



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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 the form 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 Deseret Relief Society Hall other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 4365 South 4000 West N/A not for publication city or town Deseret N/A vicinity state Utah code UT county Millard code zip code 84624

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 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. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action Edson A. Beall 12.13.95

Deseret Relief Society Hall
Name of Property

Deseret, Millard 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

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 WOOD
roof METAL
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

Deseret Relief Society Hall
Name of Property

Deseret, Millard 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

1906-1934

Significant Dates

1906

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

Deseret Relief Society Hall
Name of Property

Deseret, Millard County, Utah
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 3/5/7/5/2/5 4/3/5/0/0/5/0
Zone Easting Northing

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

C / / / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

N.W. corner Lot 2, Block 28, located in Section 16, Township 42 South, Range 16 West, Salt Lake Base and Meridian, being more particularly described as follows:

The boundary proceeds 138.5 feet East, 90 feet South, thence West 138.5 feet, and North 90 feet. The building on the lot is approximately 24' by 38'.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those that have been historically, and continue to be, associated with the building.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Utah SHPO Staff

organization Utah State Historic Preservation Office

date September 1995

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 D.U.P. Fanny Powell Cropper Camp, c/o Aprilla D. Scow

street & number 4505 S. 4000 W.

telephone (801)864-3603

city or town Deseret

state UT zip code 84624

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, Millard, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Millard, DC 20503.

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Deseret Relief Society Hall, Deseret, Mittard County, UT

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Narrative Description

The Deseret Relief Society Hall, built in 1906, is approximately 24' by 38', and is located on the main road running north and south through Deseret, Highway 257. The building is located on a rectangular lot approximately 138 feet by 90 feet. The site is not landscaped at the present time.

The Deseret Relief Society Hall is a modestly decorated wood frame structure that has a stone foundation. This simple Victorian Eclectic style building incorporates most of its decoration into the entrance porch located in the west-facing gable end. The gable roof of the porch uses cornice returns to provide a Classical a quality, that is mixed with Queen Anne detailing in the lathe-turned columns with spindled brackets. The entrance door is a simple paneled wood door with a transom that has been boarded over. The window openings, one on either side of the entrance door, and three on each side elevation, have simple wood frames. The existing windows were taken from the old church building to be use a temporary measure to protect the building and will soon be replaced. A set of double doors (currently two different types of paneled wood doors that are slated for replacement) are in the rear elevation. The exterior walls are finished with novelty siding with corner boards. The main roof is a simple gable roof with a narrow cornice, simply detailed. The current roof covering is sheet metal. The overall condition of the building is good and the historic integrity has been maintained.

The interior of the building is one large room with a small stage in the east end and remains much as it was when used by the Relief Society. Current plans are to repaint, replace the doors in the east end, replace all the windows, repair the main floor and the stage floor, and install new electrical wiring and fixtures.

___ See continuation sheet

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Deseret Relief Society Hall, Deseret, Millard County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Deseret Relief Society Hall, completed in 1906, is locally significant as the oldest remaining LDS Church building in the pioneer community of Deseret. Some of the religious functions continued in the historic hall until the completion of the LDS meetinghouse in 1934. It also served as a school, a Boy Scouts of America meeting place, and other community events. It is now being restored to serve as a museum of Relief Society and pioneer memorabilia and a meeting hall. Relief Society halls are important in describing women's role in the community and the LDS church during the later half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This building is eligible within the associated context "Relief Society Buildings in Utah, 1870's-1910" of the National Register of Historic Places multiple property listing "Mormon Church Buildings in Utah, 1847-1936".

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LDS RELIEF SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

The Latter-day Saint Relief Society was established in 1842 when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was headquartered in Nauvoo, Illinois. The organization was relatively dormant until the 1850's when it was revived by a few groups of women. In 1867 a church wide initiative was undertaken to reorganize the Relief Society permanently. Women's Relief Society activities included the production of clothing, quilts and other household goods, grain collection and storage, silk production, assistance to the needy, health care services, preparation of the dead for burial, and the spiritual upliftment of the women themselves.

Women's Relief Societies operated with a surprising degree of autonomy, considering that men in the LDS Church held exclusive rights to priesthood and leadership positions. Relief Societies were organized by ward (congregation), each with its own female leadership, orchestrated by the general Presidency of the Relief Society located at the LDS Church Headquarters in Salt Lake City. As independent and active community organizations, most Relief Society groups found it necessary to construct buildings to accommodate their activities. The women raised funds for their buildings through various small fund raising projects, while cash, labor and materials were often provided by the male ward members.

A shift in Church policy soon after the turn of the century brought an end to the construction of independent Relief Society buildings. New ward meetinghouses began to incorporate spaces for the Relief Society and other auxiliary functions into their designs. Several Church activities were also being phased out, such as collection of in-kind tithing and cooperative merchandising, eliminating the need for associated buildings. The physical consolidation of church functions that took place in the early twentieth century is reflective of the Church's changing role in Utah society. Though still the dominant social and religious influence in the state, the Church was no longer involved in the "Kingdom Building" activities of the 19th century. It no longer sponsored new

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Deseret Relief Society Hall, Deseret, Millard County, UT

settlements or became involved in the generation of a community's economic vitality. The refutation of the polygamy doctrine by the Church in 1890, the achievement of Utah Statehood in 1896, and the increasing influence of American society on Utah culture combined to reduce the role of the Church as a regulator of the state's political, social, and economic matters.

