

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

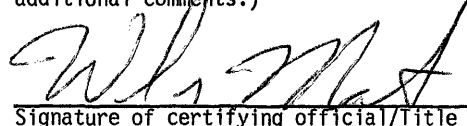
1. Name of Property

historic name Santa Clara Relief Society Hall
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Approximately 3036 West Santa Clara Drive N/A not for publication
city or town Santa Clara N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Washington code 053 zip code 84765

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date 12-21-93
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
_____ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
_____ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Beth Boland 2/2/94

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Washington County, Utah
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mormon Church Buildings in Utah, 1847-1936

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- RELIGION / religious facility
- EDUCATION / school
- SOCIAL / meeting hall
- HEALTH CARE / clinic
- GOVERNMENT / post office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- VACANT/NOT IN USE
- WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE VICTORIAN

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE
- walls STUCCO
- ADOBE
- roof Shingle
- other WOOD (trim)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 7 Page 1

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Santa Clara, Washington County, UT

Narrative Description

The 1908 Santa Clara Relief Society Hall is located on Santa Clara Drive, the major road through this community of approximately 3,000. While the entire Dixie area is experiencing substantial growth, this building is 'contained' by the 1949 LDS meetinghouse and adjacent residential buildings.

The 1908 hall is approximately 20 by 25 feet in plan with the narrow entry end facing south toward Santa Clara Drive. A unique masonry false front with a round top conceals the gable end. The parapet on the false front is corbelled and has a row of dentils. A slightly recessed rectangular panel, perhaps for signage, is also formed in this south end. The walls are built of multiple wythe, locally produced, reddish-brown brick laid in a stretcher or running bond. The presence of a stone foundation is presumed. All of the masonry walls were lightly stuccoed many years ago, probably in an attempt to repair the deteriorating brick which was apparently being damaged by rising damp. Although they have recently been secured with expanded metal lath and plastered to repair damage from an earthquake in 1992, the brick detailing remains and its integrity is substantially retained.

The main opening in the south elevation is a single paneled wood door beneath a shallow segmental arch and rectangular transom. A single window is located to each side of the doorway. The west elevation has two evenly spaced windows beneath simple segmental arches; the east elevation has only one window centered in the wall. All of the windows are original, two-over-two double hung sash. The north (rear) elevation has no openings. The roof, recently recovered in wood shingles, is a steeply pitched gable. The painted eaves are quite shallow. A single masonry chimney is located at the north end of the ridge line.

The interior of this single-room building was always very modest in design. Currently, the historic interior materials visible include the painted plaster walls and ceiling, window and door casings and some baseboard. Some non-original cupboards remain. The building is being rehabilitated to house Relief Society and pioneer memorabilia and function as a meeting hall. Current repair plans include the exterior wall repairs, repair and repainting windows and doors, floor repairs, and landscape alterations to minimize moisture near the building and hopefully prevent deterioration of the masonry walls.

___ See continuation sheet

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Washington County, Utah
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1908-1942

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 8 Page 2

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Santa Clara, Washington County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, completed in 1908, is locally significant as the oldest remaining LDS church building in the pioneer community of Santa Clara. Some of the religious functions continued in the historic hall until the completion of the adjacent LDS meetinghouse in 1949. It also served as a school, and later, as a makeshift clinic and a post office for many years. It is now being restored to serve as a museum of Relief Society and pioneer memorabilia and a meeting hall. The Victorian Eclectic style Santa Clara Relief Society Hall is architecturally significant in the community. While not built as a meetinghouse, it is similar in size, configuration, and use to many of the approximately dozen remaining "Period I" (settlement phase) LDS meetinghouses, as described in the National Register multiple property listing, "Mormon Church Buildings in Utah, 1847-1936." The Santa Clara Relief Society Hall is eligible within the associated historic context, "Mormon Relief Society Buildings in Utah, 1870s-1910."

The settlement by Mormon pioneers (members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or LDS church) of the area now known as Utah's Dixie, located in the extreme southwest corner of the state, commenced in 1861, fourteen years after their arrival in the Great Salt Lake Valley. LDS apostle Erastus Snow was appointed to preside over this effort known as the Dixie Mission. Santa Clara was first settled in 1854 by Mormon missionaries sent to work with the native American Indians in the area. In 1861 a substantial colonizing effort was made with a large portion of these settlers being LDS convert immigrants from Switzerland. Much of this first community was washed away by the "Big Flood" of January 1, 1862, but the community managed to survive.

The Santa Clara Relief Society (the women's organization of the LDS church) was organized by LDS bishop Edward Bunker on May 16, 1868 with sixty-four members enrolled.¹ Two years later, October 9, 1870, the Society purchased a city lot for the sum of \$150.00 and planted mulberry trees with the intention of raising silkworms as LDS church president Brigham Young had suggested. (The Santa Clara Mercantile is now located on this site at approximately 3097 Santa Clara Drive). They built a two-story adobe structure (no longer extant) with gable ends on the east and west. The front faced the main road through town and was plastered inside and out. A stairway at the back lead to the large upper room where silkworms were raised. The ground floor of the building was divided into three rooms, the center section having bins where wheat was stored. (At that time the women of the Church were asked to store wheat against a time of need.) The other rooms were used for Relief Society meetings.

