

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received JAN 9 1980
date entered FEB 22 1980

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

1. Name

historic Emery LDS Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 060 UT 10 _____ not for publication

city, town Emery _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 01

state Utah _____ code 049 _____ county Emery _____ code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: recreational

4. Owner of Property

name Emery Town

street & number

city, town Emery _____ vicinity of _____ state UT

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office

street & number Emery County Courthouse

city, town Castle Dale _____ state UT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1973 Nov. 1975 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society Heritage Conservation and Recreation

city, town Salt Lake City _____ state Washington, D.C. Service

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 Emery Church is a wood frame structure with clapboard siding, lined with adobe bricks. The structure rests on a stone foundation. The main facade faces east and contains a tower and belfry covered with a Mansard roof and metal and wood railing. The north and south elevations contains central projecting bays with side entrances and transom lights. A small office projects out from the west elevation originally serving as the presiding Bishop's office: the wall thickness of the adobe is less than the main walls of the church.

Gables have boxed cornices with plain returns. Secondary gables (north and south elevations) have shingle siding.

Four tall double hung windows on both sides (north and south elevations) of the hall of a nine over nine arrangement have pedimental heads.

The interior space contains a long meeting hall preceded by a foyer. A stage or speaker's stand stands opposite the main entry. A door in the west wall of the stage leads into the Bishop's office. Walls are plastered with wood wainscot beaded board, all painted white.

Modifications to the structure include the installation of a kitchen in a portion of the stage and speaker's stand. A projection booth is now located above the vestibule.

The Emery Church is the first ecclesiastical building to be erected in the town of Emery since its settlement in the 1880s. Its wood and frame construction sheathed in clapboard and lined with a non-load bearing wall of adobe is very unusual for a Mormon church at the turn of the century.

Note: This description was readapted from the description prepared for the Historic American Buildings Survey by Peter L. Goss, Ph.D. and Burtch W. Beall, Jr., Architect, of the University of Utah in 1975.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1898–1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Emery LDS Church is significant as the oldest remaining religious building in Emery County and as the best remaining "New England" clapboard style LDS Church in Utah. Structurally, the church is significant because of its wood frame construction sheathed in clapboard and lined with non-load bearing wall of adobe. This construction technique was very unusual for a Mormon church built at the turn of the century.

HISTORY

The first settlers of Emery arrived in 1881. A post office was established in 1882 and at that time a one-room log school house (16' x 18') was constructed. The structure, with its dirt floor and backless plank benches, also served as a church and amusement hall.

In 1898 work began on the construction of the Emery meeting house. The frame church was built of local lumber with the dimensions being 36'5" x 84'6". The chapel was reported to have a capacity of 500 people.

The frame construction was typical of many of the buildings in Emery County. However, it was seldom used in LDS chapels. Ironically a more expensive brick church constructed in 1896 at nearby Huntington, was torn down in the 1960s. Some people argue that the alkali soil of Emery County could not support the heavier brick structures and, therefore, the lighter frame church in Emery did not suffer from a weakened foundation as did the Huntington Church for example.

The church at Emery was constructed under the direction of Bishop Alonzo Brinkerhoff. The construction was completed in 1900. However, because of an apparent problem in paying the \$7,000 construction cost, the church was not dedicated until July 27, 1902. However, upon completion in 1900, services were held in the chapel.

At the dedication services Bishop Brinkerhoff reported that "it had cost \$7,000 to build the house," and in what must have been a sigh of relief announced, "...that it was paid for." (Emery County Progress, August 2, 1902).

Elder Rudger Clawson offered the dedicatory prayer and later in the meeting went on to praise all those, "...who had assisted in building such a splendid meeting house, and...the blessing of God would rest upon the people and crown their labors." (Ibid.)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The handsome frame church served the members of Emery well until the post World War II years when the emphasis shifted to multipurpose chapels. Accordingly, a "New Modern" chapel was dedicated June 25, 1956.

Fortunately the old church was not destroyed and in 1967 was purchased by the city for use as a town meeting and recreation hall.