

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRRS use only
received DEC 19 1980
date entered JAN 27 1981

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Utah State Fair Grounds

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ^{10th} Tenth West and ^{5th} North Temple Streets _____ not for publication

city, town Salt Lake City _____ vicinity of congressional district 02

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Utah State Building Board

street & number Room 116 State Capitol Building

city, town Salt Lake City _____ vicinity of state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Salt Lake City and County Building

street & number 400 South State

city, town Salt Lake City _____ vicinity of state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date Summer 1980 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City _____ vicinity of state Utah

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Utah State Fairgrounds is a seventy acre area on Salt Lake City's westside that has been the site of the annual Utah State Fair since 1902. There are forty two permanent structures on the grounds, dating from 1902 to the mid-1970s. Twenty seven of the forty two buildings are contributory, while fifteen fall out of the historic period and/or are not considered to have architectural or historic significance. Most of the buildings are for exhibition purposes. A few of them were built for other purposes, serving as cafes, restrooms, and offices. The grounds reflect several phases of building activity. In the early years, the substantial structures were built: the Horticulture Building (1902), the Exhibition Hall (1905), and the Coliseum (1913). The architects of the first two buildings were Walter E. Ware and Alberto O. Treganza, prominent Utah architects. Among the buildings they designed were Salt Lake City's First Presbyterian Church, University Club Building, Aviation Club Building, F.W. Woolworth Store, Westminster College Gymnasium, the Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, and Logan's St. Anthony Catholic Church. The architects of the Coliseum were Joseph Carlos Young and his son Don Carlos Young. A son of Brigham Young, Joseph Don Carlos Young was architect of the Mormon Church for fifty years. Among his works was the LDS Church Office Building at 47 East South Temple Street. His son, Don Carlos Young, worked with his father for many years. Among the buildings he helped design were the Federal Reserve Bank Building in Salt Lake City, and the Arizona LDS Temple at Mesa. The second building phase on the Fairgrounds occurred in the 1920s when the present Grandstand and nearly a dozen other buildings were completed. In the last decade, several permanent structures have been added, some of them reflecting a movement away from the site's exclusive use as a fairground.

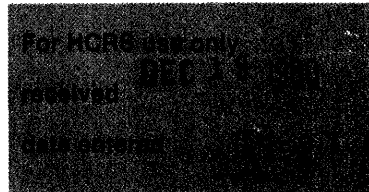
Buildings located on the Fairgrounds (see sketch map where site numbers also correspond to enclosed photographs):

Contributory Buildings

1. Horticulture Building: 1902, Designed by Walter E. Ware and Alberto Treganza, one story, hipped roof, frame and stucco exhibition hall of Beaux Arts styling.
2. Exhibition Hall: 1905, designed by Walter E. Ware, a two story, hipped roof brick hall whose large rounded arched window openings have been boarded up.
3. Floriculture Building: ca. 1920, a one story brick and frame exhibition hall with cross gable roof whose stylistic scheme reflects Craftsman influence.
4. Fish and Game Building: 1921, one story, gable roofed exhibition hall of cobblestone and frame. Side wings have flat roofs and entrances have rounded arched openings.
5. Exhibition building: 1928, one story, hipped roof, brick exhibition hall.
- 6-10. Animal Exhibition Buildings: 1928, similar one story, brick exhibition halls with jerkinhead gable roofs, triangular roof dormers, and multipane windows.

