

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Utah	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.3.49.0005	DATE 3/11/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Wells Fargo and Company Express Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Wells Fargo and Company Express Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Silver Reef

STATE: **Utah** CODE: **49** COUNTY: **Washington** CODE: **053**

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Washington County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Tabernacle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. George

STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
197 E. Tabernacle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. George

STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Utah Historical American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1968** Federal State County Local

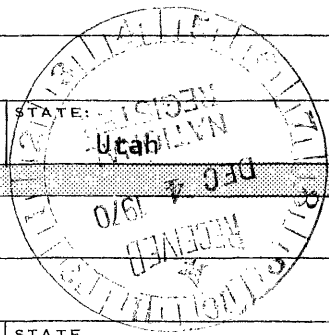
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Utah Heritage Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:
603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN:
Salt Lake City

STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Utah**

COUNTY: **Washington**

ENTRY NUMBER: **71.3.49.0005**

DATE: **3/11/71**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wells Fargo and Company Express Building was built in about 1877 of red sandstone, cut and tooled range ashlar at the front, and coursed rubble at the sides. The floor and roof are wood framed. The roof is a single slope (composition) with a parapet at the front and sides. The first floor is divided into two equal rooms, each having two front entrances and a rear door. The northern room has a vault a little more than halfway back. The basement, originally a stable, is divided similarly but the halves are not connected by openings. The wall supporting the north wall of the vault connects diagonally to the center divided wall; the trapezoidal area between these walls is totally inaccessible.

There is no internal connection between basement and first floor. There are four segmental arched doorways at front and two at the rear of first floor. Two doors to the basement are in the rear. All first floor doors are pairs of glazed (six light) doors with rectangular transoms above. Over the rectangular transom the arched opening is filled with glass cut to fit but without wood framing, a very "modern" detail. Basement doors are new plank doors on strap hinges. All openings could be closed with heavy steel shutters, most of which remain in place.

The building was used also by the St. George merchants Woolley, Lund and Judd. The interior has been modified some, but the exterior is basically intact. The building presently has some broken glass and fallen plaster, but the masonry remains excellent. One of the main masons was George Brooks from St. George.

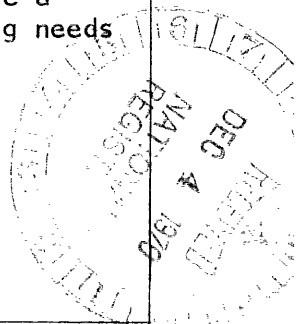
SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

maintained. After the town died, Sam Gee returned, disinterred the bodies and shipped them back to the land of their ancestors.

Later, when someone began to tear down one of Silver Reef's shacks, he found a cache of several thousand dollars in gold and silver beneath its floors. A second rush was on, resulting in the destruction of nearly all of Silver Reef's old frame buildings. Today only the Wells Fargo building and the Rice Bank (now a home) remain.

The area reeks of history. Plans are being considered to create a historic district, but in the meantime the fine old express building needs protection.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. 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) **1877**

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 type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Not alone because Wells Fargo and Company Express buildings were very much a part of the mining west, nor simply because the Silver Reef building matches the style common in others, but because this building remains, one of only two structures, as the best reminder of the glory that was once Silver Reef, Utah. Though of short duration, 1877-1888 being the main boom period, and in almost total decline by 1909, Silver Reef brought temporary prosperity to an area chronically depressed. The agrarian Mormons mingled quietly with the Gentile miners to their mutual benefit.

Silver Reef has a singular distinction, being one of the rare spots in the world where silver-bearing ore has been discovered in sandstone formations in commercial quantities. Altogether about \$12,000,000 were taken from its mines. Disparity in production figures are due to poor record keeping.

