

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 15A). Complete this form 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 Midway Social Hall

other names/site number Midway Opera House, Bishop's Storehouse

2. Location

street & number 71 East Main Street

N/A not for publication

city or town Midway

N/A vicinity

state Utah code UT county Wasatch

code 051 zip code 84049

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.)

Wilson Mat

6/27/95

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.
 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Custanietta Allee

8/10/95

Midway Social Hall
Name of Property

Midway, Wasatch 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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL:meeting hall
RECREATION AND CULTURE:auditorium
RELIGION

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SUBSISTENCE:processing
STORAGE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE
roof WOOD:shingle
other WOOD

Narrative Description

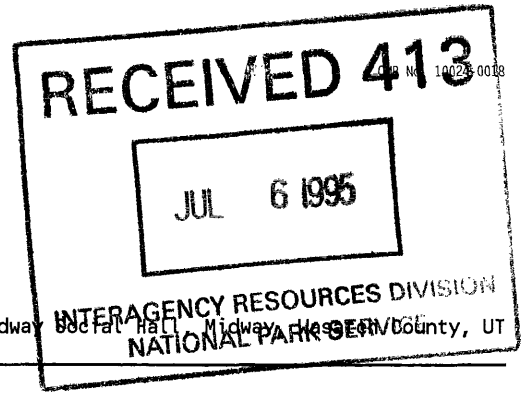
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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



Narrative Description

Built in 1898, the Midway Social Hall is a one-story building constructed of "pot rock" and incorporates simple architectural features suggestive of the Greek Revival Style. Located on a level site in the central part of Midway, the Midway Social Hall has a prominent location on the town's main street. The building encompasses most of the lot, leaving little room for landscaping. A small building is connected to a portion of the east elevation, there is a small lawn with parking along the front of the building, a driveway along the west side, and a small yard area in the rear. A fence surrounds the sides and rear of the property.

The building's foundation and exterior walls are constructed of "pot rock", a local limestone material laid in a coursed rubble masonry pattern with tooled mortar joints, and are twenty-one inches thick. It is a one-part block structure and has a symmetrical principal facade that incorporates modest architectural features such as tall wood double-hung windows with wood pedimented lintels that reflect the Greek Revival Style and date from the original construction. The entry appears to have been modified during the 1940s remodeling with the placement of a stucco molding surrounding triple light wood doors and a large transom.

The west facade has four small double-hung windows. The east facade features two windows similar to those on the west. Two loading docks and an entry way into the basement are located on the north (rear) elevation. The eave height is eighteen feet with a modest wood cornice and six inch overhang. The building has a hip roof with asphalt shingles.

The original interior was described as a large open hall bounded on the south side by a small foyer and on the north side by a stage.¹ The interior contains a total of 6,879 square feet consisting of a main floor, partial basement and attic area over the front portion. The interior was substantially remodelled in the 1940's when it became a church canning and food storage facility. Currently the building is divided into spaces for food preparation, canning and storage.

The building which connects to a portion of the social hall's east elevation has a stepped gable roof and is also of pot rock. The buildings are owned and operated separately.

There are no visible signs of settlement or major cracking and the building has maintained its integrity. Minimal changes have occurred in the building's appearance since the historic period. The entry doors have been replaced with hollow wood doors and aluminum storm windows have been applied over the front windows. Overall, the building maintains its historic integrity and contributes to the historic character of Midway.

___ See continuation sheet

¹ Simmons, Wendy E. and Heather M. Weymouth. "The Historic Midway Social Hall". Unpublished, 1994, p.4.

Midway Social Hall
Name of Property

Midway, Wasatch 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)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1898-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

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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Midway Social Hall, Midway, Wasatch County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Midway Social Hall is historically significant for its role as a community meeting place and center for cultural performances in the town of Midway. It is one of only a few known remaining social halls out of many constructed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (L.D.S.) communities in the second half of the nineteenth century. From its construction in 1898 to the building the Town Hall in 1940, Midway's Social Hall functioned as the primary meeting place for community activities and celebrations and for religious and town meetings. It housed most of the limited amusements available to residents of the town at the turn of the century. In addition the building is important for its building material, "pot rock", a local stone used frequently in the late nineteenth century in Midway.

