

SITE FILE COPY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Caldwell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Far West

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Far West

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 5 1/2 miles west of Kingston, Missouri, on Route H and north
2 1/2 miles on Route D

CITY OR TOWN: SE 1/4 Section 10, NE 1/4 Section 15; SW 1/4 Section 11 and NW 1/4
Section 14, Township 56N - Range 29W

STATE Missouri	CODE 24	COUNTY: Caldwell	CODE 025
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

STREET AND NUMBER:
Central States Mission, 306 South Pleasant Street

CITY OR TOWN: Independence	STATE: Missouri	CODE 64650
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of Recorder of Deeds, Caldwell County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Kingston	STATE: Missouri	CODE 64650
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE OF SURVEY: 1963 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Missouri

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner, Hitt and Lowry Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: Missouri	CODE 65201
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Little remains today of the Mormon town of Far West in Caldwell County, Missouri. Except for the temple lot site, which the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints made into a religious shrine and park in 1968 and a small Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints church building to the southwest, the rest of the original square mile townsite is rolling farm land. There are, however, several of the original corner stones of the proposed temple building on the lot site. These have been unearthed and marked by the LDS Church.

At its zenith, Far West was a city of grand design. City blocks were 396 feet square. The four main avenues which diverged at right angles from the public square in the center of town were each 132 feet wide, and the secondary streets were each 82 1/4 feet in width. On the public square the Church planned to construct a massive temple along with other public buildings. The town, though, had few permanent buildings. As one contemporary observed, "Far West spread over a great deal of ground, with very shabby buildings for a city. ...a large proportion of the population being women and children, living in tents, half-face camps, and board shanties." The town's population probably never exceeded three thousand.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The long-deserted Mormon town of Far West in Caldwell County holds major significance to both Mormons and those interested in Missouri's early history. To church members the town has special religious meaning. Here the Prophet Joseph Smith received seven divinely given revelations which were to shape the basic structure of both the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the later Reorganized Church. One of his revelations declared the town site to be "a holy and consecrated land." Historically, Far West is significant for additional reasons. With its establishment, Mormons, for the first time in their history, controlled a local government. This experience gave them practical political knowledge which church members were to use later at Nauvoo, Illinois and Salt Lake City, Utah. (Robert Bruce Flanders, Nauvoo: Kingdom on the Mississippi, 1965, p. 10.) At its zenith, Far West was one of the largest communities in northwest Missouri and served as the church's official world headquarters. (Ray B. West, Kingdom of the Saints, 1957, p. 78.)

After residents of Jackson and Clay counties became hostile towards the Mormons, the church in the summer of 1836 sent an exploring committee headed by John Whitmer and W. W. Phelps to find a new area for settlement. (History of Caldwell and Livingston Counties, Missouri, 1886, pp. 120-22.) Since the Missouri General Assembly had designated Caldwell County as a special "Mormon County" the church selected a site in the west central portion of that county. (Walter B. Stevens, Centennial History of Missouri, 1921, Vol. II, p. 108.) On August 8, 1836, the Mormons officially established the mile square townsite of Far West as their new "capital." They then laid out their new town on a grand scale. Within a year Far West had become a booming county seat town of several thousand residents. The rapid influx of "Saints," many from Mormon settlements in the vicinity of Kirkland, Ohio, prompted the church in November 1837 to double the size of the original city plan. They also enlarged the city blocks to contain four acres instead of 396 feet square as first designed. (Alvin R. Dyer, The Refiner's Fire: Historical Highlights of Missouri, 1960, p. 71; Klaus J. Hansen, Quest for Empire, 1967, p. 49.)

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(Number all entries)

8.

FAR WEST

A major event in the history of Far West occurred on July 4, 1837, when the church fathers laid the cornerstone for their new temple. Although never built, the Mormons did excavate the temple's cellar which measured 120 by 80 feet and 5 feet in depth. (The History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1951 edition, Vol. II, pp. 113-4; History of Caldwell and Livingston Counties, Missouri, 1886, 121.)