As early as 1868 Mormon settler John Kemple, at Harrisburg, below the reef, floated silver. Yet he never hit pay dirt. In 1871, he organized the Union Mining District, and three years later the Harris Mining District. The first real strike came in 1875 when Elijah Thomas and John Ferris found silver in a ledge northwest of Silver Reef. However, to Judge William Tecumseh Barbee goes credit for the Silver Reef rush. With a grub stake from the Walker Brothers in Salt Lake City, Barbee, with Thomas McNalley and Edward Maynard, began to mine the ore and ship it, first to Salt Lake City and later to Pioche, Nevada. When the boom began in 1878 Silver Reef developed several mills of its own. The major mines were the Leeds, the Barbee and Walker Company, the Christy Company, and the Stormont Company.

Silver Reef's population exploded to about 1500 to be not only the largest town in southern Utah, but to out-vote the whole Mormon population of Washington County. When a forthcoming election threatened to vote to change the courthouse from St. George to Silver Reef, Apostle Erastus Snow promptly had the Washington County line moved a few miles east to include several Mormon villages and preserve the status quo.

Silver Reef was very cosmopolitan, having a sizable negro population and some 250 Chinese. Their practice of providing food for their deceased was seized upon by the Paiute Indians as a real deal. They removed the food from the grave tops at night. At one time, a special Chinese cemetery was

(continued preceding page)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Paul Goeldner, Utah Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey (Salt Lake City: Utah Heritage Foundation, 1969), pp. 39-40, 65.
 Andrew Karl Larson, I Was Called To Dixie (S.L.C.: Deseret News Press, 1961)
 Andrew Karl Larson, Red Hills of November, (S.L.C.: Deseret News Press, 1957)
 Marietta M. Mariger, Saga of Three Towns (St. George: Washington County News, N.D.) pp. 57-130.
 Mark A. Pendleton, "Memories of Silver Reef," Utah Historical Quarterly, III, No. 4, October 1930, p. 99-118.
 Frank C. Robertson and Beth Kay Harris, Boom Towns of the Great Basin (Denver: Sage Books, 1962) pp. 135-145.
 Robert Silverberg, Ghost Towns of the American West, (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1968), pp. 182-188.

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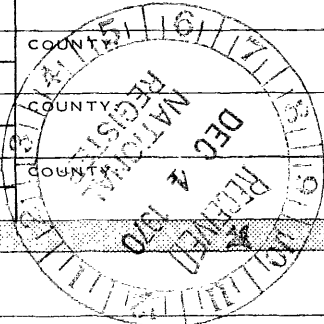
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		37° 15' 11"	113° 22' 0"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.22

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Melvin T. Smith

ORGANIZATION: Utah Historical Society DATE: November 5, 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

