

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 7 1986**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Magna Community Baptist Church

and/or common Magna Community Church

2. Location

street & number 2908 S. 8900 West _____ not for publication

city, town Magna _____ vicinity of

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
N/A	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
		___ no	___ military
			___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Utah Association of American Baptist Churches

street & number 177 W. 1250 North

city, town Sunset _____ vicinity of state Utah 84015

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake County Courthouse

street & number 400 South State Street

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date 1914, 1924

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Magna Community Baptist Church is a relatively plain one-story, T-shaped, stucco building that was constructed in two major parts, the oldest of which has been moved twice. The original one-room section on the west was built in 1896 and was originally located in Mercur, a mining town some 30 miles away. It was moved to Pleasant Green (which later became Magna) in 1914, and ten years later was moved four blocks east to its current location. There, in 1928, the large sanctuary addition on the east was built. Only minor alterations have been made to the building since that time. The significance of the building is primarily tied to its operation after 1928, therefore the relocations and additions do not detract from its historical integrity.

The Magna Community Baptist Church is located at the southwest corner of 2900 South and 8900 West with the principal facade, the gable end of the eastern wing, facing east. The eastern wing, which was added in 1928, is a five-bay gable roof section that forms the stem of the T-shaped building. Evenly spaced along each side are five multi-pane, double hung windows. The slightly recessed main entrance is centered on the gable end and consists of double doors with a transom above. On the roof above the entrance is a polygonal, tent roof cupola with a cross on top. The cupola is shorter than it was originally, having been reframed and repaired twice over the years. The cross atop the cupola was installed in 1976, replacing the original spire. The shingles on the roof have been replaced three times since 1933.¹

The crosswing of the building, which forms the top of the "T", is the original frame building constructed in Mercur in 1896. Its northern gable end faces the street and houses the office entrance to the building. That entrance is actually located in a small shed roof extension that was attached to the east wall of the north wing in 1928-33. Subsequently a small utility shed has been added along the east wall of that entrance addition. The two windows in the gable end of the north wing have been boarded over, but their outlines are still clearly visible. There are four evenly spaced double hung windows along the back or west wall of the building. The southern end of the crosswing is a kitchen addition that was built on the original building soon after it was moved to this location in 1924. From the exterior the kitchen addition is virtually indistinguishable from the original building.

The exterior of the building is simple and unadorned, with the exception of the cupola. All the walls were stuccoed at the time the 1928-33 addition was built, and they have been restuccoed once since.² On the northeast corner of the building is a concrete plaque that bears the inscription "Baptist Church 1928." The building has been in continuous use by the congregation since its completion, and it currently operates under the name Magna Community Church.

Located to the immediate south of the church is the parsonage, which was constructed soon after the church was built. It is a one-story hip-roof bungalow with clapboard siding. The only alterations of note are on the porch. They include the probable replacement of the original concrete or frame porch base with the existing concrete block base and the addition of

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metal railing and columns. The parsonage has continued to the present to serve its original use. Because of its close association with the church the parsonage is included in the nomination as a contributing building.

Also located on the property is a large shed-roof garage that was probably built during the 1940s or '50s. It is a stuccoed frame building that is situated behind the church and parsonage. It is in deteriorated condition, and because it was not an integral part of the church activities it is not considered to be a contributing building on the property.

Total number of contributing buildings: 2

Total number of non-contributing buildings: 1

¹Enna Abernathy, "Magna Community Church History," unpublished typescript, 1978-79, p. 51. Available in National Register File, Utah State Historical Society.

²Ibid.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1928–1933 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built primarily between 1928 and 1933, the Magna Community Baptist Church is significant as the first and only Protestant church building constructed in the town of Magna and for its important role in the religious affairs in the community. The establishment of churches in Magna paralleled the growth of the town as it developed from a sparsely settled agricultural area to a nucleated community after the construction of copper ore concentrators nearby in 1905. Of the three religious groups in the town, two, the Catholics and the Mormons, maintained highly structured memberships and doctrines, while the third, the Baptist affiliated congregation, accommodated members from a variety of Protestant groups. The ecumenical spirit of the Magna Community Baptist Church has created a suitable religious environment for a significant proportion of the community from 1914 to the present. Though altered only slightly since its completion in 1933, the building is actually a twice-moved 1896 building that was expanded by major additions in the 1920s. Those moves and additions do not diminish the significance of the building because they were undertaken within the historic period and the finished product, the existing building, has served as home of the church for 58 of its 72 years.

The Magna Community Baptist Church had its beginnings in the now-defunct town of Mercur, a mining town located at the southern end of the Oquirrh Mountains. It was built in 1896 as a one-room frame building for the Mercur Baptist congregation. A disastrous fire in Mercur in 1902 and the closure of the mine in the early 1900s brought about the rapid demise of the town. All of the remaining buildings in Mercur were eventually demolished or moved to other locations. In 1914 the small Baptist church building was hauled to the town of Pleasant Green, located approximately 30 miles away at the northern end of the Oquirrh Mountains. Pleasant Green was renamed Magna around 1914. The church operated under the name Pleasant Green Baptist Church until the late 1910s or early 1920s.¹

The church remained at its original location in Magna, 2900 South and 9100 West, until 1924 when the growing congregation decided that it needed a larger facility. That year the building was moved four streets east to its current location at 2908 S. 8900 West. A kitchen was built on the south end of the building at that time, and plans were made for constructing a large sanctuary addition on the east. Reverend Secour, pastor of the congregation in the early 1920s, drew up the plans for the sanctuary addition, but he left before construction started. Groundbreaking ceremonies for that addition were held on May 12, 1928, and by October of that same year the outside was "practically finished" and the cornerstone was laid.² Hans E. Hansen, an "experienced" local carpenter, directed the construction of the exterior, but the men of the church completed the building primarily on their own. Most of the money needed to erect the outside of the building was furnished by the Baptist Convention. The interior was to be "finished and furnished unit by unit as

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abernathy, Enna. "Magna Community Church History," unpublished, 1978-79. Available in National Register Files, Utah State Historical Society.

