

SARAH SMITH SCHOOL

Constructed: 1865

Address: 390 West Main

Owner: Carl/Dimple Mellor

Numerous private schools were conducted at various periods of Lehi history. The *History of Lehi* lists a Mrs. Bassett's school on the corner of Fourth West at Second South, and another school conducted by a Mr. Purse. Edward Southwick's "Book of Remembrance" lists two other private schools, one in the "Bessinger home" and another in "Hannah Pickle's house" (present site of Memorial Building). The Elisha Peck, Jr., biography noted that he attended the home school of Carrie Ball, "a dear soul [who] used to get us boys and girls around her cook stove in the kitchen and try to teach us our ABC's." The Ball home was on the southeast corner of First East and First North. Peck also recalled another private teacher, Arinda Davis.

Sarah L. Smith, plural wife of Lehi blacksmith Joseph J. Smith, also operated a private school in her home at 380 West Main. This adobe building, built in 1865, for nearly half a century was the Lyall and Audrey Wilson home. Jess Fox, longtime Lehi native, told the Wilson's that "I went to school in [the Sarah Smith home]. . .there was just plain benches, and they had slates to work on which they held on their laps." Fox also related to the Wilsons that during his earliest school years there was the threat of Indian attack. To provide a place of safety during periodic scares, Sarah Smith had a cellar dug under the building. She and the children could enter the cellar by way of a hidden trap door. The Wilsons discovered both this secret entrance and the dugout when remodeling their home.

In 1997 Carl and Dimple Mellor purchased the property, along with the Lehi Hotel building next door, from the Wilson's estate. The Mellors are currently restoring the old school/residence as part of a bed and breakfast and conference site.