. James resumed his blacksmith trade at the invitation to work for Brigham Young in Salt Lake City. Hearing about the beautiful valley east of Ogden, he purchased a small piece of land in Eden between 1870-1871, eventually building a shop and becoming the blacksmith for the three main settlements in the valley.

After Mary's death (1897), James sold his shop to his assistant, Jesse Wilbur in 1895. Jesse then built the new shop three years later on this same property. James died on 17 July 1904 and was buried in Eden.

Jesse M. Wilbur

Jesse M. Wilbur (b. February 1874) was the eldest of seven children born to Elisha Wilbur, one of the first settlers of Eden, Utah, and Rose Ellen Worden Wilbur. Upon the death of his mother in 1897, he became the legal guardian for his four youngest siblings.

Jesse began learning the skills of a blacksmith from his father at the age of eighteen, which became his life's work. Not only did he receive on-the-job training, but he also attended classes in blacksmithing at Utah Agricultural College (now Utah State University) in Logan.

On July 5, 1899, Jesse (age 25) married Minnie Farrell (age 23). It is believed their courtship took place in their earlier years as they attended the same school together in Eden and only lived one block apart from each other. Their first home was the Wilbur home in the "Stringtown" section of Eden, where Jesse also operated the farm.⁹ They later moved to the Farrell home, one block away from the Blacksmith Shop. Jesse and Minnie had seven children. Minnie always did the bookkeeping for Jesse's Blacksmith Shop.

On February 1, 1924, Jesse's son Glenn became a partner in the business and the business name was changed to J.M. Wilbur and Son, which remained until Jesse's death on June 19, 1951.

According to LaMar Petersen:

Everybody liked Jesse Wilbur. He was friendly and obliging. When he shod the horses, his shop became a haven for idlers and bug-eyed kids. His smelly leather apron, the red-hot embers in the forge, the sweat of the horses all made a pleasant atmosphere worth standing around for an hour at a time enjoying. I loved to watch him at work, smoking his stogie, intent on gentling the horse as he applied the shoe, his swarthy, perspiring face showing both concentration and kindness. He was also a fixer. He mended plows and harvesters, an occasional wheel from a wagon, or a flivver that refused to start.¹⁰

Jesse is also remembered as a good friend of David O. McKay, a later president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who was a native of nearby Huntsville, and would often pay visits to Jesse's shop. They enjoyed discussing local events and politics but avoided topics of a religious nature.

⁹ Gardiner, Don (Grandson). "Biography of Minnie Lavina Farrell Wilbur," February, 1982.

¹⁰ Petersen, LaMar. "My Garden of Eden," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 56 (Summer 1988): 236-49.

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Glenn M. Wilbur

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The son of Jesse M. and Minnie Farrell Wilbur was Glenn Wilbur (b. 1 December 1903). He married Clara Hunt on March 28, 1936. In 1924, he became his father's partner in the Blacksmith Shop. After his father's death in 1951, Glenn changed the name of the company to Glenn M. Wilbur and continued to operate the shop. Gradually, new ideas were formed and gas pumps and auto mechanics became a part of the blacksmith trade. Glenn operated the Blacksmith Shop until his retirement on May 29, 1971. For 42 years, he was one of the last blacksmiths in the Ogden area. Like his father, he continued producing necessary articles for home and agricultural use as well as horseshoes. He also provided service to the community as vice president and former director of the Eden Waterworks Co. Glenn died at the age of 69 on November 19, 1973. The building still functions as a Blacksmith Shop.

Early Historical Information about Eden/Ogden Valley

The small agricultural community of Eden, Weber County, Utah has always been known for its picturesque beauty, fertile grasslands, and numerous waterways all surrounded by the Wasatch and Cache Valley mountain ranges. Located about 12 miles east of Ogden, Eden lies between the north and middle forks of the Ogden River in Ogden Valley, originally called "Little Valley"¹¹ by Shoshone Indian Chief Little Soldier. The valley once served as temporary summer hunting grounds for the tribe where beaver, muskrats, game, and even bear were plentiful. In 1825 British trapper Peter Skeen Ogden and others employed by the Hudson Bay Fur Co. were the first white men to explore and trap wildlife in the valley, which then became known as "Ogden's Hole" or "New Hole."¹² Geographers later named it Ogden Valley. The severe winters and difficult passage through the Ogden canyons discouraged permanent settlements. It wasn't until President Brigham Young of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sent two exploration parties in 1848 and 1852 that led to the establishment of three Mormon communities of year-round residents: Eden, Huntsville, and Liberty.¹³ The first cattlemen came in 1856 and by 1860 small farms were beginning to form. Stephen K. Wilbur is thought to be the first settler in Eden, which was surveyed in 1866 by Washington Jenkins. It was Jenkins who suggested the Biblical name of Eden because of its beauty. Because the elevation is 4,941 feet (1,506 m), the new settlers were faced with long harsh winters causing many challenges. In March of 1876, James Burt, Jr. left his wife Annie and three children at home to retrieve fresh water when a sudden snow slide rushed down the mountainside tearing the home from its foundation and carrying it and his family downhill. Everyone was saved but his toddler-aged daughter Catherine, who was buried the next day in Eden Cemetery. The displaced family lived in the home of James Burt, Sr., in Eden for awhile. One month after this tragic incident, Annie gave birth to a son giving him the name of George Survival Burt.