Salt Lake Tribune, 1933.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Magna

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	2	4	0	6	7	8	0	4	5	0	6	6	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1-4 Block 3 Garden Lot Addition, Magna.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Roper/Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date April 1986

street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

A. Kent Powell

title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date April 30, 1986

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

for Selous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6-5-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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means are forthcoming."³ An appeal was made to the public to help provide means for completing the building, but the Depression made fundraising a challenge. It was not until October 1933 that the building was completed and ready for dedication, though it had been used on a limited basis since 1928. Newspaper accounts of the dedication describe the building as follows:

The outside of the building is stuccoed, with landscaping plans being completed in the front for lawn and shrubbery, while the plot back of the church is to be used for outdoor activities.

The interior is finished with hardwood floors, attractive light fixtures, a large baptistry chancel, platform and a secretary's office. It also has four additional classrooms, a well equipped kitchen, and one large room destined for primary kindergarten work and special meetings of the auxiliary organizations. The entire building has been planned as a community enterprise.⁴

Shortly thereafter a four-room frame bungalow was built on the lots directly south of the church to serve as a parsonage. Unlike the church, which was built primarily by the church members, the parsonage was built by contract.⁵ Both the parsonage and the church continue to serve their original functions.

The Magna Community Baptist Church was established during the period of greatest growth in Magna, the 1910s and '20s. Although the area had been settled by farmers as early as the 1860s, it was not until 1905-06 when Utah Copper Company's Magna and Arthur mills were constructed nearby that a town at this site clearly emerged. The construction of buildings during those initial years was probably somewhat haphazard since it was not until 1914 that the townsite was officially laid out. The Magna Community Baptist Church was probably one of a large number of buildings moved into the town from other locations during that period of great demand for facilities. During the 1910s and '20s the commercial district along Main Street was built up, houses were constructed, and schools and churches were established in the community.

Other religious buildings established in Magna during the 1910s and '20s include those of the Catholic Church and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Mormon or LDS Church. The Sacred Heart's Church, a small frame building (now demolished), served as the first meeting place for the Magna parish of the Catholic Church, which was established in 1916. During the 1920s that group erected a more substantial stone building, which was significantly expanded in the 1950s. The first LDS church in the area was an adobe building constructed in 1880. It was replaced by an 1897 brick building, the Pleasant Green Ward House, which was later altered and expanded by a large addition. In 1927 the large, brick Magna First Ward building was constructed at the west end of town. Both LDS churches and the 1920s Catholic church are still standing.

The Magna Community Baptist Church was the first building used specifically as a meeting place for the local Baptist-affiliated congregation. Prior to 1914,

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the small group met in the houses or garages of the various members. The establishment of a church building marked an important step in the development of the congregation. The relocation of that original building in 1924 and the subsequent expansion of the facility in 1928 were further steps toward permanence.

As the only Protestant church in the town of Magna, the Magna Community Baptist Church filled an important need in the local religious community. The church provided the only option for those who desired association with an organized church group but who were not adherents to the more structured and member-oriented Catholic or Mormon churches. Although the church was affiliated with the American Baptist Church, its congregation included many people from a variety of denominations, including the Quakers. That spirit of ecumenicalism has persisted with the church to the present.

In addition to its role in the religious affairs of the community, the Magna Community Baptist Church served as the local center of welfare distribution during the Depression, and it operated a successful "vacation school" for children during the summer. Most of those vacation school students were children of the parishioners, but a number of them were from families outside the congregation. In 1933 the vacation school, which taught arts and crafts, was cited as the most successful in the Northern Baptist Convention. Beginning in 1931 the Baptist Community Church (as it became known) served as the distribution center for supplies of coal, meat and staples brought to the community bi-monthly by the government sponsored "commodity truck."⁶ Those supplies would have been welcome in any community at that time but they were especially important to the residents of Magna because of the exceptionally depressed local economy. Copper milling, which was the principal industry in the area, had been drastically reduced with one mill shut down completely and the other operating only ten days per month.

The Magna Community Baptist Church, currently known as the Magna Community Church, has been in continuous operation since its completion at this location in 1928.

¹The date at which the name of the church was changed from the Pleasant Green Baptist Church to the Magna Community Baptist Church is unclear. According to the Salt Lake City directories and the Utah gazetteers, "Magna" was used in association with the church as early as 1915, but "Pleasant Green" persisted as a concurrent listing into the 1920s. At the time the completed building was dedicated in 1933 it was referred to exclusively as the Magna Community Baptist Church.

² Magna Times, October 19, 1928, p. 1. Quoted in Enna Abernathy, "Magna Community Church History," unpublished typescript, 1978-79, p. 5-6.

³Ibid.

⁴Salt Lake Tribune, October 1, 1933, p. C-8.

⁵ Abernathy, "Magna Community Church History," p. 4.

⁶Ibid., p. 10.