

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0668 DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 5 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 11 1978

**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

Capitol Building

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Capitol Hill

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

02

VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

CODE

049

COUNTY

Salt Lake

CODE

035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State Of Utah

STREET & NUMBER

Capitol Building

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

City and County Building

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Utah State Capitol is located on the north bench with a commanding view of Salt Lake City. Completed in 1915, at a cost of \$2,739,528.54. The Capitol is 404 feet long, 240 feet wide and 285 feet high to the top of the dome. The general style of the architecture is pure Corinthian. The diameter of the dome is 64 feet. There are four floors, 200 rooms, six of which are assembly halls, namely: The Senate Chamber, House of Representatives, Supreme Court Chamber, Law Library, Governor's Board Room, and the Governor's Reception Room which is also called the Gold Room.

The rotunda as seen from the center is 165 feet to the top of the dome. Suspended from this dome is a giant chandelier weighing three tons, the steel chain that holds it is 95 feet long and weighs three and one-half tons. Near the base of the dome are four murals depicting scenes from Utah's history: Father Escalante entering Utah Valley in 1776; Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden River, 1828; John C. Fremont visits the Great Salt Lake, 1843; and Brigham Young and the pioneers entering the valley in 1847. The ceiling is painted with seagulls in commemoration of the birds which saved the pioneers from starving. The birds measure six feet from wing tip to wing tip.

Although Utah marble is used extensively throughout the building, Georgia marble was used on the main floor. The monolithic columns, the walls and stairs of the main floor and the railings were the only parts of the building constructed of the gray Georgia marble. Sanpete oolite or white sandstone was chosen for the walls of the ground floor.

Two historical paintings appear on the lunettes in the east and west ends of the main corridor. The one on the east depicting the dream of Brigham Young of the pioneers arriving in the valley in 1847; the one on the west "Reclaiming the Deseret by Irrigation". Girard Hale of Salt Lake City and Gilbert White of New York painted these scenes. The mural in the House Chamber was painted by A. E. Forringer depicting Jim Bridger and the Discovery of the Great Salt Lake. The mural in the Senate Chamber was painted by local artists, A. B. Wright and Lee Greene Richards. It shows a scene looking westward across Utah Lake. Lewis Schettle of New York painted the mural in the Gold Room. J. W. Clason, another local artist, painted the portrait of the Capitol Commissioners.

The original plans called for sculpture to fill the niches of the rotunda. Since funds were not available when the building neared completion, these niches remained empty until later. In 1928 a bust of Emmeline B. Wells a prominent Mormon pioneer, done in marble by Cyrus E. Dallin, was donated by women in the State. A bust of Simon Bamberger, Governor of Utah from 1916 - 1920 was donated by the family of the governor in 1943. This was sculpted by Torlief Knaphus. The third niche was filled in 1956 when the Sons of Utah Pioneers presented to the State a bust of Brigham Young also by Torlief Knaphus.

Utah birdseye marble furnished the finish in the State Reception Room, Supreme Court Room, and the Hall of House of Representatives. Tooele Onyx and Travertine were used to finish the main vestibule and Senate Chamber. Gray granite from Little Cottonwood Canyon was used for the exterior walls and columns.

A massive marble stairway leads from the main floor to the third floor. Each panel on the main floor is a picture in marble. These marble pictures show flowers, faces and animals. These marble panels are made of Georgia marble.

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In the building's rotunda are many varied works. In the center of the rotunda is a large statue of the Indian Massasoit, presented to the State by sculptor, C. E. Dalin of Springville. In a panel of the rotunda is a bronze tablet presented by the Sons of the American Revolution while on the walls of the rotunda hang two memorials in memory of Utah's World War I soldiers.

The most impressive room of the Capitol is the State Reception Room or Gold Room. All colors used in the room blend with gold trim and the golden travis marble. The original decorations of the room excluding light fixtures and mirrors cost approximately \$20,000. In 1955 the room was repainted at a cost of \$6,500 while reupholstering of the furniture cost \$19,905. The Circassian walnut furniture cost \$3,022. The rug is a Scotch chenille made especially for the room by Templeton Brothers of Glasgow, Scotland at a cost of \$3,000.

There are exhibits on the first floor showing the economic and recreational opportunities in Utah's 29 counties. Here also, are displays of dinosaur footprints and the "Mormon Meteor", racing car of the former Salt Lake City Mayor Ab Jenkins.

Under the deed conveying the land from Salt Lake City to the State of Utah, it is provided that the Capitol grounds shall be maintained as a public park. The grounds include approximately 37 acres, all of which are landscaped. The flowers, shrubs and trees are arranged to offer color and beauty year round. These gardens add to the beauty and grandeur of Utah's State Capitol.

MAY 9 1978

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1912 - 1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard K. A. Kletting

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Utah's State Capitol is significant both architecturally and historically. Its architectural style is pure Corinthian. It was designed by master architect Richard K. A. Kletting who is responsible for many of Utah's finest buildings. The building is almost entirely made with Utah's labor and materials. The combination of marble and sandstone walls along with many monolithic columns make the building an impressive sight. On the interior, massive murals and paintings decorate the walls, recalling scenes from Utah's past. The history of the building is as impressive as its architecture. For over 30 years, Utah's State Capitol remained nearly a dream. A Capitol in central Utah proved inconvenient, and the State Legislature met at various places in Salt Lake City before the Capitol was completed. In 1916, Utah's State Capitol was completed and it has served as the seat of government for the past 62 years.