Other challenges also beset the community. Although relations between the settlers and Indians were mostly peaceful, tensions were still high. Shortages of food were not uncommon as the townspeople often offered provisions to the Indians to maintain peaceful conditions. Some even paid an annual "tax" for several years to avoid problems. Men often carried rifles when working in the fields. Relations further deteriorated at the break of the Black Hawk War in 1865, causing many of the settlers to move closer together in the Eden area for protection. During the winter of 1877 an epidemic of scarlet fever and diphtheria broke out in the community lasting until the next year. Very little medical help was

¹¹ "Early History of Liberty, Weber, Utah".

¹² Ibid.

¹³ "Settlement of Eden," Utah Historical Markers on www.waymarking.com, posted March 23, 2011, http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMB1F9_Settlement_of_Eden

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available in the valley and the epidemic was especially hard on the children claiming 64 lives. Hordes of grasshoppers led to successive years of crop failure. In spite of these trials, progress moved forward.

Mail came to Eden from Ogden twice a week and was delivered to Richard Ballantynes. In 1893 the first post office was established which served as the post office for the town of Liberty as well. In 1861 Thomas Bingham built the first hand-driven shingle mill on the North Fork between Eden and Liberty; the first power-driven mills came a few years later. The Blacksmithing business run by James Burt and then Jesse Wilbur served the towns of Eden and Liberty for many years, as did the grocery store in Eden. Religion greatly united the people of these communities. James Burt, Sr. served as the first Sunday School Superintendent for Eden and Liberty, and his son, James Burt, Jr. helped the church acquire property for the first tithing house, ward house, and cemetery in Liberty. The Eden Ward's population in 1900 was 294 members. Several prominent church leaders such as Matthias Cowley, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Brigham Young, George Q. Cannon, Franklin D. Richards, and Daniel H. Wells visited the Latter-Day Saints in the valley. A one-room school house built in 1866 in Eden also welcomed students from Liberty. In 1884 a larger school house was built with a bell placed on the roof to call the children to school or warn residents of an emergency. The bell now sits upon the Daughters of Utah Pioneers historical monument dedicated in 2005 to honor the historical significance of Eden.¹⁴

¹⁴ "Settlement of Eden," Utah Historical Markers on www.waymarking.com, posted March 23, 2011, http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMB1F9_Settlement_of_Eden

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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"Autobiography of James Burt Sr.," January 16, 2014,
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"No Town Could Make it without a Blacksmith"

"Memorial Obituary of Glenn M. Wilbur". Ogden Standard-Examiner. 20 Nov. 1973.

Petersen, LaMar. "My Garden of Eden," *Utah Historical Quarterly* 56 (Summer 1988): 236-49.

"Settlement of Eden," Utah Historical Markers on www.waymarking.com, posted March 23, 2011,
http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMB1F9_Settlement_of_Eden

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 41.28759° Longitude: -111.8156°
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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

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

PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 7 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST, SALT LAKE BASE AND MERIDIAN, U.S. SURVEY: BEGINNING AT A POINT NORTH 00D18'55" EAST 1603.35 FEET ALONG THE SECTION LINE AND SOUTH 87D11'58" EAST 43.68 FEET THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 34; RUNNING THENCE NORTH 02D15'12" EAST 178.06 FEET; THENCE NORTH 88D11'05" WEST 330.98 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00D18'55" WEST 309.58 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88D44'17" EAST 320.52 FEET; THENCE NORTH 02D15'12" EAST 128.33 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are the legal parcel boundary. This is the boundary that was historically associated with the building.

J.M. Wilbur Company Blacksmith Shop
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Shalae Larsen
organization: Io Design Collaborative
street & number: 614 24th Street, Ogden UT 84401
city or town: Ogden state: UT zip code: 84401
e-mail shalae@iolandarch.com
telephone: 801-390-9925
date: October 27, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Wilbur, Jesse Blacksmith