X See continuation sheet

¹Nellie M. Gubler, "Santa Clara, Utah's Little Relief Society House." n.d. Much of the history of the hall presented in Section No. 8 is taken from this document.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 8 Page 3

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Santa Clara, Washington County, UT

After twenty-two years the silkworm project was not profitable and the mulberry trees were dug up and grapevines planted. The large upper room was converted to living quarters for the Frehner family and for at least two years (1892-1894) for the younger grades of school, with Lydia Eva Knight Graff as the teacher.

On March 25, 1906 a special meeting was held with the bishopric to discuss buying the lot where the Santa Clara Relief Society Hall (the subject property) now stands. The bishop offered to purchase and secure a deed to this lot in contemplation of transferring it to the LDS ward (congregation). This plot was on the southwest corner of John Gubler's property and adjoined the public square. Gubler agreed to sell it for the sum of \$50.00 with the stipulation that when the building was no longer needed for the Relief Society it would be returned to the Gubler family. This offer was accepted by the Relief Society officers. It was also agreed in this meeting that the Relief Society would place their financial resources, including the stored wheat, in the care of the bishopric and they would carefully take down the old house, which was very dilapidated, and build a new one on the spot selected. The material in the old house that was not used in the new Relief Society building was to be sold at auction, as well as the wheat bins. The bishop, John G. Hafen and counselors, Edward R. Frei Sr., and John S. Stucki, agreed that it was no longer necessary for the women to store wheat since there was "no profit in it and it made a good deal of work for them." As there were no ward funds available for the purchase it was decided that the Relief Society would forward to the Bishop the \$50.00 cash for the lot he would provide the same amount in labor on the new building.

The new building was constructed of partially fired brick at a cost of \$800.00 under the direction of Relief Society President Eliza Ann Ensign, and was dedicated on June 5, 1908 by George F. Whitehead, a member of the St. George Stake Presidency. At this time President Whitehead reported that the Santa Clara Relief Society was free from debt.

Much of the effort of the Relief Society focussed on alleviating distress and need, "Charity never Faileth" being the slogan of this benevolent organization. Many welfare projects and other efforts to earn money for a new chapel were conducted in this hall. On March 21, 1912 Bishop John G. Hafen stated that the Santa Clara Relief Society 'stood first' in the St. George Stake (a group of wards) as donors to the Stake Academy, now known as Dixie State College.

Through the years the building has not only been used for the Relief Society but for many other purposes. When the old one-roomed chapel (built in 1902 and no longer extant) was too small to accommodate the congregation, this building was used for classes for the Sunday School, Primary (children), and Mutual Improvement Association (youth). It was also used as a school classroom until 1913 when a new concrete block school house was constructed. (The first schoolhouse in Santa Clara had been destroyed in the "Big Flood" in 1862 but was immediately replaced later that year.)

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Section No. 8 Page 4

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Santa Clara, Washington County, UT

The Relief Society Hall was also used as a makeshift clinic and hospital. In 1939 when Lizzie Reber was seriously ill from an infectious disease and conditions in her home were very unsatisfactory. Cecilia E. Tobler and Pearl Bauer agreed to care for her if she could be housed in this building, which was directly across the highway from Cecilia's home. Arrangements were made and they cared for her until her death on December 3. During the late 1930s until the early 1950s it was used as a clinic for preschool children, where they were weighed, measured and immunized.

The building continued to be used by the Relief Society until February 1, 1949 and the completion of the new meetinghouse immediately to the west. Because of World War II, construction of the new chapel had been deferred, so this structure was renovated. It was reshingled, painted inside and out, cupboards installed and a "Red Cross cupboard" built into the northwest corner--the carpentry work being donated by a civic-minded Mr. E.C. Gates. New curtains were purchased and shrubs and flowers planted at the front of the building. Perhaps during this renovation, the light brown brick building was coated in a very thin plaster coating probably in an effort to repair damage to the brick most likely caused by rising damp. While the brick coursing and some of the reddish-brown color remained visible, the visual characteristic of the building was changed.

Later the building was used as the post office. Jessie Frei had served as Postmistress of Santa Clara for many years, with the office in the north part of her home. After her death in 1953, Max Hunt was appointed to take her place and the post office was moved into this building. Following the removal of the post office in 1963, this building continued to be used for storage of Helen Gulber's papers, but began to fall into disrepair.² In 1989, preservation-minded members of the community and the Relief Society organizations of the five LDS wards in Santa Clara petitioned the local church leaders for authorization to secure, rehabilitate and reuse the building as a local museum and monument to the Relief Society organization. Permission was given and a long-term lease executed.

While clean-up work was underway, an earthquake struck on September 2, 1992 on the nearby Hurricane Fault. The Santa Clara Relief Society Hall sustained substantial cracking at the corners and there was some danger of the end walls completely separating from the building. After investigations it was decided to literally wrap the building in expanded metal lath and cover it with plaster. Additional reinforcement was added to the most heavily damaged locations. With the installation of the plaster (the photos show the building just prior to the last coat of plaster) the brick coursing is obscured but the dentil and corbel details in the false front clearly remain. Its architectural integrity has been diminished but not lost.