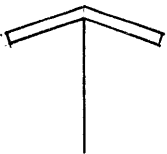
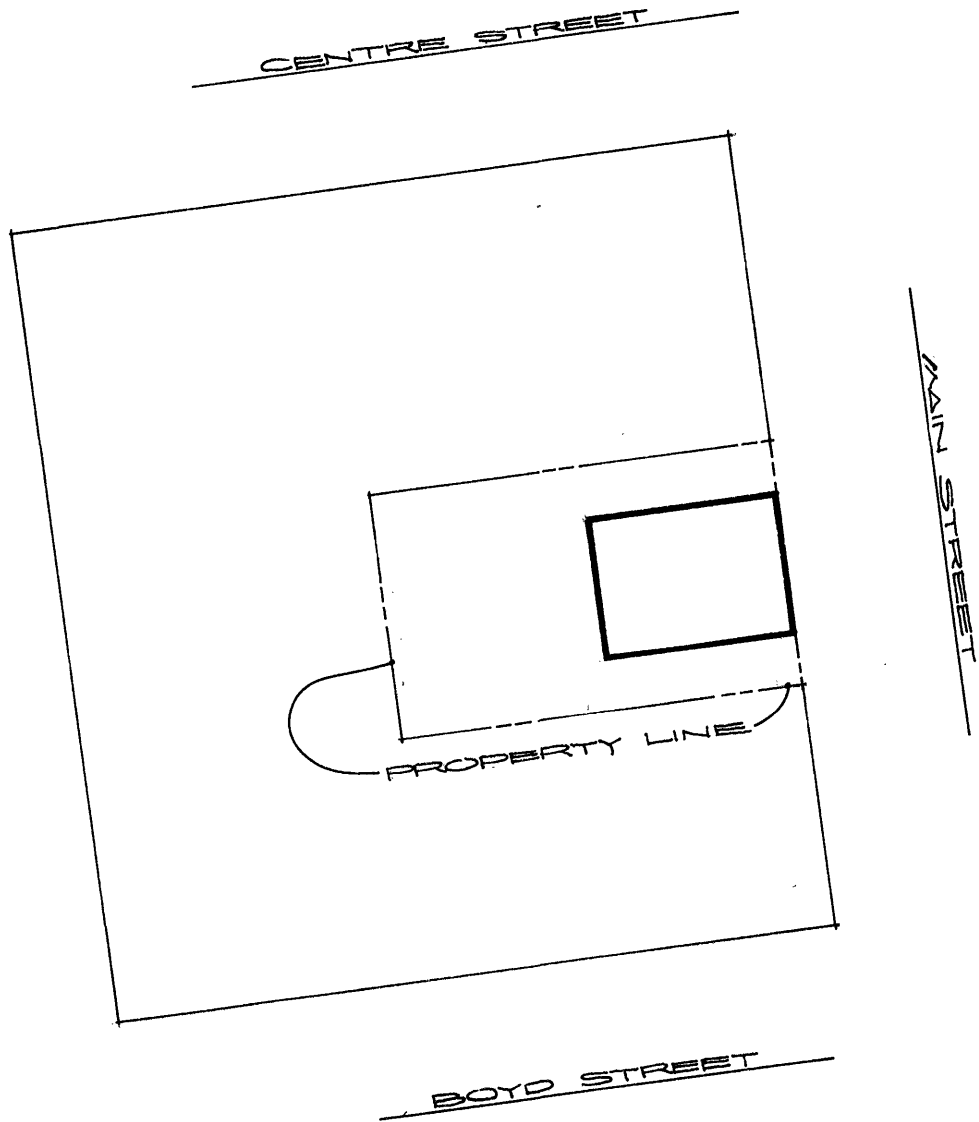
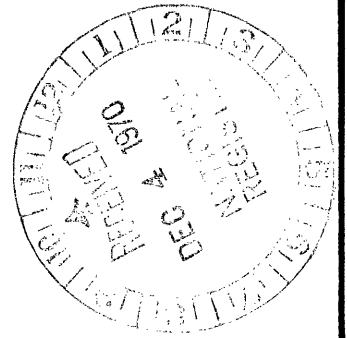
Name: Milton L. Weilenmann
 Title: Utah State Liaison Officer
 Date: November 5, 1970

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

Ernest A. Cummings
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: MAR 11 1971

ATTEST:
William J. Mustang
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: FEB 22 1971

