

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Utah	
COUNTY: Millard	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.43.0012	DATE 10/9/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Deseret

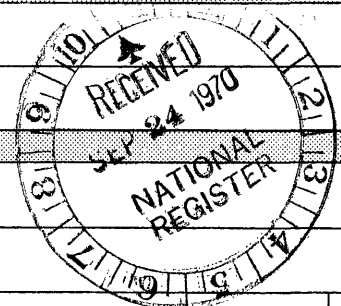
AND/OR HISTORIC:
same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2 miles south of Deseret on U-257

CITY OR TOWN:
Deseret *main*

STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43** COUNTY: **Millard** CODE: **027**



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Utah State Parks and Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
132 South 2nd West

CITY OR TOWN:
Salt Lake City STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Secretary of State

STREET AND NUMBER:
Utah State Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:
Salt Lake City STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Utah State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN:
Salt Lake City STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Utah
COUNTY: Millard
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.43.0012
DATE 10/9/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Deseret was laid out in a square 550' x 550'. The foundations for the walls were made with 3-foot wide lava rock footings. Adobe mud for the walls was made by turning water into a big trench, then adding clay and straw which was mixed by foot of both humans and oxen. The mud was stacked on the footings to form walls 10' high, 3' wide at the base, and 1-1/2' wide at the top. The center of the wall was the highest, to allow drainage outward.

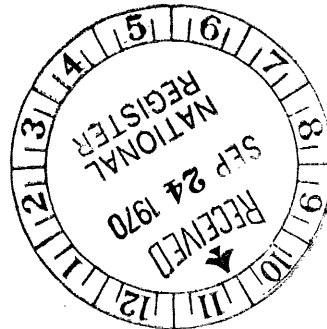
Taller bastions were constructed in the northeast and southwest corners, extending beyond the walls. Rough hewn lumber was used to make the portals through which guns could be fired with a minimum of exposure to the defenders. Three portals were placed in each bastion, several on each side. The main gates were in the north and south walls, with small gates in the east and west walls.

Rain and wind erosion has reduced the walls severely. Only portions remain, mainly on the east wall, the bastions and corners. One can see in the fallen portions of the wall the kind of adobe construction--a layer of mud, a layer of straw. The remaining walls are from 6 to 7 feet high and badly eroded.

Greasewood and other brush have grown up around the walls. A ditch runs near the north wall and a large lateral in front of the east wall.

The site is near the old Sevier River channel, long since changed by man's needs. Now owned by Utah State Parks and Recreation, both its preservation and development are being planned.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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) **Built in 1866**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The first white settlers reached the lower drainages of the Sevier River, Pahvant Valley, in 1860, and established the community of Deseret. By 1865 they were fairly well established. With the Indian unrest of the Black Hawk War, Brigham Young advised all outlying Mormon settlements to "fort up." His mandate was reinforced by the early summer visit of Bishop Thomas Callister and Apostle Amasa M. Lyman. Immediately the community set about building a fort, with John W. Radford in charge.

Men with teams were organized to haul lava rock from across the valley to the west and lay the four-foot wide footings. To build the walls themselves, the men divided into two groups, led by William S. Hawley and Isaac W. Pierce. Each team was to build half the wall, with the winning team to be given a party by the losers.

The walls were constructed of adobe mud made by running water into trenches into which dirt and straw were thrown and then mixed by having oxen tromp it. The mud mixture was then stacked up in ten-foot walls three feet wide at the base, tapering to one-and-one-half feet at its top. The center of the walls were high to cause the rain water to drain outward.

The race to construct the fort took the 98 men 18-1/2 days--9-1/2 days for Pierce's group and 9 days for Hawley's; however, as a portion of Hawley's wall fell, a tie was declared. A big celebration was held July 24, 1866, to commemorate the fort's completion. It had cost about \$3,706 in materials and labor.

Actually the fort was never used to defend against the Indians, although it did offer security to the small isolated colony during a crucial period of Indian unrest; and cattle from the settlement were frequently corralled in the fort to avoid their being stolen by the Indians. In fact, in later years the Indians themselves often used the abandoned fort. The community of Deseret was abandoned in 1868 because of water difficulties and was not reoccupied until 1874. The old mud fort remained a landmark, but has slowly eroded during its more than one-hundred-year existence. Today less than half its walls remain standing.

Not only does Fort Deseret remain as a landmark in Mormon pioneering history, but it is the only remaining example of an "adobe mud" fort in Utah. Further, it was built entirely as a community project of materials at hand, thus typifying the cooperative nature of Mormon settlement. Its preservation needs are acute.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frank Beckwith, Millard and Nearby. (Springville: Art City Publishing Company, 1947), pp. 65-70.
 Stella H. Day and Sebrina C. Ekins, compilers, Milestones of Millard, (Springville: Art City Publishing Company, 1951), pp. 430-433.
 Wells Robinson, "The History of Fort Deseret," unpublished article (Deseret, Utah: N.D.).