MIDWAY HISTORY:

Soon after the Mormon pioneers arrived in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake in 1847, they began to explore and occupy surrounding areas. Urged on and even "called" to settle uninhabited areas by their leader, Brigham Young, they sought lands that would be suitable for ranching and farming. Among the many areas they occupied was what is now known as Heber Valley. Settlement first occurred in the valley during the summer of 1859 along Snake Creek. A community known as Mound City developed along the higher elevations of Snake Creek while a larger group was forming three to four miles downstream. Both communities grew until there were approximately fifty families living along Snake Creek in 1862. The threat of Indian attack during the Blackhawk War (1866-68) forced the settlers to consolidate these two smaller communities within one fort. Each side desired the fort be constructed at their location. A compromise was reached and all agreed to build the fort mid-way between the two communities, hence Midway was born.

Fort Midway was built and by the fall of 1866 all of the inhabitants of the area had moved into their fortress. By 1868 peace was established, and the settlers abandoned their homes within the fort and settled along the adjacent surveyed streets of the Town of Midway. The fort was removed and the site served, and still serves, as the Public Square of Midway.

By 1891 Midway had grown large enough that it became necessary to create separate civil and theological administrations and on June 31 of that year Midway was incorporated as a town. During the last years of the nineteenth century Midway experienced a mining boom which brought prosperity to the town.²

² Mitchell, Mabel, Editor. Midway Second Ward and Midway Reflections, 1859-1989. Provo, UT: Community Press, 1990.

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Midway Social Hall, Midway, Wasatch County, UT

SOCIAL HALLS IN UTAH:

Unlike other Christian movements of the nineteenth century, the L.D.S. religion emphasized the educational and recreational importance of the performing arts. Its leaders believed that the events were virtuous and lovely and that they strengthened community ties.³ Dances, musical performances, and theatrical productions provided amusement for early Mormons. Excelling in the arts, music, dances, drama, and other forms of cultural expression was considered sacred obligation and while individual works were appreciated, those requiring unified action and cooperation were favored.⁴ Church leader Brigham Young, considered the patron of the Salt Lake stage said, "The people must have amusements."⁵ The social hall became an integral part of Mormon life quite early in the church's history. In Nauvoo, the city Mormons established in Illinois before emigrating to Utah, a "Fun Hall," or combination theatre and dance hall was built.⁶ Almost immediately after arriving in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, the Bowery, an un-enclosed structure, was constructed for dramatic performances. In 1852 Brigham Young encouraged the construction of the Salt Lake Social Hall in 1852, the first amusement hall built in the state.

The Salt Lake Social Hall housed performances, but should not simply be called a theatre because of the diversity of functions housed under its roof. The Salt Lake Social Hall was the center for community activities of all kinds. It was used for amusements such as dances, plays and other entertainment, but also for religious and civic gatherings. By 1861 the Salt Lake Social Hall had become inadequate in size and the Salt Lake Theater was constructed. (The foundation is all that remains of the Salt Lake Social Hall, and is preserved in an interpretive ruin on Social Hall Avenue.)

The smaller Mormon communities followed Salt Lake City's example and in the late nineteenth-century social halls were built in many Utah settlements. Towns often formed their own dramatic associations for theatrical productions. During the mid to late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, fun halls, amusement halls, social halls, and opera houses were terms used interchangeably for buildings that were all-purpose halls. They functioned as theaters, meeting-places, dance halls, political and religious structures and housed other community events. The buildings themselves were usually unostentatious rectangular block structures with simple classical details. Two social halls were built in Midway, the Van Wagonen Hall (at approximately 45 South 100 West),⁷ and the Midway Social Hall. (The Van Wagonen Hall has since been demolished.)

³ Maughan, Ila Fisher. Pioneer Theatre in the Desert. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 1961, p.7.

⁴ Encyclopedic History of Latter-day Saints Church, p.1378.

⁵ Whitney, Orson F. History of Utah. Vol. 1. Salt Lake City: George Cannon and Sons Publishers, p.501.