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11. Coliseum: 1913, designed by Young and Son, an oval brick building with raised central coned area and arched entrance space.
12. Crafts and Photo Building: 1928, one story brick hall with gable roof with coupled wood brackets under the eaves and segmentally arched entrance opening, which is partially enclosed.
13. Rest Rooms: ca. 1930, one story, hipped roof, brick structure.
14. Grandstand: 1925, a reinforced concrete structure with a wood roof supported by a metal truss system. Concessions are located in the rear.
15. Home Arts Building: ca. 1930, one story, brick exhibition hall with a hipped gable roof, flat roofed wall dormers, bellcast hipped cupola, and hipped roof entrance pavillion in the west.
16. Bandstand: ca. 1910, a raised open pavillion of square plan designed in the classical revival style. A pedimental dome is supported by classically derived columns.
17. Administration Building: 1929, hipped roof, two story brick structure in a twentieth century Mediterranean revival style.
18. Maintenance Building: ca. 1920, one story hipped roof brick structure with an indented front porch in the southeast.
19. Maintenance Building: ca. 1920, one story, brick bungalow.
- 20-23. Horse sheds: ca. 1930, four, open, one story, gable roofed frame buildings.
24. Swine Shed: ca. 1930, an open one story gable roofed frame building similar to the above horse sheds.
- 25-27. Hobbies Buildings: 1920s, three one story, gabled roofed frame and stucco buildings in a deteriorated condition.

Not of the Historic Period

- 28-29. Horse sheds: 1950s, two open, one story, gable roofed cinderblock structures.
30. Supervisors Office: 1950s, one story stucco building.
31. Horse stalls: 1950s, one story cinderblock building
32. Cafe: 1950s, one story cinderblock building
33. Storehouse: 1950s, one story cinderblock building

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34. Greenhouse: 1950s, one story glass building
35. Rest Rooms: 1950s, one story brick building
- 36-37. Livestock Judging Buildings: ca 1976 two, one story, gable roofed metal buildings
38. Fine Arts Building: ca 1974, one story, flat roofed stucco building
- 39.. Driver's Licensing Bureau: ca 1970, one story, flat roofed brick building
40. State License Plat Distribution Center: ca 1970, one story, flat roofed frame building
41. Commercial building: 1950s, one story cinderblock building
42. Future Farmers of America building: 1950s, one story cinderblock building

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1902 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Utah State Fairgrounds is significant because it documents the major theme of Utah's history: the decline of ecclesiastical domination of politics, society, and the economy and the rise of Utah as a secular, regional commercial center in the national network of trade and industry, and because it has long been an important part of the popular cultural life of the residents of the state of Utah.

A major goal of Mormon agricultural policy in pioneer Utah was complete self-sufficiency and independence from Gentile (non-Mormon) influence. In an early sermon, for example, Brigham Young said, "The Kingdom of God cannot rise independent of the Gentile nations until we produce, manufacture, and make every article of use, convenience, or necessity among our people."¹ The major instrument for implementing this policy was the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society. Incorporated by an act of the Territorial Legislature on January 17, 1856, its stated purpose was to "promote the arts of domestic industry, and to encourage the production of articles from the native elements in Utah Territory."² As one way of doing that, the DAM sponsored what was intended to be an annual exposition in Salt Lake City. The first one was held in the fall of 1856 at the Deseret Store and Tithing Office, where the Hotel Utah now stands. Throughout the nineteenth century, the fair was held irregularly, and at various locations, including the Social Hall, the Thirteenth Ward Meeting House, the City Market between First South and West Temple Streets, and the Tenth Ward Square, now the location of Trolley Square. Finally, in 1902 the present fairgrounds became the fair's permanent home. In 1907 the name of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society was changed to the Utah State Fair Association.

For the first thirty years or so of its existence, the DAM was a creature and instrument of both the territorial government and the Mormon church. The territory made regular appropriations to the society for a variety of purposes, including the subsidizing of certain industries, such as wool growing. The society gathered agricultural statistics for the territory. It was designated recipient of the seeds and plants distributed by the U.S. Patent Office and later the Department of Agriculture. The society's president was directed to appoint an agent for the territory to receive and dispose of the titles to the public lands apportioned to the territory by the Morrill Act of 1862, for the purpose of establishing an agricultural college and experiment station.