City or Vicinity: Eden

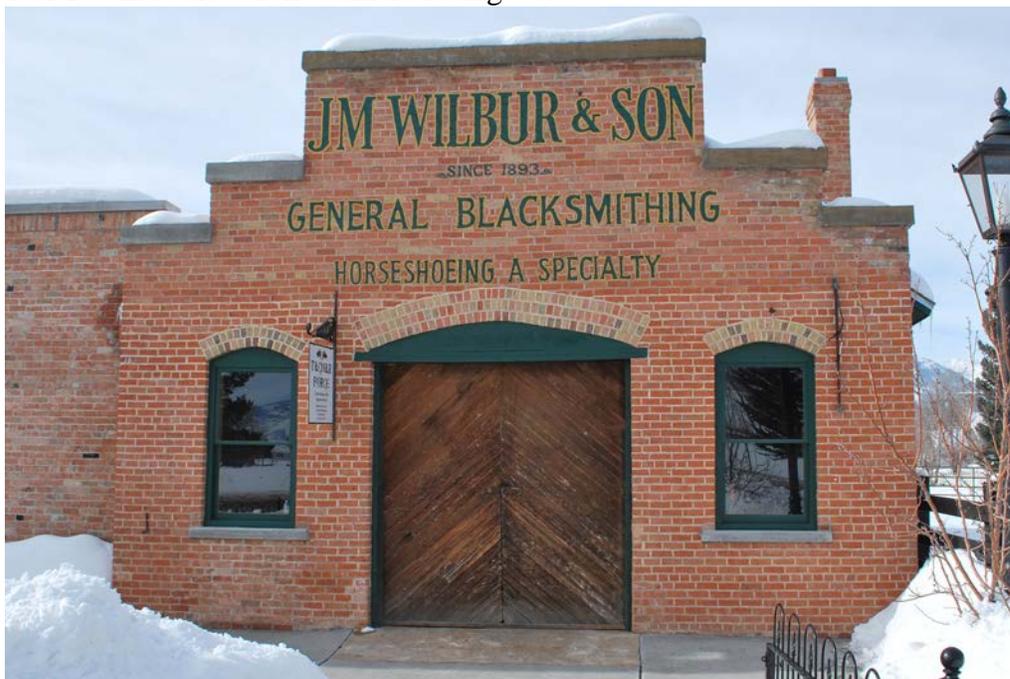
County: Weber State: UT

Photographer: Shalae Larsen

Date Photographed: January 21, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 17: East elevation. Camera facing west.



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2 of 17: Closeup of date branded into the barn doors on the front of the blacksmith. Camera facing west



3 of 17: Context view of blacksmith with new adjacent commercial building, east elevations. Camera facing west.



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4 of 17: North and east elevations of blacksmith and new adjacent building. Camera facing southwest.



5 of 17: West (rear) elevation. Camera facing east.



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6 of 17: West elevation of blacksmith and adjacent building/parking lot. Camera facing east.



7 of 17: Interior view of blacksmith. Camera facing east.



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8 of 17: Interior view of blacksmith. Camera facing northeast.



9 of 17: Interior view of blacksmith. Camera facing southeast.



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10 of 17: Interior view of blacksmith. Camera facing west.



11 of 17: Interior view of blacksmith. Camera facing northwest.



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12 of 17: Interior view of blacksmith with current blacksmith at work. Camera facing north.



13 of 17: Interior view of easternmost forge and anvil. Camera facing northwest.



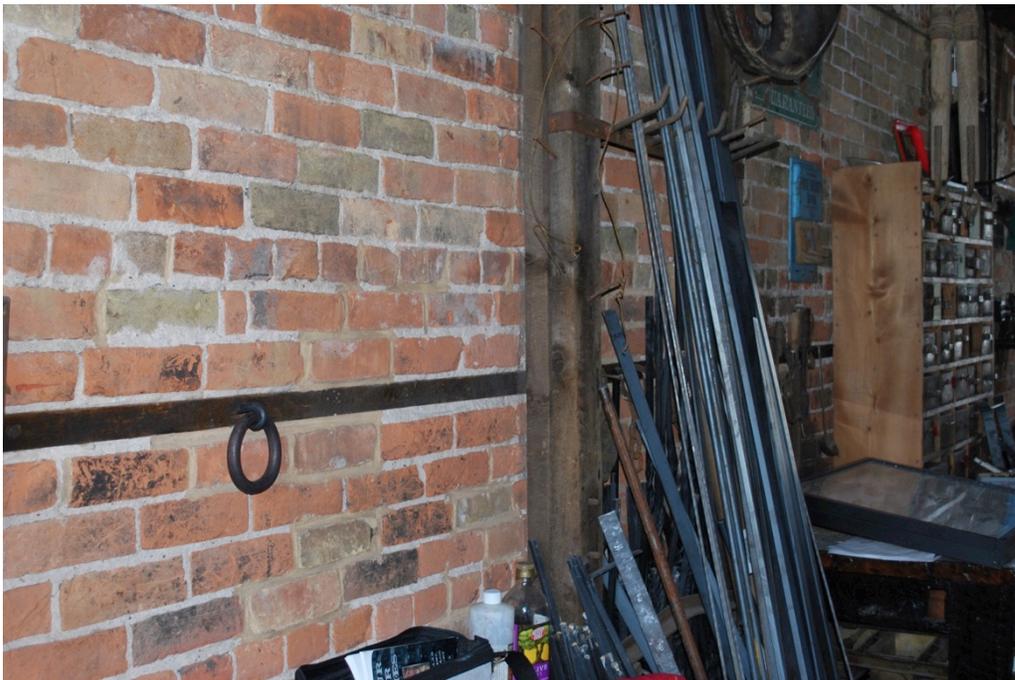
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14 of 17: Interior view of westernmost forge with power hammer in foreground. Camera facing northwest.



15 of 17: Interior view of south wall with tie ring/stall posts for horseshoeing. Camera facing southwest.



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16 of 17: Interior detail view of stall posts with hinge remnants. Camera facing southwest.



17 of 17: Interior detail view of Anvil stump base. Camera facing northwest.



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Figure 1 of 7: Early article featuring photo of Blacksmith Shop (date unknown).



