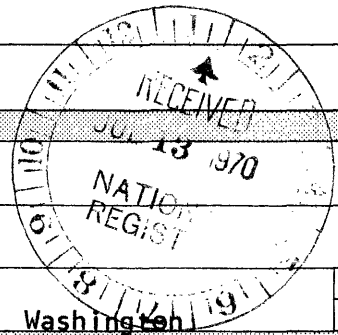


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Utah	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.9.43.0008	DATE 9/23/70



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Old Washington County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
85 East 100 North

CITY OR TOWN:
St. George

STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43** COUNTY: **Washington** CODE: **053**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Community Information Center.	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Washington County

STREET AND NUMBER:
185 East Tabernacle Street

CITY OR TOWN: **St. George** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
185 East Tabernacle Street

CITY OR TOWN: **St. George** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.56**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Utah Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1940** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **08**

STATE: Utah
COUNTY: Washington
ENTRY NUMBER: 70.9.43.0008
DATE: 9/23/70
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Washington County Courthouse was built between 1866 and 1876. Excavation on the basement began in 1866. Its dimensions were 36 feet 4 inches x 40 feet 4 inches on the outside. The walls were made of basalt rock 3 feet thick at the base and 2 feet 6 inches above the footings. The basement contained three rooms on each side used as jail cells with a large hallway in between. Two doors entered from the south and one from the north.

The second two stories were made of salmon red bricks made on the ground. Mortar was burned from a pile of limestone east of Middleton, about 3 miles away. Six major county offices were housed on the main floor. Both the basement and main floor were used before the third floor and roof were completed.

The third floor housed the judges' chamber and the courtroom. It remains with only very minor modifications. The woodwork on the interior demonstrates the quality craftsmanship of the pioneers.

Crowning the structure is a cupola, centered on the building. In the tower at the base of the cupola is a gallows, designed for use in execution by hanging of criminals so sentenced. The trap door still trips.

In design, the old courthouse resembles the old Council Hall in Salt Lake City and other square-built courthouses of the day.

The building stands as a monument to these proud pioneers whose descendants take great pride in showing what their forbears did as "Americans" in Utah Territory before Statehood in 1896.

Since 1960, the old courthouse has been used for public offices, tourist information center, and public meetings. It is now owned and operated by Washington County.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Completed in 1876**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>History</u> | |
| Agriculture | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Art | Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Commerce | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | | _____ | |
| Communications | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Conservation | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Washington County, like most of Utah, was colonized by Mormon settlers. Public life centered around the church and church leadership. Several fine public buildings, constructed in St. George, still remain today. One of these, the old Washington County Courthouse, is distinctive. It was the first, in fact the only, major public edifice built in Washington County during Utah's Territorial period that was strictly a "citizen of Utah" effort. It was financed by tax assessment, usually in "kind or labor," rather than by tithing or church donations.

St. George was settled late in the year 1861. In 1863, the county seat was moved from the town of Washington to St. George. The court consisted of Judge James D. McCullough and Selectmen, Robert D. Covington, Jacob Gates, and Annon P. Winsor. James S. Bleak was appointed probate and county clerk. They first met in September 1863 to organize. Their next meeting was September 4, 1865. In November 1866 plans were approved to build a basement for a courthouse in St. George. An appropriation of \$560.00 was made, to be expended by Judge McCullough. Excavation on the basement got underway. The following August 1867 a tax of 1/4 of one percent to raise \$10,000 was discussed. A public vote approved the action. In September 1869 the tax was increased to 3/4 of one percent by public vote. The court approved \$1,500 and assigned Jacob Gates to supervise the construction. The building was completed and accepted by the county in 1876.

Raising revenue in a barter economy was difficult. At a special session the "Court," in October 1869, set the following prices for goods: molasses, \$1.25 per gallon; corn, \$1.50 per bushel; cotton yard, \$2.50 per bunch; flour, \$8.00 per cwt.

In most instances men working on the building paid their taxes in kind, received a dollar wage, but were paid in kind. Disbursement prices of tax items reflect a good profit to the county: molasses, \$2.00 per gallon; corn, \$2.00 per bushel; cotton yard, \$5.00 per bunch; and flour, \$10.00 per cwt.

But the citizens of Washington County persisted and constructed an impressive courthouse that served the county well until as late as 1960. Their story is even more significant when it is realized that these same people, through the Mormon Church, were also building both their Mormon Temple and Tabernacle during the same period of time. All three of these projects were a kind of public works effort to shore up the sagging economy of southwestern Utah. They represented the skilled craftsmanship of those pioneers.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

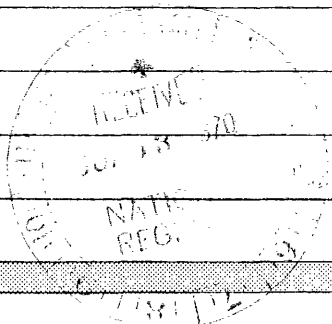
Albert E. Miller, Immortal Pioneers, Founders of the City of St. George, Utah (St. George: A. E. Miller, 1946).
 'Utah's Dixie. . . The Cotton Mission,' Utah Historical Quarterly, XXIX (July, 1961).
 Andrew Karl Larson, I Was Called to Dixie, the Virgin River Basin, Unique Experiences in Mormon Pioneering, (Salt Lake City: Deseret News Press: 1961).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		37°	06'	39"
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		113°	34'	50"
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Melvin T. Smith**

