

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)

SITE NAME: Old LDS Tithing Office/ Paris Post building Paris Post SITE # 12

LOCATION: Main Street, Paris, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Howard P. Bolton, c/o Roscoe Caldwell, Ovid, Idaho 83260

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes old LDS Tithing Office building and the property on which it stands: T-4843, fraction of lot 1, block 17, Paris Townsite

UTM(S): 12/4, 66, 930/46, 74, 700

DATE OR PERIOD: 1880 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, social and humanitarian movements.

Good condition altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The old LDS Tithing Office in Paris is an unglazed brick structure dating from the 1880's, facing east on Main Street toward the Tabernacle square. It has been substantially altered in the course of conversion to residential use, but it retains its distinctive tall proportions, T-plan with bed molding and clipped gables facing in three directions, and the outlines of the segmental arches which once surmounted all openings. One early corbelled brick chimney survives, at the north end of the lateral wing, as well as the semi-circular blind arch in the front-facing gable at left. The original rough stone foundation is still visible on the left.

The greatest alteration to the building has been revision of the openings. On the left front elevation, where the outlines of two segmentally-arched windows on either side of a segmentally-arched door are still visible on the facade, one rectangular set of eight-light casement windows has been installed. Two such sets flank the entrance door on the facade of the north wing, again under the outlines of original, narrower arches. Over the door, and over the now in-filled left window on the south facade, square cast lintels are set. These probably represent an earlier remodeling, perhaps undertaken when the local newspaper took up quarters in this building about 1910. The remains of the legend "Paris Post" in bold letters on the south facade, and "Publishing and Printing" in smaller letters on the north, document that occupancy.

A concrete entry slab crosses the right side of the structure, more than filling the intersection formed by the cross wings. A rectangular brick chimney of relatively modern construction rises toward the rear of the southern section. The building is sound and well-maintained.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Old LDS Tithing Office/Paris Post building

SIGNIFICANCE:

The old LDS Tithing Office is architecturally significant as one of the oldest fired brick structures extant in Paris. It has distinct historic significance in this former theocratic setting as the single building of religious function standing which pre-dates the stake tabernacle. The Tithing Office was built in 1880 of "Smedley Milwaukie brick", with woodwork and finishing by local builder W. J. Smith. The mandatory practice of tithing, in which ten percent of individual property is contributed to the LDS Church by its members, was administered from this originally two-room building. To the west, to the midblock was the Tithing Yard which formerly contained a barn and granary to store tithing given in the form of stock, grain or foodstuffs. The offices also held, at one time, the Deseret Telegraph Company operator and the post office. These various functions made the old Tithing Office a vital part of the Paris community for almost thirty years. Even in its altered state, its continued presence opposite the Bear Lake Stake Tabernacle asserts the physical and institutional centrality of the Church in Paris.