

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: SW Corner 100 West and 100 North UTM: 12 290450 4123520
 Leeds, Washington County
 Name of Structure: Leeds Tithing Office T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Joseph W. and Hilma O. Brown Beesly
 Beesly Music Company
 Owner Address: 2142 South 1100 East
 Salt Lake City, UT 84105
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: L 47
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Commencing at the SE corner of Lot 1, Block 14, Leeds City Survey; thence W'ly on S line of said Lot 1 145 ft, N'ly 64 ft, E'ly 145 ft, S'ly along E line of said Lot 1 on Main Street 64 ft to point of beginning. .21 acres.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Mormon Church Construction Date: 1891-92 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: Tithing Office Present Use: Vacant
 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: 9-183-1-83 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1984 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.):

Index of LDS - Utah Historic Sites. Available in LDS Church Archives.

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials: Stone

Building Type/Style: Greek Revival

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Leeds Tithing Office is a one story stone rectangular building, 19 x 30 feet with a gable roof and a chimney at the east end. It was built of coursed ashlar, and has corner stones that resemble quoins. It has a wide cornice which returns on the ends reflecting Greek Revival influences. The Greek Revival style was the dominating stylistic influence in both religious and residential buildings in Utah until about the 1880s. The arrangement of the openings of the building is unusual, lacking the gable end orientation and balance that was common in this type of building. There is a door and window in the south side, two windows on the east side facing the main road, one window in the west side, and an off center door on the north side. Each of the windows is the six over four double hung sash type, and all of the openings with the exception of the door on the north side have red sandstone lintels. The main door set deep into the south wall has a red sandstone sill and red sandstone steps leading to it. The building is virtually unaltered, and is in excellent condition, therefore maintaining its original integrity.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1891-92

Built in 1891-92, the Leeds Tithing Office is historically significant as one 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.

Records of the Leeds Ward of the LDS church report the following: "A substantial rock tithing office, 19x30 feet with a cellar, was built in 1891-92. It was surrounded by a rock fence."¹ Although many, if not most tithing offices had fences around them, this is the only remaining example of a tithing office with a stone fence. The building was constructed to serve as the center for the collection, storage, and distribution of tithing commodities that were donated by members of the local ward. The bishop of the Leeds Ward administered the affairs of the tithing office. Leeds, like most other Utah towns during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, was a small, cash-poor agricultural community, therefore tithes were "in kind" contributions - farm products or livestock. By at least the 1920s, however, cash was much more plentiful and replaced the "in kind" contributions, resulting in either the vacancy of change in use of the tithing office. The Leeds Ward continued to own the building in 1968, perhaps using it as a meeting place for auxiliary church groups as was often done with old tithing offices. The current owners purchased the building from the ward in 1968.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Leeds Tithing Office
History Continued:

Notes

¹"Index of LDS-Utah Historic Sites," LDS Church Archives.