Disputes with non-Mormons, at times turning to violence, prompted Missouri officials to seek their ouster from the state. One crisis resulted in the imprisonment of the Prophet and several other high-ranking church leaders during the winter of 1838-1839. The Mormons, therefore, in January 1839 established an ad hoc "Committee on Removal" for the purpose of evacuating their members from Far West and the surrounding area to a more friendly location in western Illinois. (Robert Bruce Flanders, Nauvoo: Kingdom on the Mississippi, 1965, p. 12.) The mass exodus of 1839 and 1840 left the community with few residents. Far West, however, continued to be the Caldwell County seat until 1843 when the county seat was relocated at its present location in Kingston. (History of Caldwell and Livingston Counties, Missouri, 1886, p. 122.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Dyer, Alvin R. The Refiner's Fire: Historical Highlights of Missouri. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1960.
2. Flanders, Robert Bruce. Nauvoo: Kingdom on the Mississippi. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1965.
3. Hansen, Klaus J. Quest for Empire. Ann Arbor: Michigan State University Press, 1967.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	40.	43.	94°	8.	25.			
NE	39°	40.	43.	94°	7.	15.			
SE	39°	39.	50.	94°	7.	22.			
SW	39°	39.	51.	94°	8.	25.			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 640

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: H. Roger Grant, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION Missouri State Park Board DATE April 29, 1970
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE Missouri CODE 24
65101

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Joseph Jaeger, Jr.

Title Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Caldwell	
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(Number all entries)

9.