J. Wilbur Blacksmith Shop in Eden. Items stacked in front awaiting repair include a buggy wheel, hand plow, two-piece buggy shafts, and a wagon spring. Pictured are, left to right, Walter Lindsay, Earl B. Wilbur, Lindsay Wilbur, Jesse M. Wilbur, and Glenn M. Wilbur.

No town could make it without a blacksmith

Jesse M. Wilbur bought the blacksmith shop from James Burt in 1895. Before that time he "worked around to get experience." His education also consisted of a year in the blacksmithing department of Utah Agricultural College (now Utah State University) in Logan.

The blacksmith was indispensable to the frontier town. Without standards for parts and equipment they made their own tools and repaired the homemade equipment of the town's people.

The story of the Eden blacksmith, Jesse Wilbur, is almost like a John Henry ballad. Oldtimers tell how he came to Ogden to get the iron from George A. Lowe Company and in his shop heated the metal, white hot, and pounded and shaped the iron with his handmade hammer.

He curved the shoe to fit the horse's hoof, often building up the side or back to make up for an irregular gait.

Horses were not his only concern. Interchange of parts was unheard of. A man built what he could with the material he had, and he used it until it broke. Then he went to the blacksmith to get it repaired, not replaced.

The Wilbur Bale Hook was called the best tool in the Mountain West for hooking bales of hay. It was designed and built in the Eden shop and shipped to other states.

Jesse made the snowplows, bobsled, and set the tires on wagon wheels.

I talked to Earl Wilbur, Jesse's son, a few weeks ago and found he remembers the shop as hard work, especially tire setting.

Wagon wheels were made of wood, with wood spokes and a steel tire. Through use, changes in climate, and atmosphere, the wheel would shrink. Sometimes the owner would take the wagon into the river, hoping the water could swell the wood, but this was only stopgap, if it worked at all.

Sooner or later, the wagon went to the shop, and it was this job Earl Wilbur remembers so vividly.

"You had to take the rim off and make a measurement of it," he said. "Cut out a little piece to make it a bit smaller than the wooden wheel, then heat it, so it would swell, then put it down over the wheel.

"The wheel would burn a bit, then you'd douse it in water so the metal would shrink onto the wheel."

He described the setup his father used to reset the tires:

"He had a rack he built, just up off the floor. All around the rack they stacked wood, teepee fashion, so they got a good base fire. They lit the fires and kept them going until the wheels were red hot.

"They reached in with special irons, picked up the tire and set it on the wooden wheel.

"If you don't think that was a hot job! I can remember the sweat just ran off everybody in the shop. I was only big enough to split the wood and pump the water, but I'll never forget how much wood I split or water I pumped.

"When I think of the blacksmith shop, I think 'hot and steamy.'"

Jesse's older son, Glenn, became his father's partner and took over the shop. Gradually new ideas came into being and gas pumps and auto mechanics were made a part of the blacksmith's trade. ■

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Figure 2 of 7: 1930s photo of Blacksmith Shop, converted to a Vico Oil/Pep Gasoline service station and painted white.



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Figure 3 of 7: 1930s photo of Jesse Wilbur in front of Blacksmith Shop



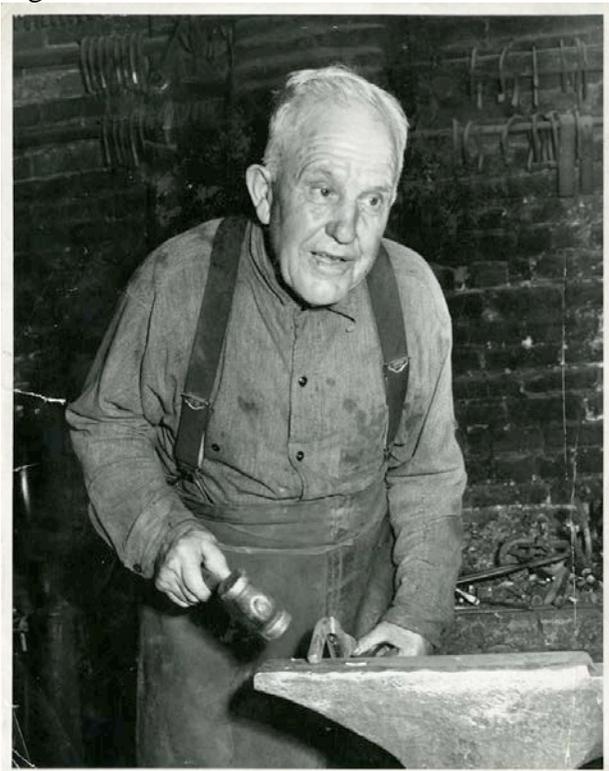
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Figure 4 of 7: 1970s era photo of Blacksmith Shop. The addition has been significantly changed since the 1930s photo. The sign now reads “GLEN WILBUR BLACKSMITHING”



