

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received MAY 20 1980

date entered JUN 24 1980

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

1. Name

historic Sevier Ward Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Sevier

vicinity of

congressional district 01

state Utah

code 049

county Sevier

code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in process	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input 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 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 Martha K. Carlsruh c/o D.G. Brooke

street & number 761 Roosevelt Ave

city, town SLC

vicinity of

state UT

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sevier County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Richfield

state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Sevier County Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Summer 1979

federal state county local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town SLC

state UT

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

White rough faced ashlar for the Sevier Ward Church was quarried locally, as was the contrasting granite used for quoins, sills and lintels. The exhuberant effect of the stone trim was lost when the entire structure was painted white ca.1947. It is a split level structure with a raised ground floor and full basement. The rectangular, gable roofed central mass structure assumes a temple-like form, the gable areas alluding to classical pediments because of shape and return cornice configurations.

The rather eclectic design is suggestive of a New England meetinghouse because of the temple-like central mass fronted by an extending, gabled pavilion. This pavilion has Greek returns and is pierced with a fanlight at the top, a diamond shaped window and round arched doorway which also has a fanlight. On the north elevation are five round arched windows and on the south are three round arched windows and an extending pavilion similar to the east pavilion.1

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1928-29

Builder/Architect John Marius Johnson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sevier Ward House is a characteristic example of many twentieth century L.D.S. churches built before ca.1930. Reminiscent of the New England Meetinghouse form, they frequently assumed classical revival allusions, exhibited simplicity of plan and similarity in scale and proportions. In Sevier County alone six L.D.S. churches were built during the period 1914-1930 which exhibit these characteristics: Annabella Ward Church, 1914; Joseph Ward Church, 1928; Monroe (north) Ward Church, 1929-30; Redmond Ward Church, 1914; Salina Ward Church, 1928-30; Sevier Ward Church, 1927-30. All are extant, however, only for the Sevier Church was rough faced ashlar used. Though brick and stone were both popular building materials throughout the intermountain region, rough faced ashlar was rarely used after the nineteenth century while the use of brick continued to be widespread. A rough faced stone building with an eclectic scheme characteristic of wards built during the first decades of the twentieth century, is therefore unusual - at first glance almost a throw-back to the nineteenth century, making the Sevier chapel unique in central Utah.

The town of Sevier, settled as Cove in 1876, lies in the southwestern corner of Sevier County. After the cessation of Indian hostilities in the area, local Mormons established a small agricultural settlement at the confluence of Clear Creek and the Sevier River. The community was enclosed on three sides by mountains which had good timber and a fine white sandstone; both of which were used for building many of the local homes.

In the 1880's traces of gold were discovered in the same mountains. Mining of the precious metal began immediately but large scale extraction waited for the arrival of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad in 1896. The impact of rail transportation not only affected mining, but it also affected those agricultural communities that served the mines and the miners. The character of Cove changed in more than appearance as the local rail station took the name of Sevier instead of Cove. Eventually, the local residents began to call Cove, Sevier.

By 1905 the increased level of mining activity in Kimberly to the East and in Marysville to the south, had made Sevier an important shipping center. The new wealth brought a rise in population as people came to mine or to sell to the miners. Minerals, grains and livestock were exported while commercial goods were imported to Sevier where they were then redistributed to the outlying mining camps.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Roberts, Allen, Historic Architecture of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, (SLC: 1974).
Warnock, Irwin L., Our Own Sevier: A Centennial History 1865-1965, (Richfield: Richfield Reaper, 1965).

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Monroe, UT

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	2	3	9	1	2	0	0	4	2	7	2	4	0	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 Com. 1 ch. W. of NW Cor of NE 4 of SW 4 of section 28. E 3.53 chs to County road then sw'ly along road 3.85 chs to 40 line then nw'ly 3.21 chs to beginning.

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 Robert V. Hugie/Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date Feb 1980

street & number 307 West 200 South

telephone 533-6017

city or town SLC, UT 84101

state

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/5/80

For HCRS use only

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

W. Ray Luce

date 6/24/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *William H. Abraham*

date 6.16.80

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCERS use only

received MAY 20 1980

date entered JUN 24 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Farming continued to be the basis of the local economy. Most of the "good" land with water had already been claimed by the early Mormon settlers. Rights to ownership were passed generationally or to selected local residents. The last names of Levie, Ross and Utley appear frequently on local land titles. Ownership of the site on which the church was built was no different except that in 1915 an outsider, Dr. J.C. Clark, purchased the property. It seems that he had come to Sevier to quarantine an outbreak of influenza. He sold the property to a J.C. Baierline in 1928 who apparently acted as a loaning agent for the building of the church. In 1933 the property was deeded over to Bishop Levie who accepted ownership for the Sevier LDS Ward.

The rapid rise in population had justified in 1916 the formation of a separate Mormon Ward for the town of Sevier. Ray Utley was appointed Bishop and held the position until 1927 when Stephen Baker was selected to replace him. It was during the Baker's term that the Sevier Church was built. Bishop Baker appointed Alma Chistian, a farmer and blacksmith, to be the chairman of the church building committee. He in turn hired John Marcus Johnson and his sons, all stone masons from Elsinore, to begin work on the building in the spring of 1928.

A great portion of the common labor needed to erect the church was donated by local residents. The building was completed in 1930 and dedicated by Heber J. Grant, President of the Mormon church, in 1933. He praised the local citizens for having labored "most diligently" in the construction of the church. With the local mineral wealth exhausted and agricultural prices continuing to fall, it was significant that the small community of Sevier thought of erecting its own church. To have completed that structure in spite of the collapse of the National and local economy in 1929 is impressive, and the event has been viewed as a modern example of the historic Mormon perseverance in the face of adversity. The cooperation and self-reliance of the community in building the church represents, in microcosim, the Mormon colonization of Sevier county. With the "throw-back" architectural style of the Sevier ward church, the dramatic narrative of that struggle is represented in stone.

The Sevier ward was terminated in 1949, but the church building continued to be used for some of the local religious and social gatherings. As Sevier residents continued to move into the surrounding communities, the high cost of upkeep on the building forced its sale in 1973 to Martha Carlsruh. The new owner turned the church into an antique gift shop that operated until just recently. Presently the building lies vacant.