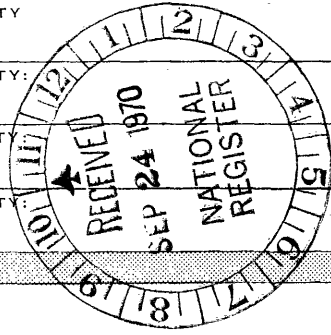
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39 °	15'	53"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		112°	39'	14"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Melvin T. Smith**

ORGANIZATION: **Utah Historic Sites Survey** DATE: **September 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **603 East South Temple**

CITY OR TOWN: **Salt Lake City** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 *Milton L. Weilenmann*
Milton L. Weilenmann

Title Utah State Liaison Officer

Date _____

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

Ernest Allen Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 9 1970

Date _____

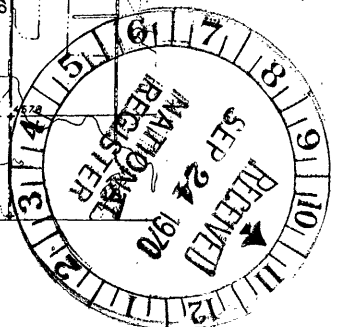
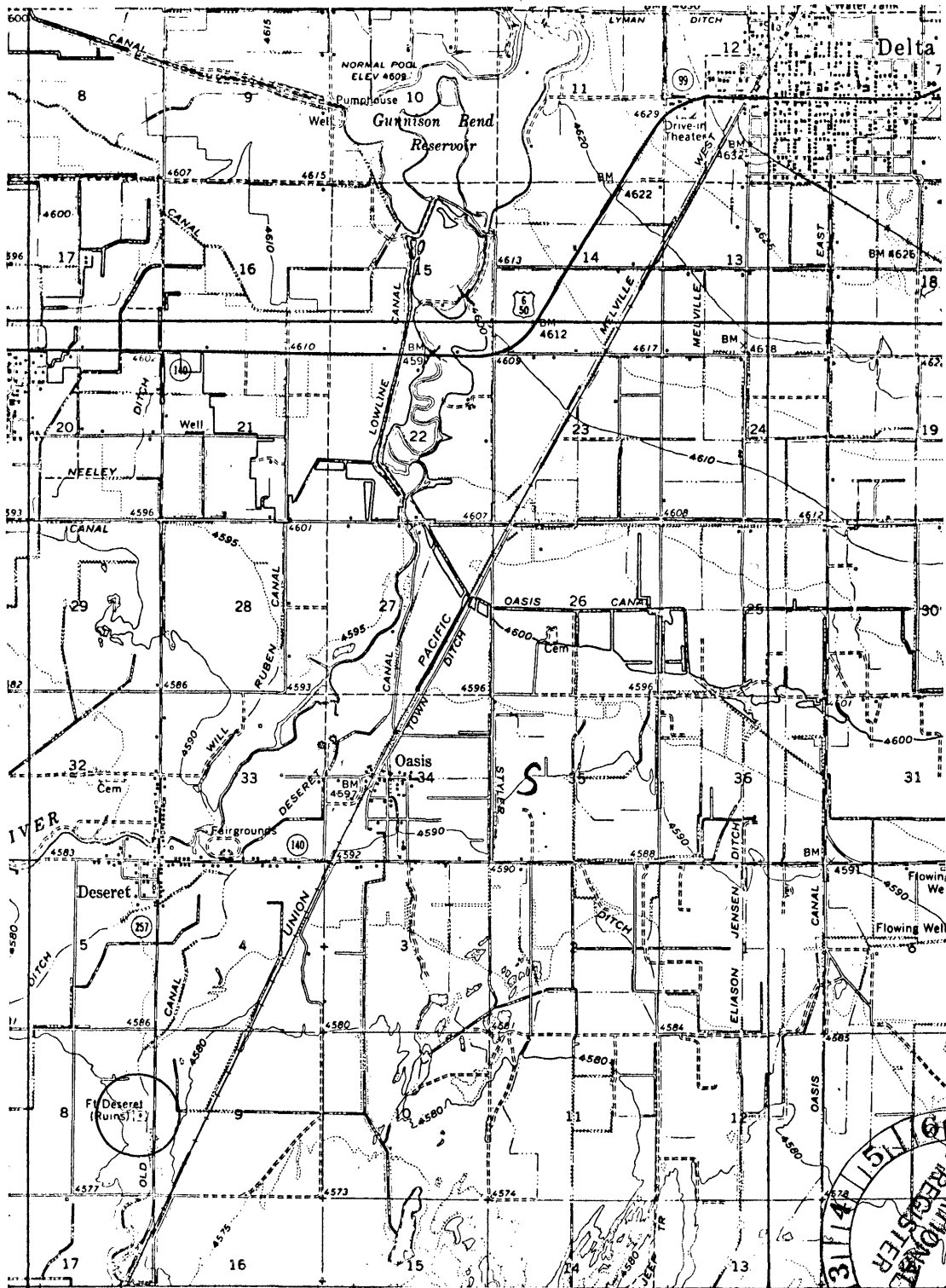
ATTEST:

