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The two-story rock house of the Cotton Farm was protected from northerly winds by its location against a steep cliff. The building is a reminder of the era when the United Order

of Enoch sought to establish an economic cooperative in Southern Utah. The enterprise was abandoned after two disastrous Virgin River floods on Dec. 7 and 15, 1879.

Camp Lorenzo a testament to industry of Cotton Mission days

By **DAVID BEDA**

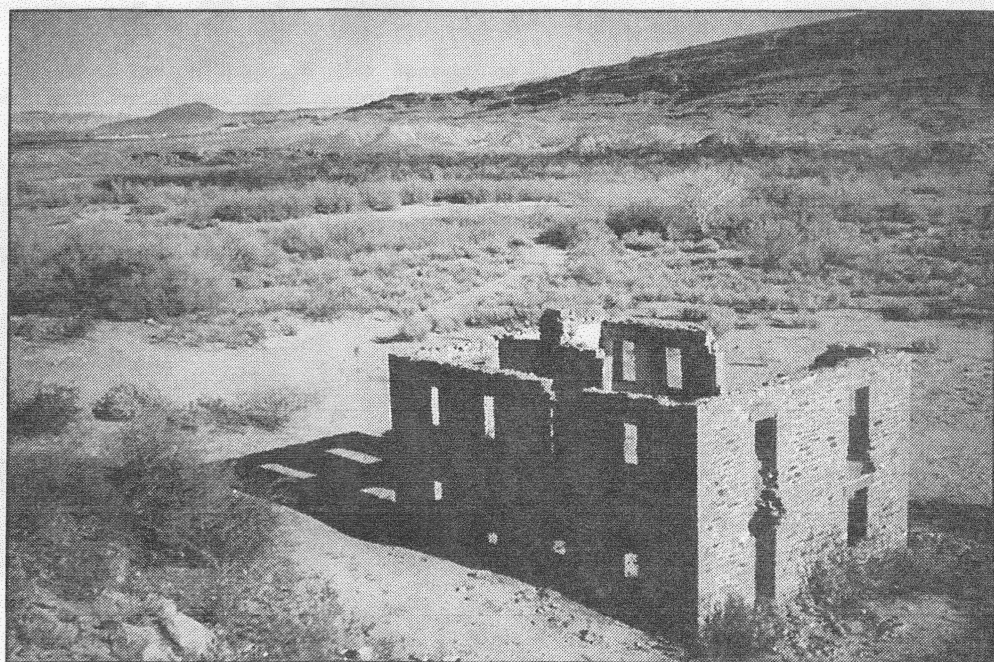
For The Spectrum

The Southern Utah desert still holds evidence of the hard work of pioneer settlers in bygone days.

On Feb. 15, 1874, Brigham Young publicly presented a new utopian vision to the pioneer families of Utah's Dixie — The United Order of Enoch. By the spring of 1874, President Young had incorporated all 15 settlements in Southern Utah into this economic plan in which community residents held property in common instead of privately.

In the winter of 1874, President Young sent colonists from the United Order of Brigham City to raise cotton on a fine tract of land on the north bank of the Virgin River about five miles above Washington City. The Cotton Farm of about 50 acres was called Camp Lorenzo, named for Lorenzo Snow who presided at Brigham City.

The new settlers constructed a large two-story rock house and its well-built walls remain today as a testament to their industry during the cooperative venture, utopian vision, a communal idea that was



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This view shows the rock house and 50-acre site of the United Order Cotton Farm, also called Camp Lorenzo, established on the

north bank of the Virgin River. The rock cliffs of Washington Dome rise above the opposite bank of the river.

eventually abandoned by the LDS Church in 1895.

These ruins lie protected from demolition on Washington County Water District land and

can be reached by vehicle via Landfill Road in Washington City and then south on a gravel road that skirts the eastern boundary of the rock quarry. Or the

ruins can be viewed from Washington Dam Road, looking north across the Virgin River about one mile above Washington Field Dam.