

Tour Tip: Tour #4 Visits this wonderful ghost town. The school house was built circa 1886

GRAFTON

From the Grafton
Heritage Partnership
website:
www.graftonheritage.org

Perhaps the most photographed ghost town historic structure in the Western U.S., is this rustic adobe building

that stands in front of the massive tan and red walls of Zion National Park. The subject of countless movies, paintings and photographs, the building's hand-made beauty adds a note of human gracefulness to the outstanding natural beauty that surrounds it.

The schoolhouse's 2-story walls stand on a solid foundation of lava rocks quarried from the nearby hillside; its colored adobe bricks were hand-made from a pit of clay on the west end of town. The settlers cut trees for this structure from Mount Trumbull, nearly 75 miles away, and bought them across the Arizona Strip and down the steep canyon cliffs of the wood road near the cemetery.

The town's people used this building as a school, community meeting place, church as well as a place for dances and plays. People would come from all the settlements on the Upper Virgin River to attend the community dances, which were held on weekends. As was customary with dances in



Visitors enjoy exploring old Grafton

Perhaps the most photographed Ghost Town in the West, Grafton was the site for Robert Redford's movie "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"

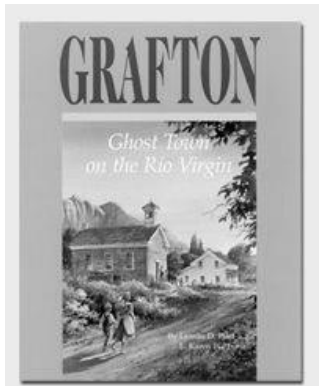
the early west, they continued early into the morning, sometimes until dawn.

The last school classes were taught in this building during the 1918-19 school year at which time the enrollment had dwindled to nine students. The following year students were transferred to the school at Rockville.

Today Grafton is receiving loving care from the Grafton Heritage Trust which has devoted much effort to its preservation 🌱

The Cowboys Came to Dance!

According to Lyman D. and Karen Platt's book *Grafton, Ghost Town on the Rio Virgin*, Mary Beth Woods recalled: "The cowboys liked to come to the Grafton dances too. They worked out there at Canaan at a big cattle ranch. The Bar Z Company was from Deseret, Milford and all over up north. They were out there at Canaan and Cane Beds so they come into Grafton for the dances and social life. Oh, they loved Grafton. They could always sing and dance. Oh, it was really a pleasure to have those guys come." 🌱



Grafton, Ghost Town on the Rio Virgin by Lyman and Karen Platt