

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAY 28 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Salt Lake 19th Ward Meetinghouse and Relief Society Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

168 West 500 North

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Utah

— VICINITY OF

CODE
049

COUNTY

Salt Lake

CODE

035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Real Estate Division

STREET & NUMBER

50 East North Temple

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Salt Lake City and County Building

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

July 16, 1975

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>ca 1936</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architectural Description:

The Meetinghouse (1890-92)

Plan: The T-shaped plan departs from the previously popular vestry and one-room assembly hall arrangement in that an additional, lateral structure is situated between the vestry-tower and the assembly hall. This lateral wing is gabled at both ends and obscures most of the front gable of the assembly hall. The meetinghouse has a split-level plan. The stairs leading to the two levels are exterior stairs, the two basement stairways being located under the tower.

The upper level contains an entry vestibule (within the tower), a large hallway or foyer (in the lateral wing), and the main assembly room with the pulpit at the north end. The bottom level contains small classrooms and a larger room at the east originally used for recreation and social gatherings. In 1928 a large recreation hall and office annex were added to the rear of the assembly hall, giving the church complex its present T-shape.

Materials: The superstructure of the meetinghouse is built of fired brick; the foundation is of rusticated stone; carved stonework is abundant in the tower; the "onion dome" and "onion pinnacles" are of galvanized tin; the cornices, gable trim, and window trim are wood.

Decorative Features: The prominent architectural feature is the tin "onion dome" which rises above the trees and can be seen from all areas of the neighborhood. The white dome, pinnacles and gable end of the assembly hall offer sharp color contrast to the red painted brick and gray stone.

The carved stonework features foliated patterns of an arabesque nature and is similar to designs for carved stone made by Louis Sullivan.

Corbeled arches and dentiling in the recessed panels of the tower is the extent of decorative brickwork. The walls are of brick laid in a stretcher bond.

The wood cornice is moulded and has a dentiled frieze. The gabled end of the assembly hall features a wooden arch with medallions over a louvered panel.

The windows in the old meetinghouse, as well as the newer recreation hall, are Roman-arched and have sidelights. Some windows in the side of the tower and at the front of the foyer wing have been filled in but all other windows remain intact. The main entry also features a large Roman arch with the double doors being recessed and under a large transom window.

An inscription panel over the main entry reads, "19th Ward House of Worship, 1890."

The recreation hall and annex were built during one of the L.D.S. Church's "colonial" design periods and fortunately repeat many of the architectural features found in the original building. Set back a considerable distance from the street and obscured from view by heavy landscaping, the 1928 addition is barely discernable from the front of the meetinghouse.

Interior: The chapel or assembly hall has been stripped of its pews to enable it to be used as an open space by Ballet West, a ballet troupe which currently uses the building for its practice headquarters. The rostrum area remains at the north of the hall. As religious icons and symbolic decoration are not common in Mormon meetinghouses, little else was removed in the process of changing the use of the structure. Plastered walls,

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hardwood wainscoting, tongue-in-groove hardwood flooring and a combination hipped and elliptically vaulted ceiling remain intact. Other auxiliary rooms have been painted and given minor improvement over the years but remain essentially unchanged.

The Relief Society Hall (1908)

This brick structure sits due west of the older meetinghouse and was originally located about two blocks away. Through the efforts of the Relief Society sisters, the building was moved to its present location. The hall is 14 x 26 feet in size and was built for \$600.

The hall has a gabled vestry with a deep cornice and return, a Roman entry bay and a small, bracketed canopy. The main room is rectangular and has segmented windows and a hip roof. A semi-circular plaque on the front wall of the vestry identifies the building, "19th Ward Relief Society, 1908." The diminutive building which was originally used as a meeting hall and workroom for the women's auxiliary of the L.D.S. Church, it now serves as the office building for Ballet West.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Meetinghouse: 1890-92 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Bowman
 Relief Society Hall: 1908

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary of Significance:

The 19th Ward Meetinghouse is significant for its reflection, through its unusual architectural design, of great changes imposed upon the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) by gentile-controlled government in 1890. Acting under authority of the Edmunds-Tucker Act of 1877, federal marshals had for years attempted to force a termination of the practice of polygamy, divest the Mormon Church of its temporal powers, and separate church and state. In 1890, the Church found itself the losers of a bitter power struggle and as a result, issued the Polygamy Manifesto and abandoned its philosophy of isolationism and self-sufficiency. A change from Mormon commonwealth to nationalwealth was painfully made and had an impact on all segments of the Mormon socio-cultural system. Meetinghouse architecture, which before 1890 had emphasized restraint and the suppression of individual expressionism, turned outward after 1890 to embrace all of the worldly "high styles." Robert Bowman, architect of the 19th Ward Meetinghouse, created a physical symbol of the newly embraced "Worldwide Church" attitude. Totally out of character when compared to Bowman's earlier works and meetinghouse architecture in general, the eclectic 19th Ward Meetinghouse, with its oriental, Byzantine, or German Renaissance-inspired onion dome, clearly shows an attempt to prove familiarity with and acceptance of the whole of the world, and the putting away of an independent, highly self-contained, religious Kingdom.