Relief Societies played a significant role in nineteenth and early twentieth century LDS communities. They originally provided many of the social services that are now considered the duty of government or private industry, such as welfare assistance, the production of clothing and household necessities, funeral preparations, and health care. The buildings constructed by Relief Society groups represent the significant contribution of this women's organization to the development of Utah's communities.

BRIEF HISTORY OF DESERET AND RELIEF SOCIETY HALL

Deseret is located on the Sevier River, in Millard County. It was first settled in 1860 when the first dam was constructed. However, each year between 1862-68 the dams broke destroying all of the crops. This, along with the threat of Indian attack, discouraged the settlers. They abandoned the area between 1868-74 except for a few stockmen who wintered in the empty houses.¹

Deseret was again settled in 1875 when a dam was completed that allowed the crops to be successfully raised and harvested. The local LDS ward was re-established in 1877. The Relief Society in Deseret was first organized on September 7, 1877, with Mary Ann Warren as the president and Bell Lambert and Victory Black as the counselors. The early group consisted of sixteen women who met in each others homes until 1878 when a new president, Eliza Whicker, initiated the building of a large one-room adobe hall (no longer existing). In 1894 the members of the Relief Society (sisters) decided they should build a new Relief Society hall. They began raising money for the building of this hall, donating and saving what they could. Then they were called on by Relief Society in Salt Lake City to contribute to the building of the New General Relief Society Hall in Salt Lake. They sent all of their funds they had been saving for their new hall to Salt Lake City; therefore, the building of their hall was delayed.

The fourth president of the Deseret Relief Society, Amelia Cahoon, instigated the building of the existing Relief Society Hall near the church house. The land, a lot located across the street and east of the chapel, was donated by William V. and Victoria Black. Funds were raised by members of the Relief Society and labor was donated by men of the church ward. The Relief Society also sold the adobe hall, and they built the new one for a cost of \$743.65, paying \$617.65 for the building, \$35.00 for the cupboards, \$21.00 for the gas lights, \$15.00 for an organ, \$25.00 for a stove, and \$30.00 for the fence. An outhouse was built later for a cost of \$21.00.² A granary was

¹ Milestones of Millard County, Utah. Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

² Relief Society Meeting Minutes.

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Deseret Relief Society Hall, Deseret, Millard County, UT

also located behind the hall, but the date of construction, exact location, and period of use is unknown.³ The outhouse and granary no longer exist.

The Relief Society women were in charge of storing wheat, as well as caring of the sick and raising money to support missionaries and temple construction. The Relief Society held their meetings and activities in the existing hall from 1906 until 1934, when they moved into the new ward building across the street.

The Deseret Relief Society Hall is the oldest remaining LDS Church building in the community; it also served many other functions over the years. After the church house burned in 1929, the Deseret Relief Society Hall was used for church services for several years. It was also used as a school when the A.C. Nelson school partially burned. The structure was used by the Boy Scouts of America for their meetings for several years. Other community uses of the building included entertainment such as town dances and picture shows. An upholstery business used the space prior to the Deseret Irrigation Company operating their business here beginning about 1965. It has been used as storage space for several years before deeding the property to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Fanny Powell Cropper Camp on February 7, 1995. It is currently awaiting restoration to be used as a meeting hall for the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers members, to display pioneer memorabilia, and as a center for community members to hold meetings and reunions.

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.⁴ The Deseret Relief Society Hall is 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, seven have been listed on the National Register.

1. Washington Relief Society Hall, Washington County
2. Beaver Relief Society Hall, Beaver County
3. Beaver Relief Society Hall, Beaver County
4. loof Relief Home, Summit County
5. Weber Stake Relief Society Building, Weber County
6. Wellsville Relief Society Meeting House, Cache County
7. Santa Clara Relief Society House, Washington County

Because of their rarity, the registration requirements established by the Multiple Property submission focus only on age and integrity.

___ See continuation sheet

³ Deseret Ward Relief Society History.

⁴ David L. Schirer, "Mormon Church Buildings in Utah, 1847-1936" Multiple Property submittal. (Copy available at Utah SHPO.) 1988.

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Deseret Relief Society Hall, Deseret, Millard 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.
- 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.
- Milestones of Millard County, Utah. Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.
- Relief Society Meeting Minutes, 1906, 1917.
- Relief Society History Book, 1980.
- Wallace, Ann. History of Deseret.

___ See continuation sheet

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Section No. PHOTOS Page 6

Deseret Relief Society Hall, Deseret, Millard County, UT

Common Label Information:

1. Deseret Relief Society Hall
2. Deseret, Millard County, Utah
3. Photographer: Roger Roper
4. Date: August 1995
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

6. Southwest elevation of building. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 2:

6. Northeast elevation of building. Camera facing southwest.