William J. Huntington
 Keeper of The National Register

OCT 6 1970

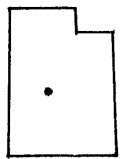
Date _____

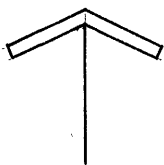
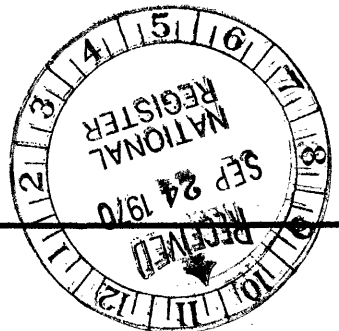
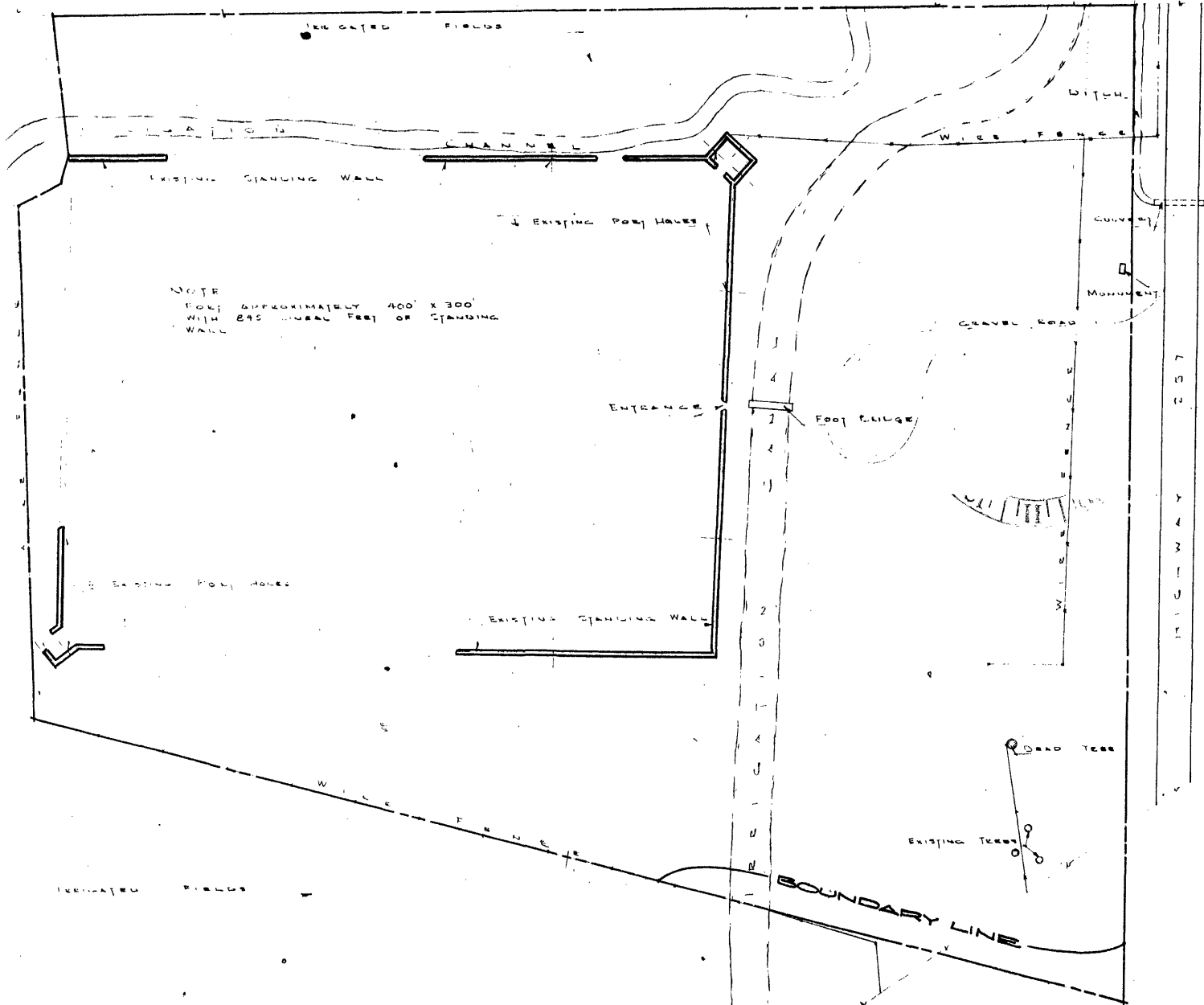
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



FORT DESERET
 DESERET, UTAH
 LATITUDE : 39° - 15' - 53"
 LONGITUDE : 112° - 39' - 14"
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY MAP

DATE: JUNE 1970
 SCALE: 1" = 5,250'





FORT DESERET

DESERET, UTAH

LATITUDE : 39° - 15' - 53"

LONGITUDE : 112° - 39' - 14"

STATE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MAP - SCALE: 1" = 93'±

DATE: JUNE 1970