

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JAN 23 1980
date entered DEC 11 1980

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

1. Name

historic Liberty Park

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Bounded by Fifth East, Seventh East, Ninth South
and Thirteenth South Streets ___ not for publication

city, town Salt Lake City ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 Salt Lake City Corporation

street & number City and County Building

city, town Salt Lake City ___ vicinity of state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake City and County Building, County Recorder's Office

street & number City and County Building

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

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

Liberty Park is one of the largest urban parks in Utah. It includes an area of 110 acres, from Ninth South to Thirteenth South and from Fifth East to Seventh East streets. The original vehicular circulation is basically intact, including a large oval loop road and a central axis road running from north to south on the line of Sixth East Street. The park includes the building and grounds of the Isaac Chase Mill, built in 1852 (National Register).

Originally the park included several pavillions, a bandstand, a small lake and several informally landscaped walkways. With the large oval road and central axis road and these informal planted areas, the park combined a formal plan with the then popular style of picturesque Victorian garden design.

The park has experienced the problems of many large urban parks, especially the addition of uses not compatible with the original passive recreation of the park. These include an aviary, a small zoo, tennis courts, a small building which serves as a police radio transmission station and a carnival. The large size of the park minimizes the impact of most of these uses.

Beginning in the 1970's, the city and the neighborhood association have been working on a master plan to remove the most incompatible uses and restore some elements of the original park design. These are expected to include the removal of the carnival, the regrading of the lake and the removal of most of its concrete edging, the renovation or reconstruction of a bandstand, and additional landscaping.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input 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 checked="" 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

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Liberty Park is significant as one of the earliest and largest urban parks in Utah. Originally purchased by Salt Lake City in 1881 from the estate of Brigham Young, it is Utah's best example of the "central park." It documents the spirit of reform of the second half of the nineteenth century, when parks were seen as important factors in civilizing America's increasingly industrialized cities and improving the moral character of their inhabitants. Many American cities followed the pattern of New York City's Central Park, which was designed in the late 1850's. Liberty Park is laid out on the site of a mill and farm established by Isaac Chase (the Isaac Chase Mill is listed on the National Register).

Liberty Park was established on the site of the Isaac Chase Farm and Mill. Chase had been assigned a plot in the original "Big Field Survey" of 1847, which distributed farm plots to the first settlers of the Salt Lake Valley. Because of the mill and the large trees on the farm, it was locally known as Forest Park, the Locust Patch and the Mill Farm. The farm and mill were purchased by Brigham Young in 1860, who traded Chase for property in Centerville in Davis County, which Chase never occupied. Brigham Young reportedly expressed the desire that the property be purchased by the city "for the lowest price" after his death. On April 20, 1881, the city paid the Brigham Young estate \$27,500 for the farm.

Local newspapers reported that the "locust patch is the only grove within miles of the city and is located about three blocks from the First Ward street car tracks. This grove is large enough for all the purposes that can ever be required....The farm contains as much ground as will be needed for a park for Salt Lake in the next two generations at least, and there is so much that it will never be necessary to keep the grounds like a lawn, as would be the case were it but a ten acre block. The whole can be made to appear rural and rustic, can be sufficiently developed and still give ample room for picnics, for ponds, for walks, for driving and for all other purposes for which parks are used."

The dedication of the park was originally scheduled for July 4, 1881. Because of the assassination of President Garfield, the celebration was postponed. Although the city waited until the following summer for the dedication, they did not wait until the Fourth of July but instead had the celebration on June 17, 1882, the anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Salt Lake Herald, July 2,3, 1881; June 14, 1882
 Deseret Evening News, June 17, 1882
 Daily Utah Chronicle, September 28, 1977
 Utah State Historical Society, "Liberty Park" file

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property ca. 110 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Salt Lake South, Sugarhouse

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	5	1	1	1	3	4	2	6	0	4	0	1
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	2	4	5	1	0	2	3	4	2	6	0	3	0	1
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	2	4	5	1	0	2	4	4	2	6	4	8	0	1
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	2	4	5	1	1	1	2	4	2	6	5	0	0	1
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries of Liberty Park as originally purchased by Salt Lake City in 1881:
 Fifth to Seventh East, Ninth to Thirteenth South Streets

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 Karl T. Haglund, Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date December 1979

street & number 307 West 200 South

telephone 801 533 6017

city or town Salt Lake City

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 7, 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Melvin T. Smith</u>	date <u>12/1/79</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 23 1980
DEC 11 1980
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