⁶ Lyndsay, John S. The Mormons and the Theatre. 1905, p.4.

⁷ Mitchell, Mabel. Midway Second Ward and Midway Reflections, 1859-1989.

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Midway Social Hall, Midway, Wasatch County, UT

MIDWAY SOCIAL HALL:

The site of the Midway Social Hall was part of a grant of 120 acres given to the "inhabitants of the Townsite of Midway" in May of 1872. On August 5, 1873 a portion of that parcel, which included the future location of the Social Hall, was given to one of Midway's early and prominent citizens, David Van Wagoner. On January 31, 1881 Van Wagoner sold a segment of his land, including the Social Hall site, to the "Bonner Bros.", William, Thomas, Robert James Bonner, and the principal owner, George Bonner Jr.

Halls or places for amusements and other community events in Midway were scarce. Van Wagoner Recreation Hall was continually over-booked. Seeing the need for a new facility which would serve the community's social and cultural events in Midway, George Jr. decided to construct a hall on his property.

This desire for another hall is highlighted by an excerpt from the journal of Moroni Gerber, the son of Midway's first doctor, John Gerber:

"Sometime in the late fall of 1894 or 95, the Primary arranged for a children's dance to be held in the Van Wagoner Hall. Accordingly, I took my children in the wagon to town, and to my surprise and disgust, I found the primary children very much disappointed. The hall had been rented to a travelling troop and it was being arranged for a play of some kind. In talking with a number of parents and the president of the Primary, I told them to submit to the abuse and not to make any trouble for the management of the play. I further said that we would have a hall of our own by another year. This statement I soon forgot, but I was reminded of it the next February by Charles Bronson. He asked me when we were going to start to build the hall. It was a surprise to me, having thought no more of my past remark. He said the boys were ready to go. All they lacked was a building leader. He further stated that I'd have plenty of support if I'd go ahead. I immediately proposed a meeting for the following evening to select a building committee. I was delighted to have about thirty of the leading young men present and anxious to go ahead and build the hall." (Moroni Gerber was one of the original incorporators of the Midway Hall Company).⁸

In March of 1893, under the direction of Bonner, thirty-three of Midway's citizens signed a petition and legally formed the Midway Hall Company. George Bonner Jr. was elected director and president of the company. On March 23, 1893 Phebie A. and George Bonner Jr. and Eliza and William Bonner transferred title of the then vacant property to the Midway Hall Company for a price of \$1,415.00. This property was the primary asset of the Midway Hall Company.

The Midway Social Hall was built in 1898 using local labor paid for with shares in the Midway Hall Company. It was constructed out of the popular local building material, "pot rock," a porous limestone

⁸ Ibid.

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Midway Social Hall, Midway, Wasatch County, UT

formed by "hot pots" or hot springs in the area. The stone was quarried from the ground by cutting the rock off of the surface. "Pot Rock" made a good building material because it was easily obtained and provided good insulation. As a result, numerous buildings in Midway and Heber were constructed out of the rock.⁹

George Johnson, a life-time resident of Midway described the original interior of the hall as a small foyer which opened into a large open room with a stage on the opposite (north) end.¹⁰ As an opera house, the hall contained a stage featuring a roll-up curtain painted by the pioneer artist, Mark Kirby.

Beginning with an opening dance on Christmas Eve in 1898, and continuing for almost a half-century, the Hall was the location for Midway's community events. George Johnson describes early events at the Hall to include travelling theatre troops on Friday nights and dances with live bands on Saturday nights.¹¹ Amusements such as box suppers, operas, dramas, plays, speeches, concerts and dances were held with Midway's orchestra performing. In addition the building was the location for celebrations and community functions. Wedding receptions were held in the hall. On the fourth and twenty-fourth of July the building housed banquets, patriotic programs and dances in the evening for the adults.¹² During World War I a large dinner was held at the hall for the local soldiers before they marched to the Heber City Railroad Depot where they boarded the trains to depart for the war.¹³