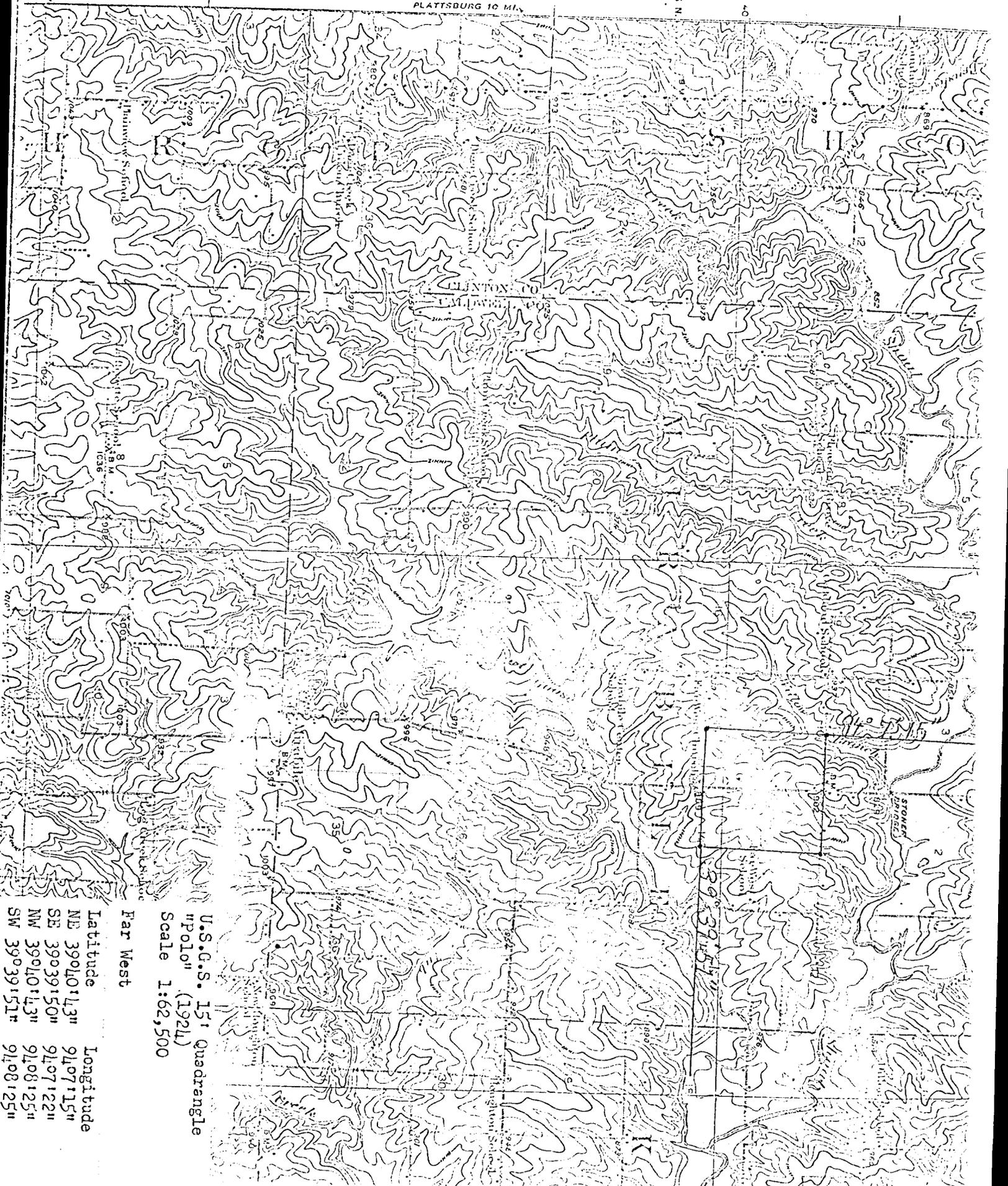
FAR WEST

4. History of Caldwell and Livingston Counties, Missouri.
St. Louis: National Historical Company, 1886.
5. The History of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 4 vols. Independence: Herald House, 1951.
6. Stevens, Walter B. Centennial History of Missouri. 4 vols. St. Louis: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921.
7. Thorp, Joseph. Early Days in Missouri. Liberty, 1883.
8. West, Ray B. Kingdom of the Saints. New York: The Viking Press, 1957.



PLATTSBURG 10 MI.

T. 56 N.



U.S.C.S. 15' Quadrangle
"Polio" (1921)
Scale 1:62,500

Far West

Latitude	Longitude
NE 39°40'43"	94°07'15"
SE 39°39'150"	94°07'122"
NW 39°40'43"	94°08'125"
SW 39°39'151"	94°08'125"

FAR WEST

COUNTY:

Caldwell

LOCATION:

5 1/2 mi W of Kingston, Mo. on Route H and N
2 1/2 mi on Route D

OWNER:
ADDRESS:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Central States Mission, 306 S. Pleasant St.,
Independence, Mo. 64650

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

05-17-70

DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY:

06-03-70

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

06-03-70

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

06-11-70

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

09-22-70

DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The long-deserted Mormon town of Far West in Caldwell County holds major significance to both Mormons and those interested in Missouri's early history. To church members the town has special religious meaning. Here the Prophet Joseph Smith received seven divinely given revelations which were to shape the basic structure of both the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the later Reorganized Church. One of his revelations declared the town site to be "a holy and consecrated land." Historically, Far West is significant for additional reasons. With its establishment, Mormons, for the first time in their history, controlled a local government. This experience gave them practical political knowledge which church members were to use later at Nauvoo, Illinois and Salt Lake City, Utah. (Robert Bruce Flanders, Nauvoo: Kingdom on the Mississippi, 1965, p. 10). At its zenith, Far West was one of the largest communities in northwest Missouri and served as the church's official world headquarters. (Ray B. West, Kingdom of the Saints, 1957, p. 78).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Missouri	
COUNTY Caldwell	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Far West			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Far West			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 5½ miles west of Kingston, Missouri, on Route H and north 2½ miles on Route D			
CITY OR TOWN: SE¼ Section 10, NE¼ Section 15; SW¼ Section 11 and NW¼ Section 14, Township 56N - Range 29W			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	24	Caldwell	025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: H. Roger Grant, State Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board			
DATE OF PHOTO: 10:00 a.m., January 23, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
LDS marker located on the north side of the temple lot site. View taken from the south facing north.			

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Missouri	
COUNTY Caldwell	
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STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	24	Caldwell	025
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 15" Quadrangle "Polo"			
SCALE: 1:62,500			
DATE: 1924			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

Missouri	
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NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Far West town site and portion of LDS park and religious shrine. View taken from the east facing west.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Cornerstone at northwest corner of temple lot. View taken from the southeast facing northwest.			

Name of Site: Far West
Site Number: _____
Photographer: Roger Grant
Date of Photo: Jan 23, 1970
View of Photo: NE facing SW
Neg. Size: 35 mm

Caldwell, County
Kingston vic.,

Farwest town site and portion of the temple lot site.
The building in the background serves the R.M.
members in the area. View taken from the
northwest facing southwest.