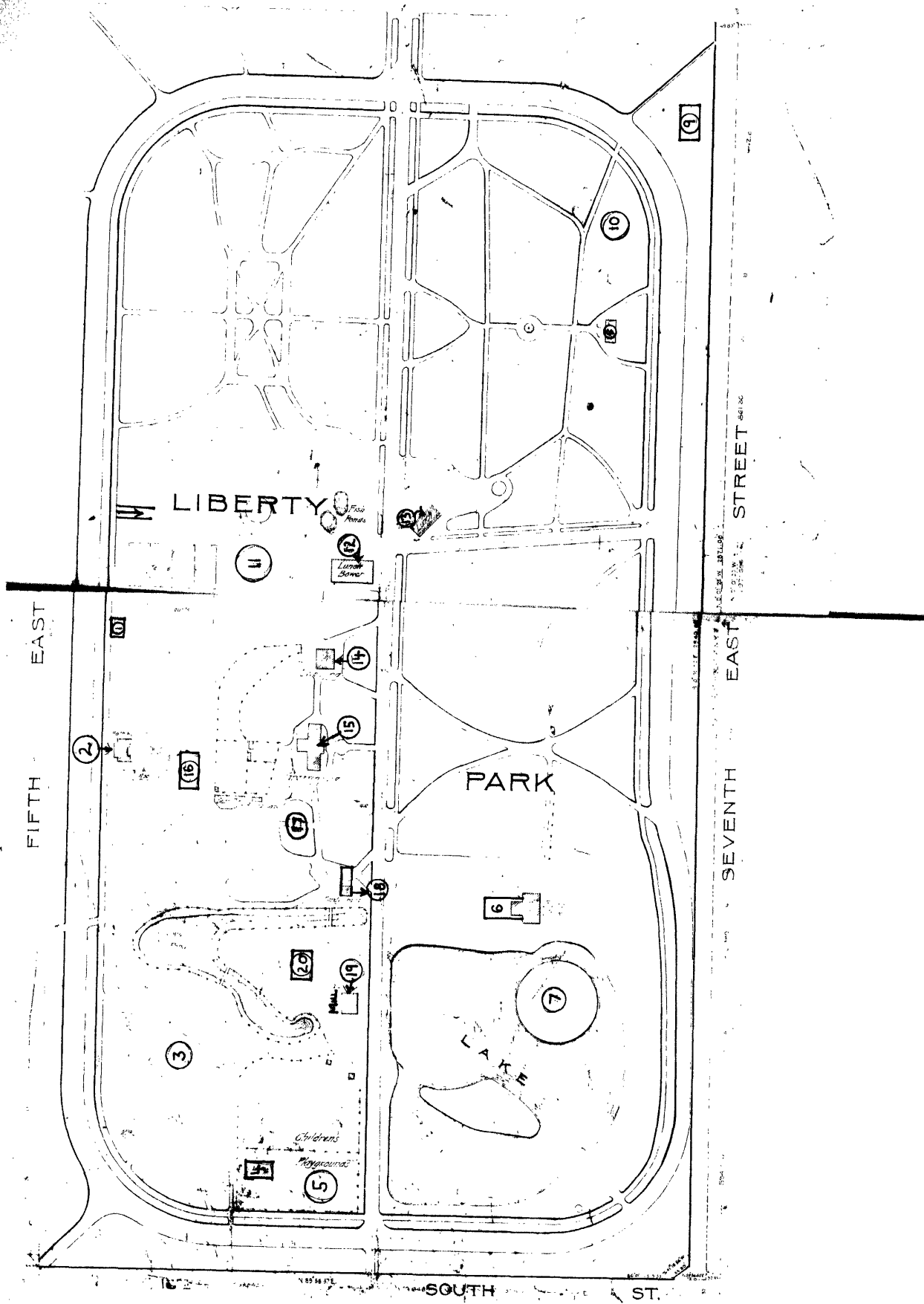
The dedicatory procession formed at the City Hall and included Mayor Jennings, ex-mayor Little (who had presided over the purchase of the property), Wilford Woodruff and numerous other city, state, and Mormon Church officials. Music was provided by Croxall's Silver Band, the Union Glee Club and the Sixth Infantry Band. The remarks of the speakers reflected the popular importance of the new large park. Mr. Ben Sheeks concluded one of the orations by saying that the park "gives to the poor a feeling of interest in his country, and to the rich a satisfaction which ever follows the act of giving to those who needs. And who will say that the man, woman or child does not need the opportunity of enjoying a pleasant walk--of beholding the beauties of art or nature--even as they need bread. Let us ever remember that sometimes "the beautiful is as useful as the useful--perhaps more so."

A greenhouse was built in 1903, and tennis courts added about 1915. The large entrance piers at Sixth East and Ninth South were added in 1920. The bandstand was built about 1911, and a bandstand shelter added in 1949. A swimming pool was constructed in 1949. An appropriation for a zoo was made in 1914, and the zoo remained open until the establishment of the Hogle Zoo in 1931. Russell Tracy donated his collection of birds to the city in 1938, with appropriations for its construction matched by Tracy in 1938 and 1939.

A master plan has been proposed by the city, which plans to spend four million dollars during the next ten years improving the facilities and landscaping.

BLOCK 19, 5-ACRE PLAT A.

