

Structure/Site Information Form

Street Address: 00268 W 100 S

UTM: 12/424180/4513120
T. 01.0 S R. 01.0 W S. 01

Name of Structure: Japanese Church of Christ

Present Owner: JAPANESE CHURCH OF CHRIST*
268 W 100 S

Owner Address: SLC, UTAH 84101

Year Built (Tax Record): Legal Description Effective Age: 01 Kind of Building: OTHER Tax #: 01 2838

COM 70 FT E FR SW COR LOT 4 BLK 78 PLAT A SLC SUR E 75 FT N 10 RDS W 75 FT S 10 RDS TO BEG

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Japanese Church of Christ

Construction Date: 1924

Demolition Date:

Original Use: religious

Present Use: religious

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

- Excellent
- Good
- Deteriorated
- Site
- Ruins
- Unaltered
- Minor Alterations
- Major Alterations
- Significant
- Contributory
- Not Contributory
- Not of the Historic Period
- National Landmark
- National Register
- State Register
- District
- Multi-Resource
- Thematic

Photography:

Date of Slides:

Slide No.:

Date of Photographs: fall/spring, 1978-1979

Photo No.:

Views: Front Side Rear Other

Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:

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

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

Salt Lake County Records.
 Salt Lake City Building Permit, October 11, 1924, #B248.
 R. L. Polk and Company, Salt Lake City Directories, 1900-1930.
 Alice Kasai and Helen Z. Papanikolas, "Japanese Life in Utah," Peoples of Utah, Helen Z. Papanikolas, ed. Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society, 1976, pp. 333-362.
 Japanese Church of Christ, Salt Lake City Japanese Church of Christ 50th Anniversary, 1918-1968, Salt Lake City: 1968.

Architect/Builder: /E. Chytraus

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style:

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The church is a one-story brick building of Late Gothic Revival style. It features pointed Gothic windows with tracery of cast stone. This church makes an interesting contrast with the Buddhist Church across the street which was built in the same year, but attempted to show its ethnic identity by applying oriental motifs to an otherwise unchurch-like structure. The Japanese Christian Church with its Gothic style, corresponds to the mid-19th Century concept that "Gothic is the only Christian style." The building is unaltered and is in good condition.



Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1924

The Japanese Church of Christ is significant as one of the few remaining sites to have been continuously associated with ethnic minorities in Utah.

In 1884 the Japanese government lifted its ban on the immigration of its people and Japanese people began to migrate to other countries. The first Japanese came to Utah in the late 1880s and found employment mainly as railroad laborers. In 1900 there were 417 Japanese immigrants in Utah, 11 women and 406 men. By 1910 the number had increased to about 2,000, and by 1920 to nearly 3,000. Throughout the United States the new arrivals met with prejudice and discrimination. Besides being called "unhygienic shack dwellers," and "poor workers," they were seen as incapable of becoming good citizens and thus posing a threat to American democracy. To combat the hostility they met incoming Japanese immigrants developed a rich and close community life. At the center of the Japanese community was the church. Although predominantly Buddhist, Japanese communities included a substantial number of immigrants who had been converted to Christianity in Japan, and increasing numbers were converted to Christianity following their arrival here. The first Japanese Christian organization in the United States was founded in San Francisco in 1877. It was an independent organization, unaffiliated with any Christian church. In the 1880s various churches, most actively the Methodists and the Presbyterians, established missions for the Japanese in San Francisco. In Salt Lake City the Japanese Christian Church was established in October, 1918, through the cooperative efforts of the Japanese Presbyterian and Congregational Churches of the Pacific Coast. Reverend M. Kobayashi was sent by the board on October 3 to make preparations for the establishment of the church, and Reverend H. Toyatome, the first minister of the church, arrived on October 5. Officers were elected and evangelizing work was encouraged to recruit Japanese Christians to join the newly established church. The preaching field included not

268 West 100 South

5. HISTORY (continued):

only the State of Utah but also most parts of Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, and a small part of Colorado. To assist the minister in the evangelical work the Ladies Society and the Christian Endeavor Society were organized. Both a Sunday School and a Bible Class were formed, though on a small scale. In 1924, at a cost of \$30,000, the present church building was constructed. Of the \$30,000, \$20,000 came in contributions from local Japanese and American citizens, \$5,000 came from the Presbyterian Board, and \$5,000 from the American Missionary Association. In 1953 the church was separated into Nisei (first generation Japanese) and Issei (second generation Japanese) branches and they functioned as two separate groups until a merger in June 1967.