Perhaps overstated

History:

The Salt Lake 19th Ward was one of original 19 wards organized by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church) on February 14, 1849. Each ward constituted an ecclesiastical division which defined school and voting districts as well. Members of the 19th Ward held their meetings in the Warm Springs Bath House but soon built an adobe meetinghouse which was completed in 1852. Due to the fast growing nature of early Salt Lake City, the adobe meetinghouse was quickly outgrown and was replaced in 1866 by a larger adobe structure which served as church and school until the present edifice was completed in 1892.

Plans to erect a new meetinghouse were set into motion as early as 1881 when a building committee was organized and subscriptions were raised. Henry Grow, engineer of the famous Salt Lake Tabernacle, was one of the building committee but was advanced in age and was not called upon to be the project architect.

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The years between 1881 and 1890 were ^{troublesome} ones for the Mormon Church. ^{Church} Federal marshalls were attempting to gather up the practicing polygamists, the Federal government confiscated most church properties and members declined to continue their financial support of the Church; famine and financial problems further weakened the Church's developmental programs. Building almost completely halted during the late 1880's. The Mormons had tried up to this time, to isolate their society from the rest of the world. Theirs was an independent, self-sufficient economy. However, the dissolution of Church power by the Federal government brought an end to Mormon isolationism. The Church itself reluctantly changed its role from a Utah church to a worldwide church. Coincident with joining hands with the world was a surfacing in individual artistic expression. Architecture prior to 1890 had been either vernacular or conservatively traditional. After 1890 a great outburst of new and foreign styles was manifest.

The first and perhaps best example of the new architectural attitude is the Salt Lake 19th Ward Meetinghouse. Its "onion" dome and pinnacles are of foreign origin and have no direct theological relationship to Mormon ideology. The "onion" dome is of Oriental origin and was later employed in Byzantine, German Renaissance, and Russian architecture.

Architect Robert Bowman was English born and had no direct contact with foreign styles, having immigrated to Utah when only five years of age. Bowman's unorthodox church design was totally unlike anything he had previously and was unlike any designs he did later. There seems to be a clear intention on his part to communicate a specific message about the status of the Church during that momentous period of Utah history.

Robert Bowman was born in 1857 and after moving to Utah from England was trained as a stone mason and served an apprenticeship to become a building contractor. While specializing in stonework, he also became adept as an engineer and architect as his career progressed. Robert acquired a knowledge of engineering and design from his father, John H. Bowman, an experienced builder/architect who was the contractor for the gargantuan Salt Lake City and County Building and other major commercial and public structures in the city. Both father and son became "architects" in response to the great demand for designers during the "Building Boom" of 1889-93. During these busy years, Robert refined his drafting and designing skills and became the head architect for Watson Brothers, the construction company that had given him his early training. 1890 was a particularly productive year for Bowman as he designed the Dinwoodey Block, Clark-Eldredge Block and the Constitution Building, as well as the Nineteenth Ward meetinghouse. The endangered Constitution Building is still considered to be the finest extant example of late 19th-Century commercial architecture in Salt Lake City. Bowman's main contribution to the advancement of architecture seems to have been his development of large masonry structures and his painstaking attention to stone detailing, especially decorative stone carving.

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Robert Bowman died August 17, 1929 at the age of 72 after a lingering illness.

Bowman's unusual church was completed in 1892. An amusement hall at the rear of the building was started in 1928 and completed in 1936. The entire complex is currently being leased to Ballet West for a practice studio.

In 1908 a small building was erected two blocks away from the chapel by the 19th Ward Relief Society. The Relief Society is an auxiliary of the Church and is involved in domestic, cultural, social and charitable activities. Independent minded groups built their own meetingplaces as early Mormon chapels did not provide rooms for them. Moved to its present site, the Relief Society Hall, in juxtaposition with the older church, and historic school across the street represents the typical complex of religious and public buildings that existed in most 19th Century Utah communities.

* The Church
actively
encouraged
the construction
of R.S. halls
at this time
w.R.L.
4/24/76

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. A Survey of L.D.S. Architecture in Utah, 1847-1930, Allen D. Roberts, limited private publication, 1974, pp. 147-150.
2. Utah, Her Cities, Towns and Resources, 1891-92, pp. 55-56.
3. "Biographical Sketch of Robert Bowman," Allen D. Roberts, unpublished manuscript, 1975.
4. Manuscript History of the 19th Ward, compiled by Andrew Jensen, L.D.S. historical archives.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than One

UTM REFERENCES

A	12	424470	4514540	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Allen D. Roberts/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

DATE

January 2, 1976

TELEPHONE

(801) 533-5755

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

Melvin T. Smith

TITLE Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 22, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST
 CLERK OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/28/76

DATE

5-24-76