

Property Type: _____

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. _____

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 87 East 800 South UTM: 12 429240 4645660
 Lewiston, Cache County
 Name of Structure: Lewiston Tithing Office and Granary T. R. S.
 (Tithing Office and Granary of the Mormon Church)
 Present Owner: Linda Elizabeth Lewis
 Owner Address: 87 East 800 South
 Lewiston, Utah 84320
 Year Built (Tax Record): _____ Effective Age: _____ Tax #: 09-022-0039
 Legal Description: _____ Kind of Building: _____

Commencing 360 ft E of SW corner of the SW 1/4 of Section 9 T14N R1E, thence E 300 ft, N 161.8 ft, W 300 ft, S 161.8 ft to beginning. 1.11 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Mormon Church Construction Date: 1898; c1905 Demolition Date: _____
 Original Use: Tithing Office; tithing granary Present Use: Residence; barn
 Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:
 Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
 Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resource
 Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1983 Slide No.: _____ Date of Photographs: 1983 Photo No.: _____
 Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:
 Abstract of Title Sanborn Maps Newspapers U of U Library
 Plat Records/Map City Directories Utah State Historical Society BYU Library
 Tax Card & Photo Biographical Encyclopedias Personal Interviews USU Library
 Building Permit Obituary Index LDS Church Archives SLC Library
 Sewer Permit County & City Histories LDS Genealogical Society Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Taggart, Mr. and Mrs. Edis. Interview, June 14, 1983, Lewiston, Utah.

Researcher: Roger Roper

Date: 9/84

Architect/Builder: Unknown/ Johnson & Worley

Building Materials: Brick; wood

Building Type/Style: Side Passage/Italianate; Rectangular/Side Entrance

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Lewiston Tithing Office, built in 1898, is a two story brick Italianate box. Characteristic of the Italianate Style in Utah architecture is the long rectangular box form with a rectangular bay projecting from the north half of the west facade, the low pitch of the hip roof with a slight overhang, the arrangement of openings on the facade with the door to one side flanked by a window and topped by a pair of windows, the division of stories with a brick string course, the small hood over the front door which repeats the low pitch and overhang of the roof, and the hood-shaped stone headers accented with keystones. The entrance hood has a decorative spindle band, and is supported by functional brackets.

A side entrance often indicates the presence of a side passage on the interior, a plan that is also characteristic of the Italianate Style. The Lewiston Tithing Office, however, was designed with no hall at the front of the building. Entrance through the front door was into a large living room that spanned the width of the house. Behind that room the space was unevenly divided into three spaces: one moderate sized room on the west side, originally used as a kitchen, and a square hall with a spiral staircase behind which was small, rectangular pantry on the east side. The second floor plan
(See Continuation Page 1)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1898; c. 1905

The Lewiston Tithing Office and Granary, built in 1898 and 1905, are historically significant as two of 28 well preserved tithing buildings in Utah that were part of the successful tithing system of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon church) between the 1850s and about 1910. Tithing lots, which usually included an office and several auxiliary structures, were facilities for collecting, storing, and distributing the farm products that were donated as tithing by church members in the cash-poor agricultural communities throughout the state. Tithing offices were a vital part of almost every Mormon community, serving as local centers of trade, welfare assistance, and economic activity. They were also important as the basic units of the church-wide tithing network that was centered in Salt Lake City. In addition the Lewiston Tithing Office is architecturally significant as one of the best examples of the Italianate style in Utah. It is the only extant tithing office which reflects that style. It is an Italianate box, a common Utah house type, and one of only 18 documented extant examples of this type in the state. The Italianate style was made popular in the United States primarily by house pattern books, and became a common stylistic choice in Utah by the 1870s.¹ There was great variation in the local expression of the style, ranging from vernacular to high style forms. Utah's Italianate, following a national trend for such houses, is found in three distinct forms: the large cross-wing house; the two story box; and the one story cottage. A great majority of Utah's Italianate houses were the two story box type with a side passage, built as affordable middle class houses. The Italianate style was not the preferred choice for tithing office design, but because tithing offices were of a scale comparable to residential design, the use of the Italianate style for the Lewiston Tithing Office is in keeping with the general tradition of tithing office design. The characteristic elements of the style which include rectangular massing with an attenuated verticality, a low hip roof with overhanging eaves, an entrance which is pushed to one side, projecting bays, and long, narrow windows in the Lewiston Tithing Office have
(See Continuation Page 1)

Lewiston Tithing Office
Description Continued:

was identical to the first floor plan. There were two large bedrooms and a closet. After 1914 the interior spaces were changed to accommodate the needs of the large Taggart family living there. The staircase was moved from the back half of the building to the east side of the front room. The space freed by the removal of the stairs in conjunction with the pantry space was made into a kitchen, and the former kitchen area became a dining room. A long, closed porch was added to the north side of the building, half of which was later made into a cellar for fruits and vegetables. The second floor was more dramatically altered, not only by the change in the location of the stairs, but also by being divided into several additional bedrooms. These changes to the interior of the building are major, but none of them is reflected on the exterior. With the exception of the addition of the rear porch, a change which is completely unobtrusive, the Lewiston Tithing Office is unaltered. It is in excellent condition and because the addition of the rear porch is a minor alteration, it maintains its original integrity.

