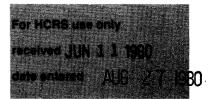
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Washington Relief Society Hall

and/or common

city, town

2. Location

street & number	100 West and	Telegraph S	treet		not for publication
city, town Wa	shington	vicir	nity of	congressional district	02
state Utah	c	ode 049	county	Washington	code 053
3. Clas	sification				
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public Xprivate both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status occupied X unoccup work in p Accessible X yes: rest yes: unre no	vied progress tricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	 museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: meeting ha
4. Own	er of Prop	erty			
name Brit	t and Yvonne K	endall			
street & number	Box 84				
city, town Wa	shington	vicir	nity of	state	UT 84780
5. Loca	ation of Le	gal Desc	ripti	on	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. Wa	shington Cou	inty Bi	uilding - Record	ler's Office
street & number	197 East Tab	ernacle			
city, town S	t George			state	UT 84770
	resentatio	n in Exis	ting	Surveys	
title None		h	as this pro	operty been determined e	elegible? yes no
date				federal sta	ate county local
depository for su	urvey records				

state

7. Description

Condition

excellent	deteriorated
good fair	ruins
<u>X</u> fair	unexposed

 Check one
 Check

 ______ unaltered
 _______ or

 ______ altered
 ______ m

Check one original site moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Washington Relief Society Hall has served variously as meetinghouse, post office, co-op store and mortuary since its construction in 1875. The oldest part of the single story structure, the east wing, is adobe. In ca 1904 the west wing was added, forming an "L" plan. The entire structure is stuccoed.

The building represents a style of architecture that prevailed in Utah during the earliest years of settlement. Simple classical elements applied to vernacular forms created a Greek Revival mode that was the first allusion to "high style" architecture here. It was preceeded by vernacular forms and supplanted by later Victorian styles.

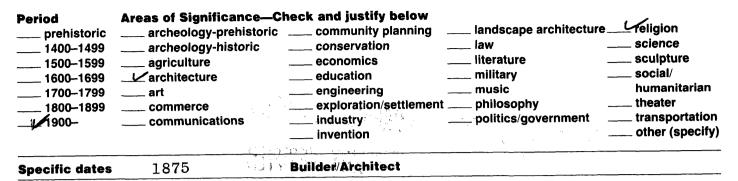
Small, rectangular buildings with low gable roofs, gable end street facades, typically symmetrical facade piercing and molded cornices with gable end returns characterize Greek Revival architecture in Utah. The form was common for all secular and religious buildings in early Utah including chapels, tabernacles, co-ops and cash stores, tithing offices, post offices, court houses, town halls, and relief society halls. The Washington Relief Society is a typical example.

Sec. 1. Sec. 1. Sec. 1. Sec. 1.

The Washington Relief Society Hall documents the wide use in early Utah of adobe, a serviceable, economical and easily available building material. It also helps illustrate a transition from purely vernacular types to the deliberate integration of selected stylistic elements into an existing folk tradition.

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8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Though once predominant, few Greek Revival buildings survive in Utah. The impermanent nature and small scale of many of them and the changing taste which favored Victorian forms caused most to be lost. The Washington Relief Society Hall is therefore an important extant example of the Greek Revival mode and of the first allusions to a specific architectural style in the movement away from vernacular forms. It is the oldest extant public building in Washington, erected at great sacrifice by a community still struggling to survive.

The high cost of freighting manufactured goods to Utah, the scarcity of cash to pay for them, and the reluctance to rely upon "Gentile" suppliers all urged a policy of self-sufficiency. The prospect for cotton shortage caused by strife between North and South led LDS Church President Brigham Young to direct the establishment of a Cotton Mission in the "Warm Valley" of the Virgin River in Southern Utah. In the spring of 1857 the first group of colonists arrived at the site of Washington City. The cotton cultivators survived malaria and recurring, destructive flash floods in addition to lean diets and Indian conflicts and in 1866 a cotton mill was dedicated.

The Relief Society of Washington Ward was organized in 1868 after the ward was separated out of Harmony Ward. In 1875 a small adobe hall, now the east wing, was built. This space was rented to the Washington Cooperative Association store; the Relief Society members met in homes and applied the rent to relief of the needy. The post office, customarily lodged in the home of the postmaster, operated from the Co-op Store for several years prior to World War I.

Between 1903 and 1905 the west wing was added, allowing the members to resume their meetings there. The relocation of the Co-op Store after World War I the original wing to the use of Society members. Members of the society made clothing and quilts for those in need, conducted fund raising bazaars and lunches, carried on Church work, and through World War II laid out the dead for burial. In 1960 the LDS Church sold the property. It is still in use as a meeting place for civic and service organizations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Andrew Karl Larson, <u>The Red Hills of November</u>, Salt Lake City, Deseret News Press, 1951.

Verna L. Dewshup and Katharine M. Larson, eds., <u>Relief Society Memories of</u> <u>St. George Stake, 1867-1958.</u>

10. Geo	ographie	cal Data		OT VEDIE			:	
	ated property	<u>2 acres</u>	ACREAGE N					
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_ 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

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officiencer

I hereby certify that this property is proluded in the National Register

Keepen of the National Register

For HCRS use only

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