Despite its charter as an agent of territorial government, the DAM's motive force and institutional goals were provided by the Mormon church. In the General Conference following the incorporation of the society, an entire session was devoted to a reading of the act of incorporation and the by-laws of the society, and to an "agricultural sermon" explaining its plans and purposes. During the membership drive that followed the conference, a message was sent to all Mormon bishops appointing them and their counsellors to be

9. Major Bibliographical References

Leonard J. Arrington, "The Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society in Pioneer Utah," Utah Historical Quarterly, XXIV (April, 1956), 165-170.

Arrington, Leonard J. Great Basin Kingdom; An Economic History of the Latter-day Saints, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univeristy Press, 1958.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 50

Quadrangle name Salt Lake City, North

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	2	0	9	6	0	4	5	1	4	0	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	2	4	2	0	4	5	0	4	5	1	4	0	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	2	4	2	0	4	5	0	4	5	1	4	8	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	2	4	2	0	9	6	0	4	5	1	4	8	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification All of Blocks 65, 66, 67, and 68, of Plat "C" of the Great Salt Lake City Survey and all points and portions of Lots three and four of Section thirty-five, Township One North of Range One West, Salt Lake Meridian, contained within the following described boundary line towit: Commencing at the Southeast corner of said

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McCormick, Historian/Diana Johnson, Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date

street & number 307 West 200 South telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah 84101

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

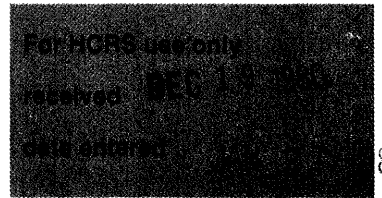
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date 31 October 1980

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>[Signature]</i> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>1/27/81</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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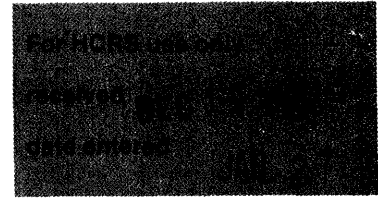
agents of the society, asking them to urge their ward members to join the society, and authorizing them to collect two dollars in dues. Teams of members made annual visits to each ward and stake for a number of years to plead the cause of the society and advertise the fair. These visits were usually timed to coincide with regular Sunday services. The first president of the society was Presiding Bishop of the Mormon church Edward Hunter. He was followed by Apostle Wilford Woodruff, who served until 1877, and then by John R. Winder, a member of the Presiding Bishopric, and later a member of the church's First Presidency. For many years the president of the DAM and the members of its board were selected or approved by Brigham Young. All major decisions of the society were submitted to Brigham Young for his approval. When, for example, the officers of the society were negotiating in 1872-73 for the purchase of land for a race track, the president called on Brigham Young to ask "if it was for the best advancement of the kingdom of God to have a race track". Young replied that "he did not consider that the advancement of the kingdom of God required any such thing, but that it would be playing into the hands of gamblers and blacklets to have a race track." When this was made known to the society, they promptly dropped the whole idea.³

The annual fairs sponsored by the society also had religious significance. Most of them were held on the tithing grounds or other church properties. They were invariably held to coincide with the October general conference of the church, thus making the annual fall excursion serve both God and Mammon. The diplomas awarded for prize exhibits in each field contained the All-seeing Eye, with the inscription, "Holiness to the Lord." The territorial emblem, the beehive, was also on the diploma, as well as a background consisting of a view of the Salt Lake Temple as it would look when completed.

