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

Salt Lake City

1. Name

and/or common 2. Loca	ation			
street & number	OKA UT	10		not for publication
city, town Eme	ery	vicinity of	congressional district ⁰¹	
state Utah	code	049 count	y Emery	code 015
3. Clas	sification			
Category district L building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	entertainment _ government	<pre> museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: recreationa</pre>
name Emo	Torra			
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7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	_X original site
_X good	ruins	<u>X</u> altered	moved date
fair	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 preceeded 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—C	heck and justify below		
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architectur	e religion
1400–1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500–1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600–1699	X architecture	education	military	social/
1700–1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800–1899	commerce	exploration/settlemen	t philosophy	theater
<u> </u>	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)
an management of the state of the				

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Specific dates 1898-1900
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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 $(16' \times 18')$ 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.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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List all states and as	unties for properties overla	pping state or co	unty boundaries	
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FHR-8-300A (11/78) 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 FEB 2 2 1980 DATE ENTERED

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

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.