Figure 5 of 7: Jesse Wilbur at work



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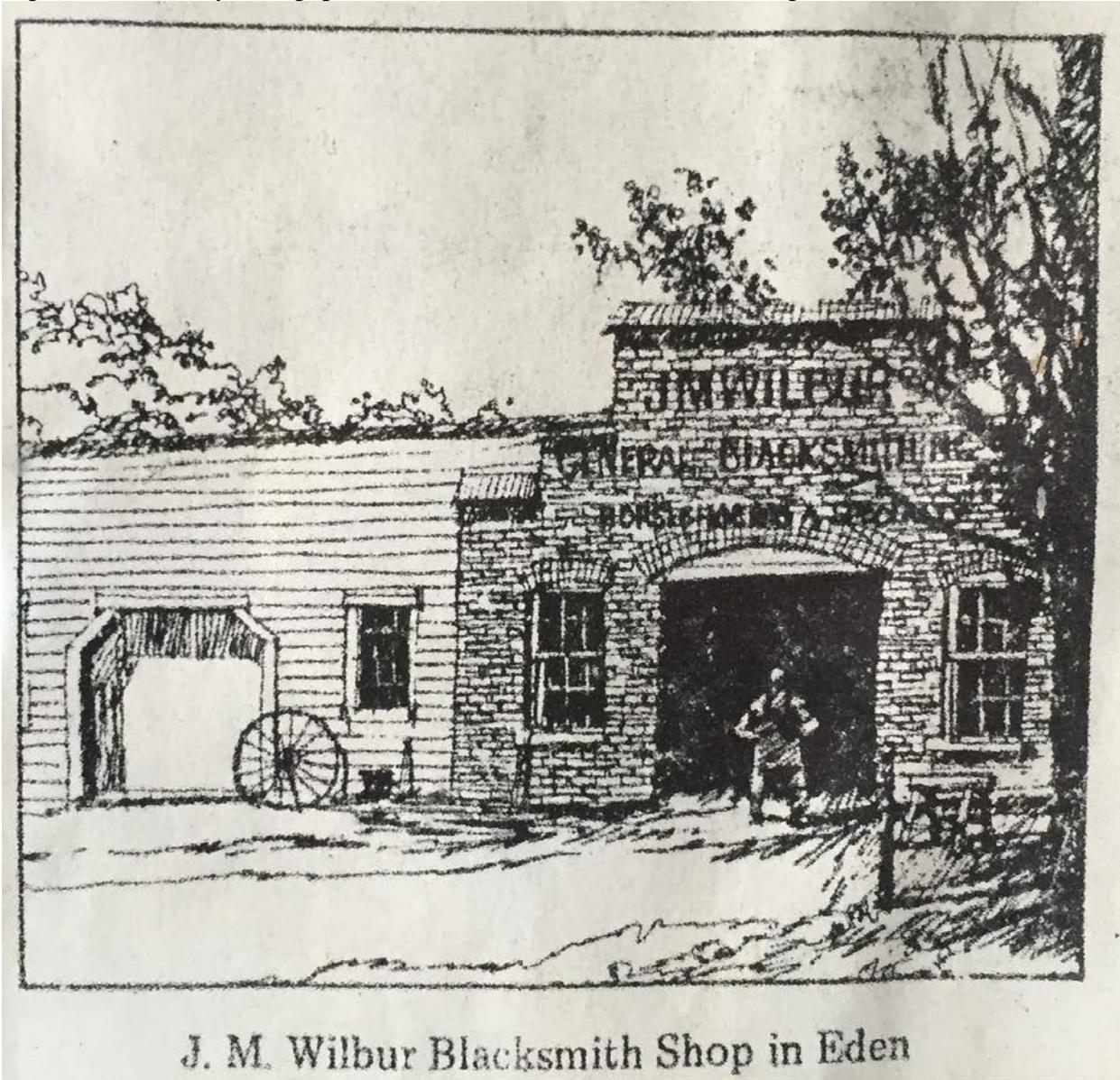
Figure 6 of 7: Glen Wilbur at work in front of the westernmost forge.



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Figure 7 of 7: Early newspaper illustration of the blacksmith building (date unknown).



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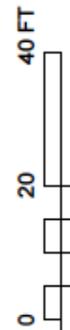
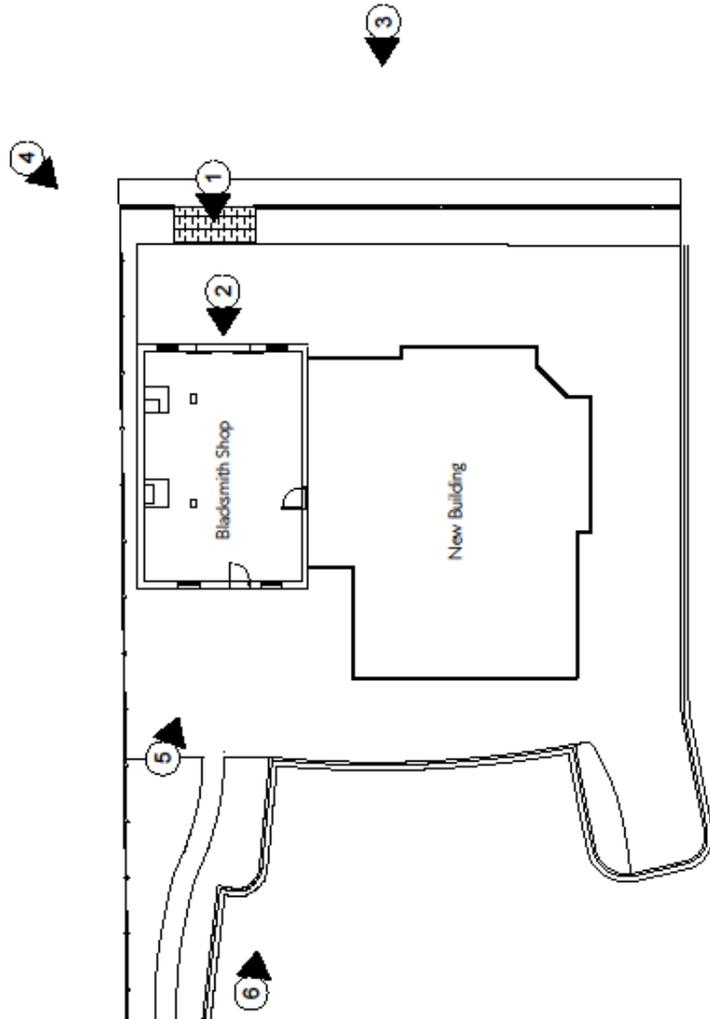