In 1902 the fair moved to its present location. By then, its purpose had changed, and that reflected larger changes taking place in Utah as a whole. In 1890, under extreme pressure from the federal government, leaders of the Mormon church made a formal decision to give up those things that had it different and had provoked hostility for half a century, and integrate itself into the mainstream of American life. After 1890 Utah underwent a process of "Americanization." As part of that process, the purpose and nature of the fair changed. Following Utah's admission as a state in 1896, the DAM came under the direct control of the state government. Its president and board of directors were appointed by the governor, with the consent of the legislature, and the annual fairs became official "state fairs". Gradually the fair came to be seen in a new light. It continued to be a testimony to hard work and the fruitfulness of the soil, but it lost its religious significance, and it was no longer viewed as a means of promoting self sufficiency. With Utah's agricultural system having evolved from a local market and subsistence orientation to a demand-oriented commercial orientation, and with Utah no longer geographically, socially, and culturally isolated from the rest of the

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country, the fair was now seen as serving public relations and commercial purposes. It was "a way of extending our markets" and "the advertising agent of the state". Its purpose was not only the promotion of Utah, however, but also the promotion of the entire nation. The Utah State Fair was seen as simply one of many state fairs that "advance the countries welfare". Thus, exhibits from outside Utah were encouraged. The Utah State Fair, its directors said, was "open to the world".⁴

Whatever else it has been, the Utah State Fair has also long been a popular attraction, an important event in the recreational life of the people of the state. As the Director of the Fair said on the eve of the 1957 Fair, with dozens of different kinds of exhibits, a queen contest, a midway, a range of musical entertainment, the fair provides "a full round of activity, morning, afternoons, and nights, and in sufficient variety to interest and thrill every member of the family and people from all walks of life." By the mid-1970s approximately 400,000 people, or more than one third of the state's population, attended the fair each year.

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- 1 Quoted in Leonard J. Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom, An Economic History of the Latter-day Saints, 1830-1900 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1958), p. 47.
 - 2 Quoted in Leonard J. Arrington, "The Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society in Pioneer Utah," Utah Historical Quarterly, XXIV (April 1956), p. 166.
 - 3 Ibid., p. 168.
 - 4 Herald-Republican, Salt Lake City, January 1, 1911
 - 5 The Salt Lake Tribune Home Magazine, September 8, 1957.

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Verbal boundary description and justification continued:

Block 65 and running thence North 88 rods more or less to the Northeast corner of said Block 68; thence West on the course of the North lines of Blocks 68 and 67 aforesaid to the East bank of the Jordan River, thence South along and following the East bank of the Jordan River, thence South along and following the East bank of said River to a point due West of the Southwest corner of Block 66 aforesaid, thence East along course of the Southerly line of said Blocks 66 and 65 to the Southeast corner of said Block 65 to the place of beginning containing 50 acres more or less.

Contributory

Not of the Historic Period

155 No 1000 WEST, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84116

GATE 9

UTAH STATE

FAIRGROUNDS

NORTH
ENTRANCE
GATE 1

PARKING

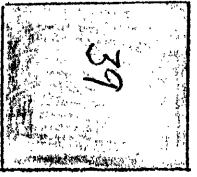
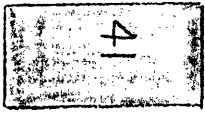
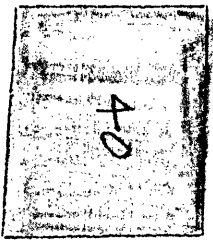
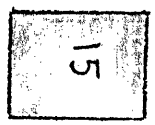


GATE 8

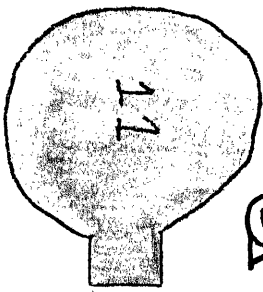
MIDWAY

MIDWAY

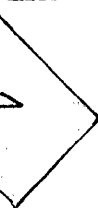
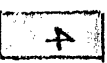
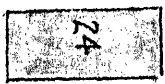
(B)



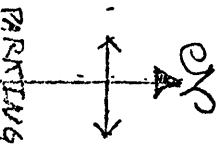
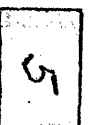
GATE 2



(A)



(C)



GATE 6

GATE 5

GATE 4

GATE 3

NORTH TEMPLE ST.

(C) = SCAPE PHOTO

1000 WEST ST