On August 2, 1910, the Midway Hall Company was dissolved and George Bonner Jr. bought back full title of the building and lot for \$3,190.00. Upon his death March 15, 1913, the local L.D.S. wards began negotiations for the purchase of the property. It took some time to settle all of his accounts, so it was not until February 11, 1916, that the Midway 1st and Midway 2nd Corporations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints obtained title for \$3,200.¹⁴

The church continued operating the building as a social hall until 1940 when the new Town Hall was completed. Since that time the Midway Social Hall served as a cannery, a bishop's storehouse and a welfare storage center. The Midway Social Hall changed names and functions throughout the years. It was originally known as the Midway Opera House, the Amusement Hall, and the Midway Social Hall (the name longest associated with the structure). On December 2, 1994 the hall was sold to the

⁹ Midway School National Register nomination, 1978. John Huber House and Creamery National Register nomination, 1988.

¹⁰ Simmons, Wendy E. and Heather M. Weymouth. "The Historic Midway Social Hall." 1994, p. 4.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 4.

¹² Mitchell, Mabel. Midway Second Ward and Midway Reflections, 1859-1989.

¹³ "Midway hall at center of town drama." Deseret News. 4 October 1994.

¹⁴ Mitchell, Mabel. Midway Second Ward and Midway Reflections, 1859-1989.

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Midway Social Hall, Midway, Wasatch County, UT

Midway Boosters Club. Although the Boosters Club has plans to restore the building, it is presently being used for storage and canning.

___ See continuation sheet

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Midway Social Hall, Midway, Wasatch County, UT

Bibliography

"Articles of Agreement of the Midway Hall Company."

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.

"Chronology of Historical Events in Midway." Wasatch Wave, 29 May 1991.

Dalgeish, Marie from the works of Verna B. Probst. An Historical Buildings Tour of Midway, Utah, Volume I. Midway Historical Commission, 1990.

Lyndsay, John S. The Mormons and the Theatre. 1905.

Maughan, Ila Fisher. Pioneer Theatre in the Desert. Salt Lake City, UT: Deseret Book Company, 1961.

"Midway Hall at Center of Town Drama." Deseret News. 4 October 1994.

"Midway Meanderings." Wasatch Wave. 30 December 1898.

Midway School National Register nomination, 1978. John Huber House and Creamery National Register nomination, 1988. Burgener-Boss Farmstead National Register nomination, 1994. On file at Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

Mitchell, Mabel, Editor. Midway Second Ward and Midway Reflections, 1859-1989. Provo, UT: Midway Second Ward, printed by the Community Press, 1990.

Mortimer, William James. How Beautiful Upon the Mountains, a Centennial History of Wasatch County. Wasatch County, UT: Wasatch County Chapter of the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1963.

Varley, C. Ray. "Historic Site Form." Utah Office of Preservation.

Simmons, Wendy E. and Heather M. Weymouth. "The Historic Midway Social Hall." 1994.

"Special Warranty Deed" from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to Midway Boosters Club.

Whitney, Orson F. History of Utah. Volume 1, Salt Lake City, UT: George Q. Cannon and Sons Publishers. 1892.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 9 Page 8

Midway Social Hall, Midway, Wasatch County, UT

Interviews:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints building representatives: Mr. Gene Owens of the Midway area and Mr. Jack Hiatt of the headquarters office of the church.

Midway Social Hall
Name of Property

Midway, Wasatch County, Utah
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.44 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

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

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

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

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the point where the North boundary line of Main Street intersects the West boundary line of Lot No. 2, in Block No. 2, in Block No. 12 of the Midway survey of building lots, said point being two rods Northerly from the Southwest corner of said Lot No.2, as originally platted, and running thence Easterly on and along the above described line of Main Street 62-3/4 feet; thence Northerly parallel to the West boundary line of said Lot No. 2, a distance of 44 feet; thence Easterly, parallel to the South boundary line of said Lot No. 2, a distance of 25 feet; thence Northerly, parallel to the West boundary line of said Lot No. 2, a distance of 188 feet to the North boundary of said Lot; thence westerly 87-3/4 feet to the Northwest corner of said Lot No. 2; thence Southerly along the West boundary line of said Lot No. 2, a distance of 232 feet to the place of beginning.