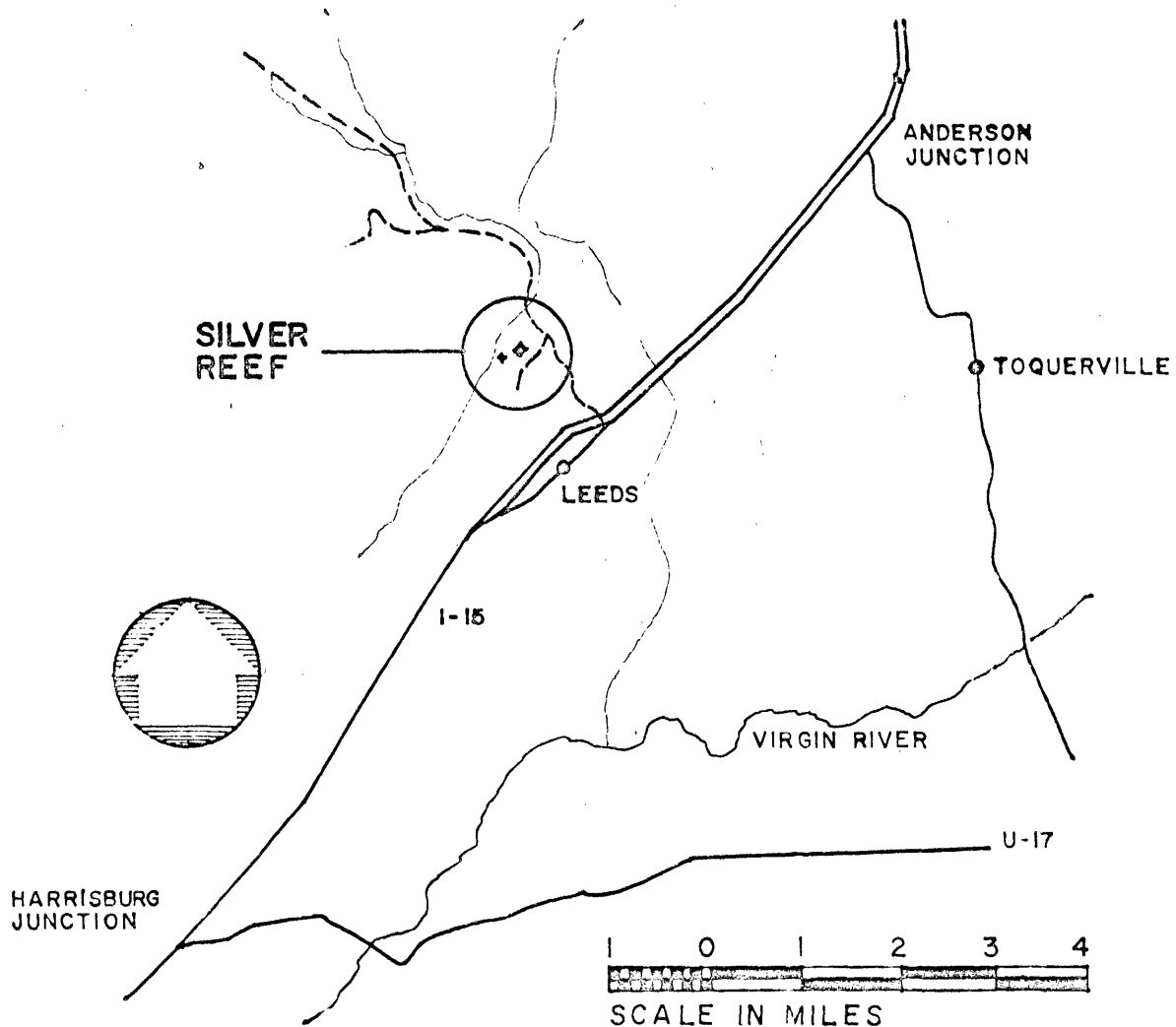
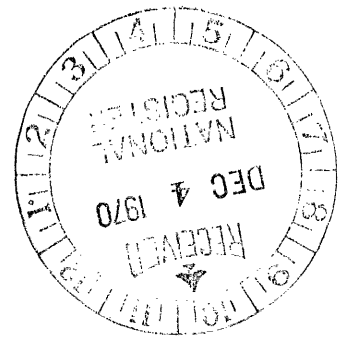


WELLS FARGO & CO. EXPRESS BLDG.

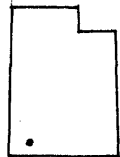
MAIN STREET
SILVER REEF, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 15' - 11"
LONGITUDE : 113° - 22' - 0"

DATE : SEP 1970
SCALE : 1" = 60'



SCALE IN MILES
LOCATION MAP



WELLS FARGO & CO. EXPRESS BLDG
MAIN STREET
SILVER REEF, UTAH
LATITUDE : 37°-15'-11"
LONGITUDE : 113°-22'-0"
HABS DWG.
DATE : SEP 1970