NINTH SOUTH STREET



LIBERTY PARK
List of Sites

Key for Buildings Listed on Map

- **1. NOHP - Tennis Court Building
2. NOHP - Bathhouse for swimming pool
- *3. Contributory - Tracy Aviary--The Tracy Aviary is a collection of small frame buildings, screen shelters, and an occasional brick building which are not of the historic period, but like the other out of period buildings are compatible with the scale, massing, and materials of the majority of the park buildings. The whole complex contributes to the integrity of the park.
4. Contributory - Rest Room Facility
5. NOHP - Childrens Playhouse
6. Contributory - Bandstand and Picnic Shelter
7. Contributory - Pagoda
8. Contributory - Rest Room Facility
9. NOHP - Police Facility (Salt Lake City Police)
10. NOHP - Covered Picnic Shelter
11. NOHP - Covered Shelter
12. NOHP - Rest Room Facility
13. Contributory - Concession Stand
14. Significant - Isaac Chase House--The Isaac Chase house, built in 1853-1854, is significant as one of a limited number of two story, adobe, vernacular homes remaining from the early days of settlement in Salt Lake City. The adobe was plastered over, chimneys are set into each end of the gable roof, and there is a boxed cornice with returns, all elements of early folk design in Utah. The five bay facade is symmetrical. A door is set between pairs of nine over one light double hung sash windows. The door is reminiscent of Greek Revival types with side lights and a multi-paned transom. The glass has been painted over or replaced with another material. The second story of the facade has been obscured by the two story porch that spans the facade. Extending from the porch is a gable roof, two story porte-cochere. There is a one and one half story rear extension which has a gable roof, and boxed cornice similar to the original structure. There have been major changes to the fenestration on the south wall of the main building, and two single story shed roof extensions have been added to the north and south sides of the rear extension. The changes made to the house were done within the historic period, reflect the need for expansion and are irreversible. The original integrity of the house is still intact.
15. Contributory - Greenhouse Complex--Newer greenhouses which have been added are not of the historic period, but are compatible with the older structures.
16. NOHP - Maintenance Garage
17. NOHP - Amusement Park Complex
18. NOHP - Concession Stand
19. Significant - Chase Mill--The Chase Mill is significant as a two story adobe building with a frame clerestory, and red sandstone foundation. The adobe was laid in common bond, and appears to have a protective plastic finish at the present time. The projecting central section has a gable roof. It and the shed roof sections on the east and west are covered with wood shingles. Six over six double hung sash windows have

been used on the adobe section lining the east and west side walls, and set in the gable ends. There are six windows each with six lights that line the east and west sides of the clerestory. There are doors on each side of the mill, with the main entrance on the south end. A wooden fan-type of ornament with the founding date, 1852, centered beneath it on the south wall serves to indicate the primary facade of the building. (National Register)

20. NOHP - Maintenance facility

Buildings that date 1930 or earlier are considered to be within the historic period.

* Contributory - refers to buildings within the historic period which are sympathetic to the park setting in style, scale, massing, and building materials which have no particular architectural or historical significance.

** NOHP - refers to buildings which are not of the historic period, but which contribute to the character of the park and are compatible in scale, massing and materials. All of the buildings in Liberty Park so designated are low, ground hugging structures built in nondescript modern styles.

There are no buildings or structures in the park that are considered intrusions.

Debbie Temme
11/18/80

LIBERTY PARK
Capsule Histories of Significant Buildings

The Isaac Chase Mill

The Isaac Chase Mill was built between 1847-1852 by Frederick Kepler and/or Phares Wells, Sr., Architect for the mill was William Weeks. There are conflicting accounts concerning the builder(s) of the mill. The milling parts were brought across the plains in 1847 and the mill was built in various stages. The present building was built in 1852. Adobe for the mill were made in an area that was known as the Church farm. This area is now part of the Forest Dale Golf Club. Several smaller structures housed the mill parts prior to this building. The mill has been noted as the first grist mill and flour mill in Utah. In 1854, Brigham Young married Clarissa Ross Chase, a step-daughter of Isaac's. In that same year, Brigham Young and Isaac Chase became partners. By this time, Chase had acquired over 100 acres around the mill site. Chase was appointed superintendent, in charge of the building of mills throughout the LDS church. In 1860, Chase was given land in Centerville by Brigham Young in exchange for his holdings on the mill and adjacent properties. In 1871, John W. Young was listed as the manager of the mill in the Pacific Coast Directory. In 1881, the land and mill were sold to Salt Lake City for development of a park. During this time, some milling appears to have taken place but the mill eventually became used as a supply shed. By 1896, there were efforts to tear the mill down, but fortunately this was never done. The city began leasing the mill to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers in 1933 for \$1.00 a year. The adobe and wood building began deteriorating and in 1970, restoration work started on the building. The building is now restored and open to the public in the summer months. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Isaac Chase House

The Isaac Chase House was built in 1853-1854 after the completion of the mill located to the south of the building. Prior to this, Chase and his family resided in a one-room structure on their lot in the Big Field. The house was built of adobe made in the adobe pits located in the area known then as Church Farm. This area is now incorporated in the area of the Forest Dale Golf Club. Isaac and his family resided there until 1860 when they moved to the family home located on State Street in Salt Lake City. He died there in 1861. The house was located in the property that Brigham Young acquired from Chase in exchange for some land in Centerville. George Ogden Chase, a son of Isaac built a house on the property in Centerville. The house was in possession of the Young Family until 1881 when the city purchased the property. After the city purchased the area that would become Liberty Park, the groundskeeper of the park resided there. The house is now used as a relic hall for the DUP at the present time and is open during the summer months.