X See continuation sheet

²Nellie Gubler, personal communication.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 8 Page 5

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Santa Clara, Washington County, UT

Several early LDS building types are presented in the Multiple Property Submission, "Mormon Church Buildings in Utah, 1847-1936" including tithing offices, granaries and Relief Society buildings.³ While the Santa Clara Relief Society Hall was not built originally as a meetinghouse, it is similar in scale to several such buildings constructed near the turn of the century. The Santa Clara Relief Society Hall is definitely significant within the context "Mormon Relief Society Buildings in Utah, 1870s-1910." Although over 50 buildings were specifically constructed for (or by) the local Relief Society organizations throughout Utah, when this historic context was developed in 1988, only 17 remained. Of this seventeen, six have been listed on the National Register. Because of their rarity, the registration requirements established by the Multiple Property submission focus only on age and integrity.

While the building is still owned by the LDS church, it is no longer used by the church for religious functions (Criteria Consideration A) and the Santa Clara Historical Society is negotiating a long-term lease of the building.

___ See continuation sheet

³David L. Schirer, "Mormon Church Buildings in Utah, 1847-1936" Multiple Property submittal. (Copy available at Utah SHPO.) 1988.

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Section No. 9 Page 6

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Santa Clara, Washington County, UT

Bibliography

Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss. Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940. Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah Graduate School of Architecture and Utah State Historical Society, 1991.

Gubler, Nellie M. "Santa Clara, Utah's Little Relief Society House." n.d.

Larson, Andrew Karl. I Was Called to Dixie -- The Virgin River Basin: Unique Experiences in Mormon Pioneering. Andrew Karl Larson, 1961.

Reid, Hyrum Lorenzo. Early History of Utah's Dixie. (M.S. Thesis) Provo, UT: Brigham Young University, 1931.

Roberts, Allen D. "Religious Architecture of the LDS Church: Influences and Changes Since 1947." Utah Historical Quarterly 43:3, 1975.

Roberts, Allen D. A Survey of LDS Architecture in Utah: 1847-1930. (Limited publication, copy available at Utah SHPO), 1974.

Schirer, David L. "Mormon Church Buildings in Utah, 1847-1936." National Register Multiple Property Listing (copy available at Utah SHPO), 1988.

___ See continuation sheet

Santa Clara Relief Society Hall
Name of Property

Santa Clara, Washington County, Utah
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 2/6/4/3/4/0 4/1/1/2/7/3/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A portion of Lots 13 and 14, Block 22, Santa Clara Townsite and Field Survey, located in Section 16, Township 42 South, Range 16 West, Salt Lake Base and Meridian, being more particularly described as follows:

The area beneath the existing Santa Clara Relief Society Hall with a ten foot wide yard surrounding the entire building.

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary describes the parcel of land that completely includes the historic 1908 Santa Clara Relief Society Hall. The adjacent LDS meetinghouse and the historic Gubler House are not included.

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles M. Shepherd / Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historic Preservation Office

date July 1993

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone (801)533-3500

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT zip code 84101-1182

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Historic Sites Task Group)

street & number 45 West North Temple

telephone (801)240-2299

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT zip code 84105

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. PHOTOS Page 7 Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Santa Clara, Washington County, UT

Photo No. 1

1. Santa Clara Relief Society Hall
2. Santa Clara, Washington County, Utah
3. Photographer: Charles M. Shepherd
4. Date: May 8, 1993
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.
6. South (main) and east elevations of building. Note the dentil and corbel detailing on the round-top and false front parapet above the entry. The sign is to be relocated. The bright mottled white on the east wall is reflection of sunlight on the plaster 'brown coat.' Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 2

1. Santa Clara Relief Society Hall
2. Santa Clara, Washington County, Utah
3. Photographer: Charles M. Shepherd
4. Date: May 8, 1993
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.
6. West and south elevations of building. Camera facing north-northeast.

Photo No. 3

1. Santa Clara Relief Society Hall
2. Santa Clara, Washington County, Utah
3. Photographer: Charles M. Shepherd
4. Date: May 8, 1993
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.
6. North (rear) and west elevations of building. Camera facing southeast.

___ See continuation sheet

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Santa Clara Relief Society House Washington County UTAH 93001577
(Mormon Church Buildings in Utah MPS)

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED

Guymr. Sapsley 7/9/94

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 1 thru 10 Page 8 Santa Clara Relief Society Hall, Santa Clara, Washington County, UT

Through an oversight during the preparation of this nomination the incorrect historic name was used. This building has apparently always been known locally as the Santa Clara Relief Society House rather than hall. This is different than all other known LDS or Mormon Relief Society meeting halls and is perhaps a result of the remoteness of the setting. The nomination is amended throughout changing all references to the formal historic name of the building to the **Santa Clara Relief Society House**. (The building was listed on 2/2/94 as part of the Mormon Church Buildings in Utah MPS, NRIS 93001577.)



Max J. Evans
State Historic Preservation Officer

8/5/94

Date