Property Tax No. OBI-0092

___ 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 Jody Stock; USHPO Staff

organization Utah State Historic Preservation Office

date June 1995

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone (801) 533-3500

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT zip code 84101

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 Midway Booster Club, Inc., Grantee, c/o Roger Urry

street & number P.O. Box 557,

telephone (801)

city or town Midway

state UT zip code 84049

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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Section No. PHOTOS Page 9

Midway Social Hall, Midway, Wasatch County, UT

Common Label Information:

1. Midway Social Hall
2. Midway, Wasatch County, Utah
3. Photographer: Julie Osborne
4. Date: February 1995
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

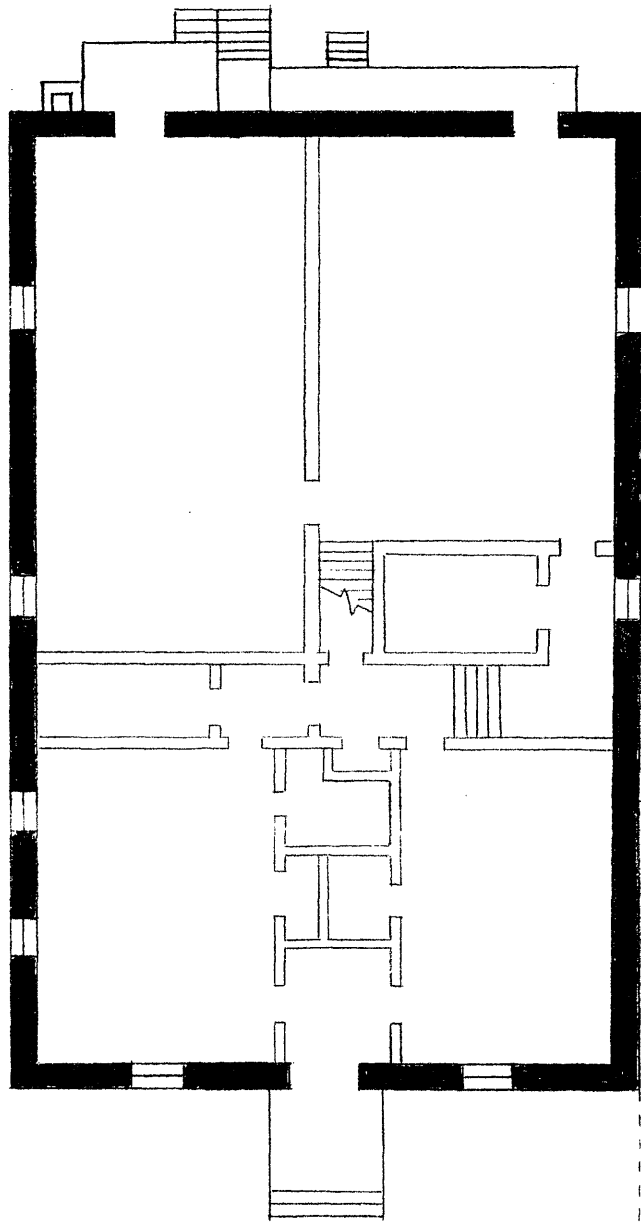
6. North elevation of building. Camera facing south.

Photo No. 2:

6. Southwest elevation of building. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 3:

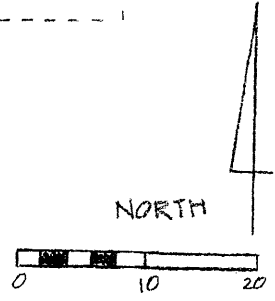
6. Southeast elevation of building. Camera facing northwest.



■ 1898
□ APPROX 1940

CONNECTED BUILDING

MIDWAY SOCIAL HALL



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000981 Date Listed: 8/10/95

Midway Social Hall
Property Name

Wasatch County UT State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

fn *Autaweta Delee*
Signature of the Keeper

8/10/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Criteria Considerations, A is checked because the property is associated with a religious institution.

This information was confirmed with Julie Osborne of the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)