Tithing Granary

The Lewiston Tithing Granary is a one and one half story rectangular frame building with a gable roof. A porch spans the south side of the building. A door is centered on the south wall, flanked by a large square door on each side. There are single doors on the gable ends at the level of the top half story. The granary's form is identical to a majority of other granaries in the Lewiston area, which are specifically characterized by a rectangular form with a porch and door on the broad side of the building. Unlike most other granaries in the immediate vicinity which exhibit false timbering, having walls of 2 x 3 inch boards stacked horizontally, rising in even rows, overlapping and spiked at the corners, the Lewiston granary has a balloon frame. Granaries with an exposed balloon frame and an interior wall of siding that forms a crib for the storage of grain or corn, commonly referred to as "inside out" granaries, were the rule in Utah except in localized areas such as Cache Valley where granaries with false timbering were predominant. The Lewiston granary has a balloon frame that has both an interior and an exterior wall of siding. The exterior wall is constructed of drop siding. The two large square doors which now open into stalls are probably not original, but were added when the building was adapted for use as a barn. Although the barn doors are major additions which affect the original character of the building, the building is still recognizable as a granary. It is likely that the adaptation of the building has insured its continued use.

Lewiston Tithing Office and Granary
Significance Continued:

been expressed in a simple statement of the Italianate aesthetic. It is a particularly elegant example of the Italianate box. Of the 18 documented extant examples of the two story box Italianate house in Utah, seven have been listed in the National Register, one has been determined eligible for listing, three are eligible for listing, and seven are not eligible for listing.²

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Lewiston Tithing Office and Granary
Significance Continued:

Other examples of the Italianate style listed in the National Register include: the Charles R. Savage House, 80 D Street (cross-wing type), and the Howe C. Wallace House, 474 Second Avenue (cottage type), in the Avenues Historic District, Salt Lake City; the Lewis S. Hills House, 126 South 200 West, Salt Lake City (cross-wing type); and the David McDonald House, 4659 Highland Drive, Salt Lake City (cross-wing type).

The Lewiston Tithing Office was built in 1898 on 5 acres of land that had been donated to the LDS church by Harvey M. Rawlins. It was built by Johnson & Worley, a construction firm from the nearby town of Logan, who also built the Lewiston 1st Ward chapel (demolished). The brick for this building and for some of the other brick buildings in the area were made at the local brickyard southeast of town. Also built on the tithing property was a barn, a large granary, and a root cellar. The granary is still standing, but the barn was burned to the ground in 1970, and the root cellar was demolished, except for the back wall, c. 1920 and a long shed was built on the front. The tithing yard also housed the tithing livestock, and large haystacks to feed the animals that were located on the property. There were also two wells on the property.

In 1914, the tithing yard, including the office and all the out buildings, was sold by the church to Fred Taggart, a local farmer. The facility apparently exceeded the needs of the church as in-kind tithing contributions were replaced by cash during the early years of the twentieth century. The Taggarts converted the office into their house and rearranged the floor plan to accommodate the needs of their large family of 9 children. The property was owned by Taggart family members until 1980, when it was sold to the current owners.

The Lewiston Tithing Office is larger than most other tithing offices in the state, and its Italianate styling is much more residential in appearance. As a tithing office, the building was the central headquarters of all the activities of the tithing yard - the collection and disbursement of tithing commodities, feeding the tithing animals, bookkeeping, etc. The office also served as the center for certain religious functions, including weekly prayer circles held in one of the upstairs rooms.

Notes

¹A/P Associates Planning and Research, Salt Lake City Architectural and Historical Survey Area, (Salt Lake City, 1983), p. 146.

²Of the 18 examples of the two story box Italianate house, the following have been listed in the National Register or determined eligible for listing:

1. William Morrow House, 390 Quince Street, SLC, Capitol Hill Historic District, listed 1982.
2. Jonathan C. & Eliza K. Royle House, 635 East 100 South, SLC, listed 1983.

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Lewiston Tithing Office and Granary
History Continuation:

Notes: (Continued)

3. Frederick A. E. Meyer House, 929 East 200 South, SLC, listed 1983.
4. Albert H. Kelly House, 418 South 200 West, SLC, listed 1983.
5. Joseph E. Smith House, 615 First Avenue, Avenues Historic District, listed 1980.
6. John C. Sharp House, Vernon, Utah, listed 1984.
7. John T. Rich House, 275 W. Clark, Grantsville, listed 1984.
8. Charles R. Snelgrove House, 744 South West Temple, SLC, determined eligible for listing 1983.