## HISTORY:

Utah, like other states before her and those that followed, was determined that a State Capitol would be built. The first legislative assembly of the territory of Utah, in October 1851, designated the Pauvan Valley in Central Utah as the capitol site. Fillmore City in Millard County was to be the place where the capitol was to be built. Plans were drawn up by Truman O. Angel, later to become the architect of the Salt Lake City Mormon Temple. The construction process was very slow. There were persistent shortages of iron for nails, skilled workmen and funds. By 1855, the east wing of the building was finished and the fifth annual session of the Utah Territorial Legislative Assembly convened in Utah's first Capitol. That session was the only complete session of the legislature held in Fillmore. On two other occasions, the legislators assembled there and then adjourned to Salt Lake City. In December 1856, Salt Lake City was made Utah's capitol by joint resolution of the Legislature.

Prior to the building of the Capitol at Fillmore and after its abandonment, the site of the territorial government changed many times. The Legislature met at Council Hall, Social Hall, the Salt Lake County Courthouse, Salt Lake City Hall and the present Salt Lake City and County Building. The offices of the Legislature were also located in these buildings at various times.

There are many reasons why Utah didn't immediately build a capitol in Salt Lake City. Congress viewed the \$20,000 appropriated for the Capitol in Fillmore as wasted money, and thus refused to grant further funds for government buildings in Utah. Between 1856 and 1896 the tension between Mormon and non-Mormon factions in the State also stood in the way of the construction of government buildings. The Mormon citizenry elected Mor-

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. 27, 1959, pp. 247-273.
2. Sons of Utah Pioneers, February 1959, p. 9 - 10.
3. Capitol Building File - Utah State Historical Society Library.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME North Salt Lake QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	12	4	2	9	1	1	0	4	5	1	4	2	1	0	
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING	
C															
E															
G															
B															
D															
F															
H															

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Lois Harris, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION Utah Heritage Foundation DATE February 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 355 Quince Street TELEPHONE 355-0858

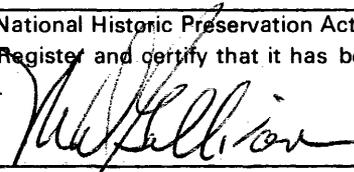
CITY OR TOWN Salt Lake City STATE Utah

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE      LOCAL     

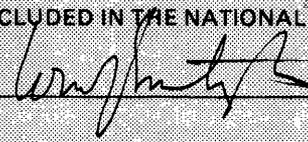
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE 

TITLE Michael D. Gallivan, State Historic Preservation Officer DATE April 10, 1978

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  DATE 10/14/78

ATTEST: William Leberich DATE Oct 6, 1978

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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mon officials, while the territorial executive was generally a non-Mormon appointed from Washington D.C. These two groups transmitted conflicting reports to Washington. Washington's response to this conflict was to refuse to send funds to Utah for government buildings.

In 1888, the Salt Lake City Fathers donated about twenty acres of land on the north bench for the capitol building but the building was not erected until 1916. It took almost 30 years for Utah's State Capitol to move from plans to reality.

In 1909 the Utah Legislature created a seven-man Capitol Commission to select the design for, and not spend over \$2,500,000 on a State Capitol. In March, 1911, the sum of \$798,546 was paid as inheritance tax by Mrs. E. H. Harriman to settle the Harriman estate. The Legislature then approved a \$1,000,000 bond and the money for the capitol was in hand.

A competition was held to select the architect and the design of the Capitol. In March 1912, the award for the design was made to Richard K. A. Kletting of Salt Lake City, P. J. Morgan of Salt Lake City was given the excavating contract. The ground was broken on December 26, 1912. Pressures were applied to the Capitol Commission to choose Utah labor and Utah materials in the construction. Wherever possible, this was done, but Georgia marble proved a big savings and was used extensively on the main floor.

A limitation had been set at \$2,500,000 for the Capitol, but this was exceeded by \$239,000. The commission asked the Legislature on two different occasions for an increase in funds. The shortage of funds also meant that the original plans calling for "extensive pieces of art work" could not be fulfilled. The only art works commissioned were paintings for the House Chamber, the Senate Chamber, the State Reception Room, the lunettes and a portrait of the Capitol Commissioners.

On April 4, 1914, fifteen and one-half months after breaking ground, the cornerstone was laid in place in an elaborate ceremony. Representatives from the state and city governments, church officials and prominent businessmen participated in the ceremony. A metal box containing state newspapers, photographs of the capitol Commissioners, church books and coins of the period were placed in the cornerstone and sealed by Governor William Spry.

Accounts of the opening ceremony reveal the great satisfaction and pride felt by all who toured the Capitol Building that day. The capitol site includes 37 acres of land, which is maintained as a public park. The grounds are landscaped to lend beauty to the Capitol Building throughout the year. For over 60 years, Utah's State Capitol has been a majestic landmark where both tourists and natives flock year round.