PHOTO KEY 1

WILBUR, JESSE BLACKSMITH SHOP

2145 North 5500 East, Eden, Weber County Utah
Latitude 41.28759° Longitude -111.8156°

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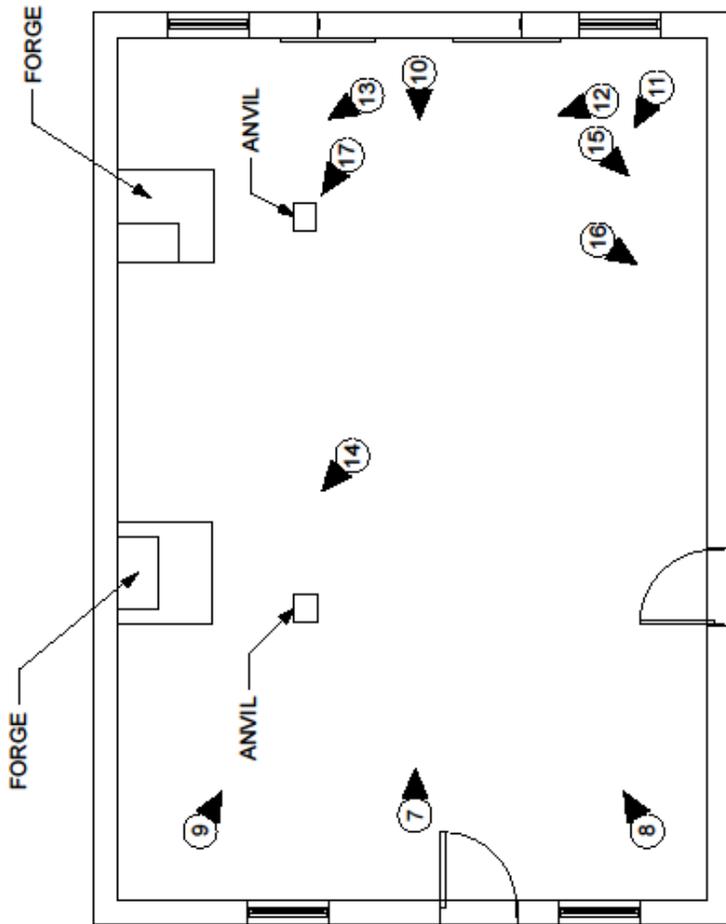
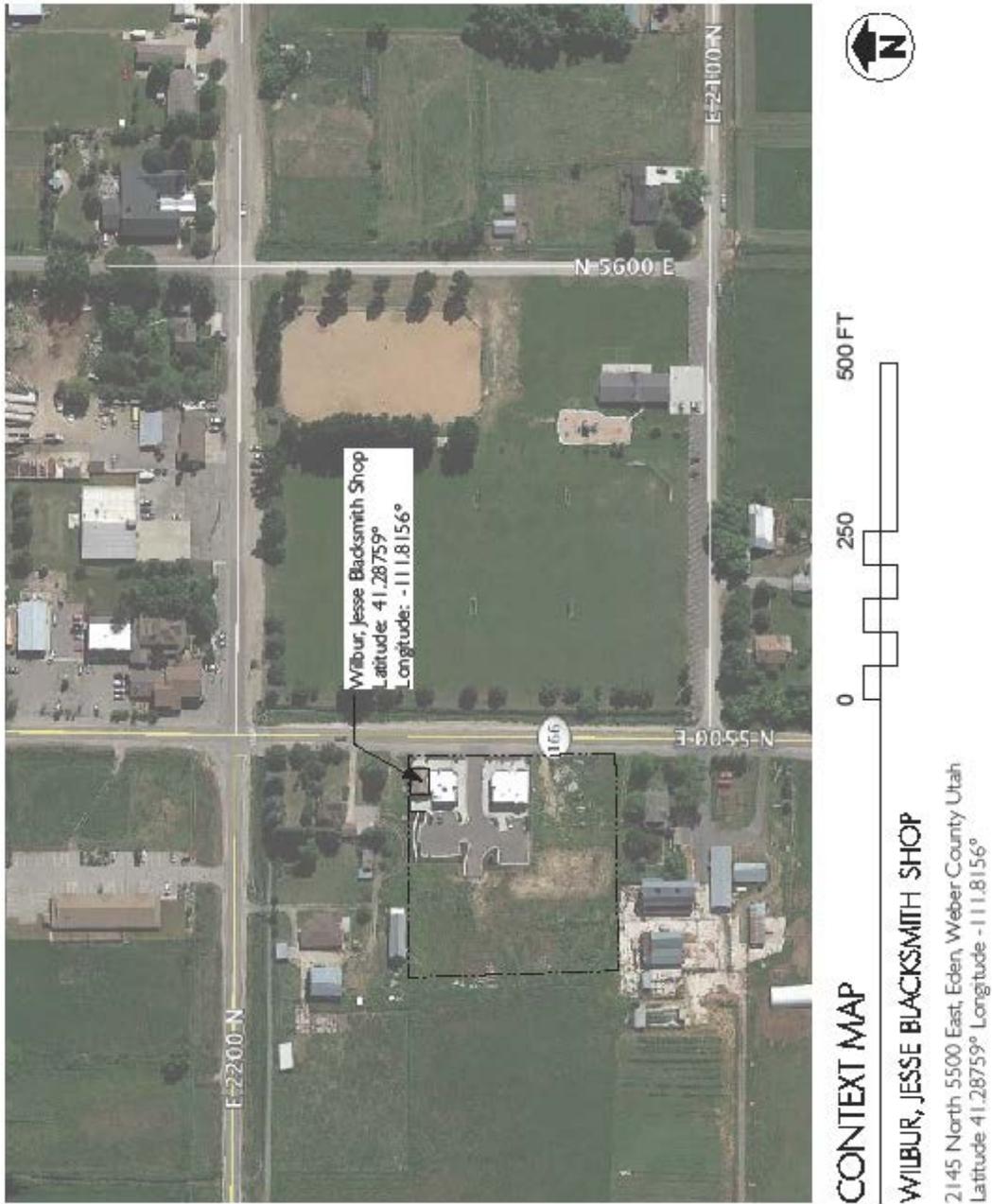


PHOTO KEY 2

WILBUR, JESSE BLACKSMITH SHOP
2145 North 5500 East, Eden, Weber County Utah
Latitude 41.28759° Longitude -111.8156°

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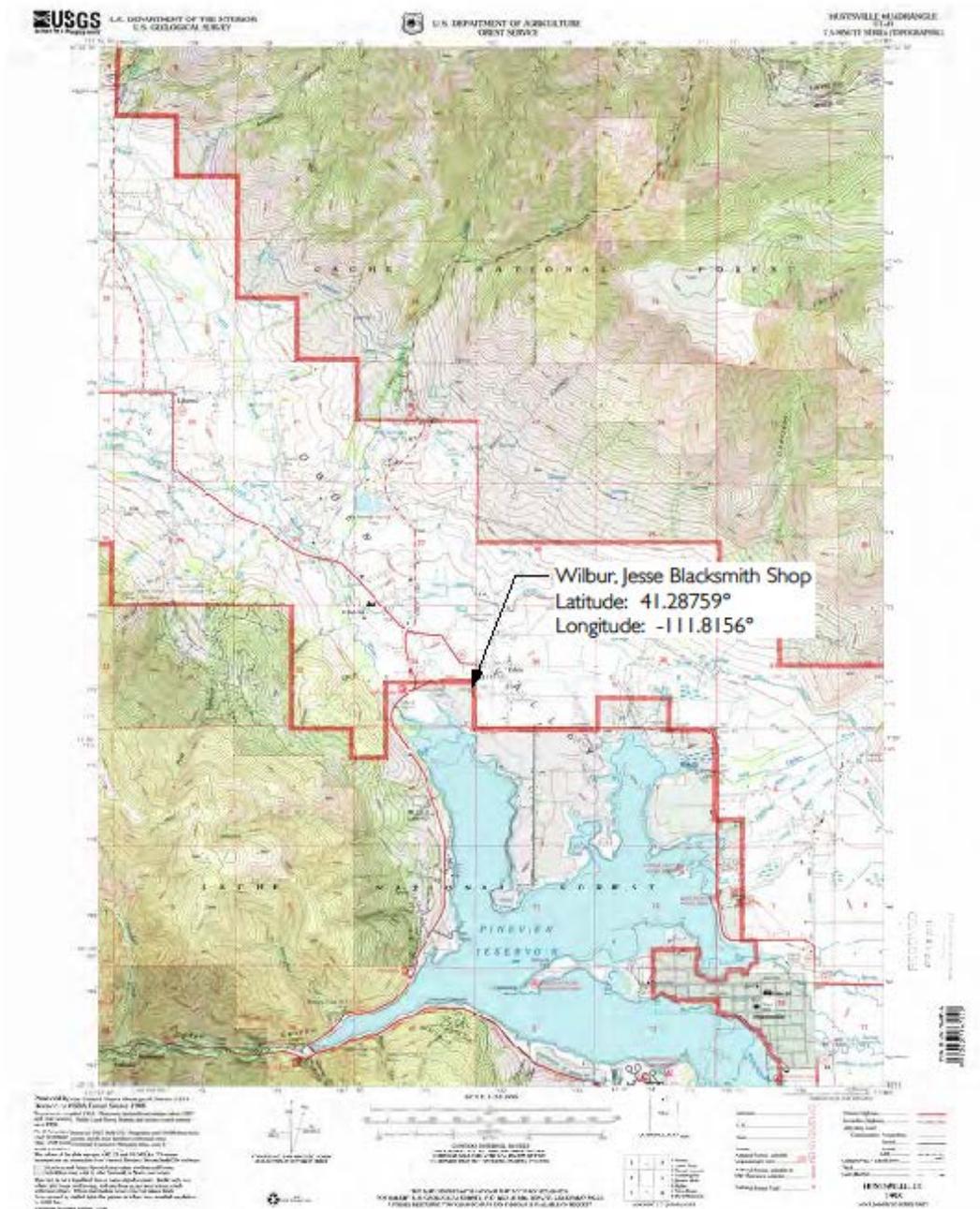
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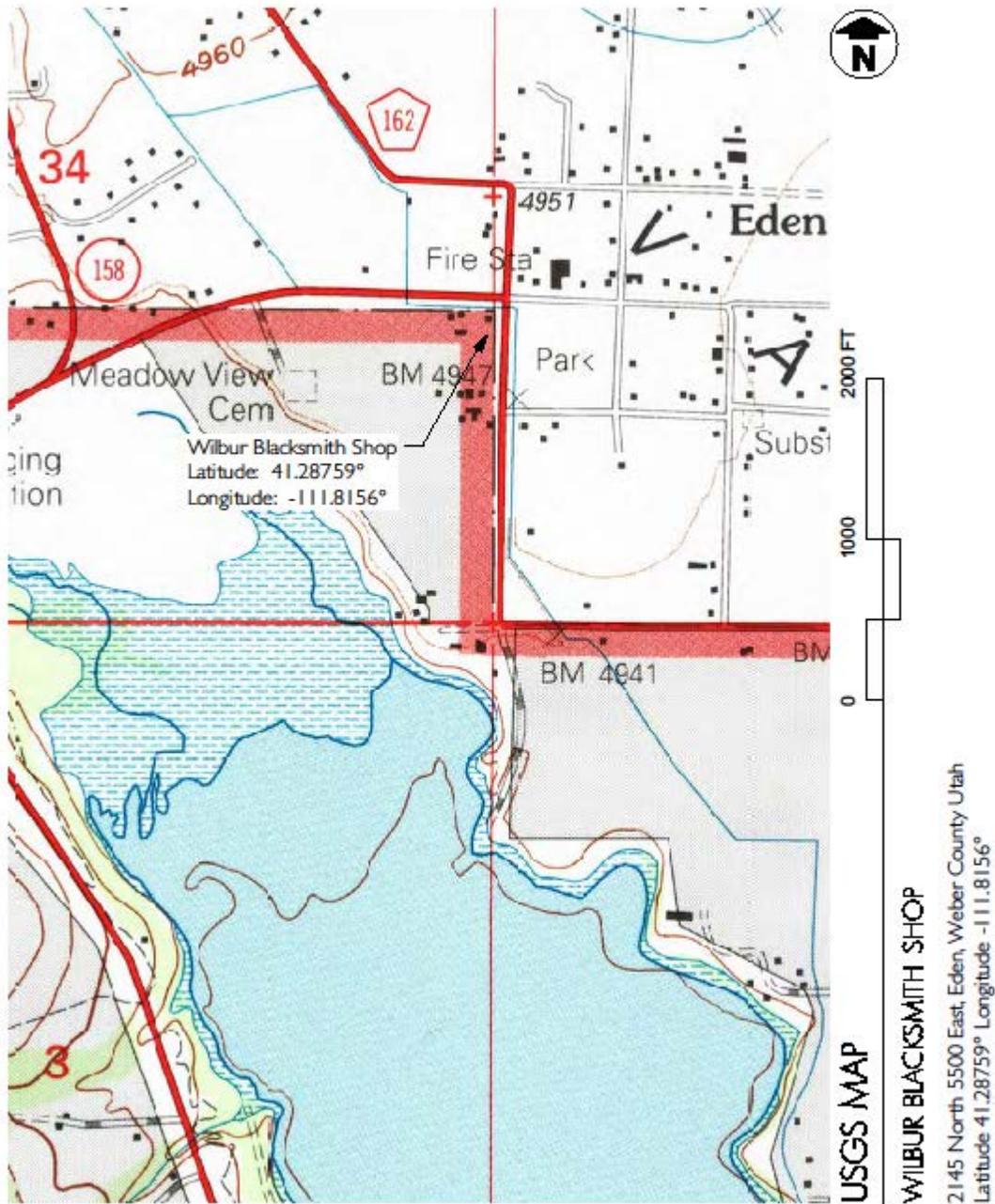
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Property Owner information:

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

Name Shawn Clegg

Address 326 N Wilkie Street

City or Town Kaysville State UT Zip code 84310

Telephone/email sclegg@digis.net

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.