ORGANIZATION: **Utah Preservation Officer** DATE: **July 1, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **603 East South Temple**

CITY OR TOWN: **Salt Lake City** STATE: **Utah** CODE: **43**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Milton L. Weilenmann
 Title: Utah State Liaison Officer
 Date: July 1, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Arrest Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

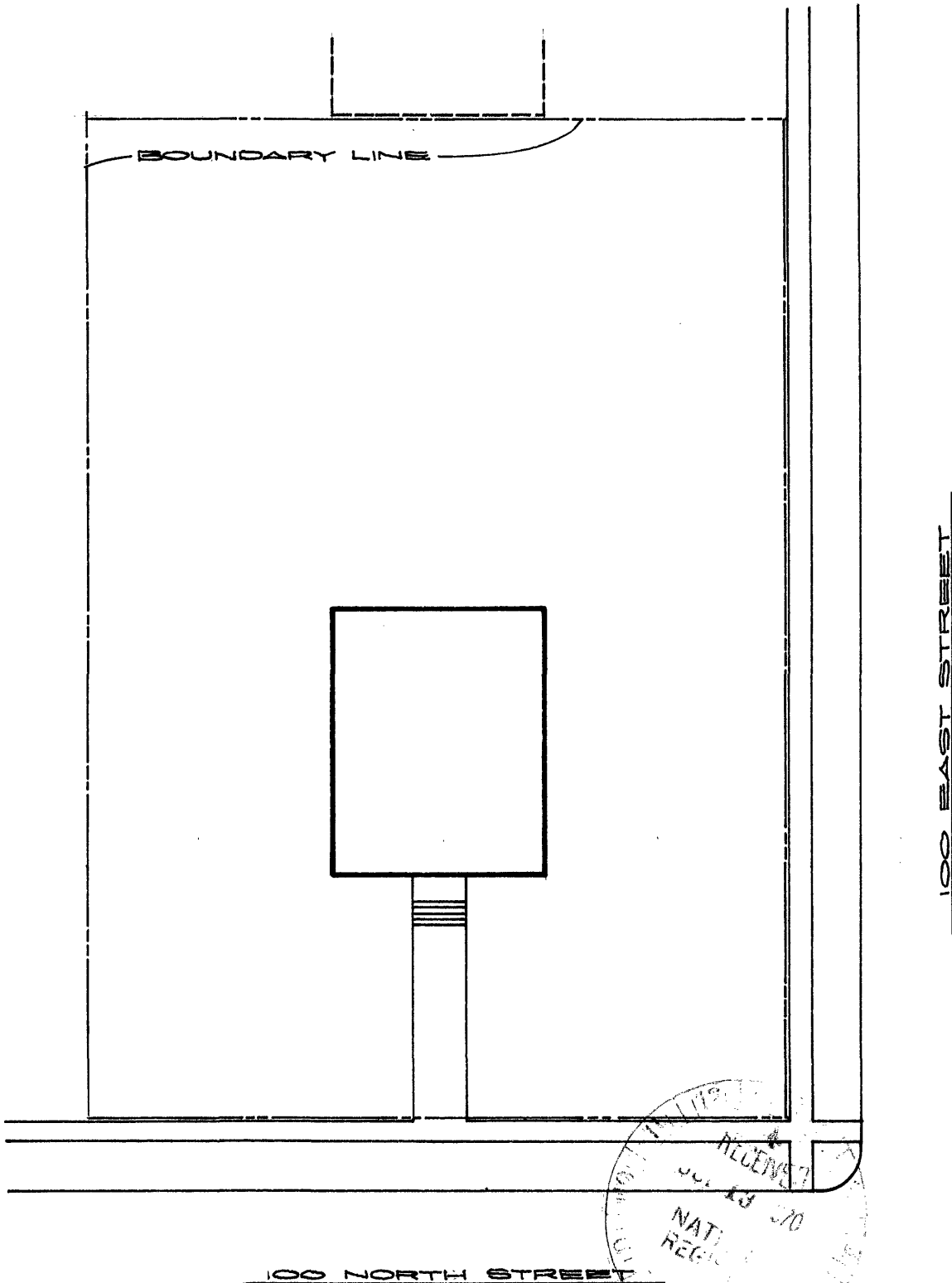
Date: _____

ATTEST:

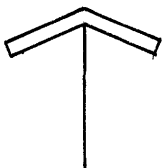
William J. Martog
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: July 1, 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



RECEIVED
 JUN 13 1970
 NATL REGISTRY
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



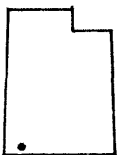
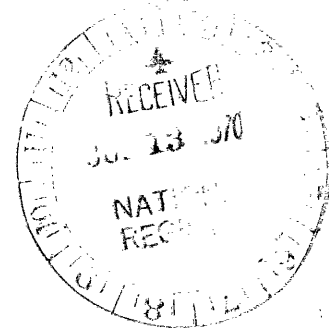
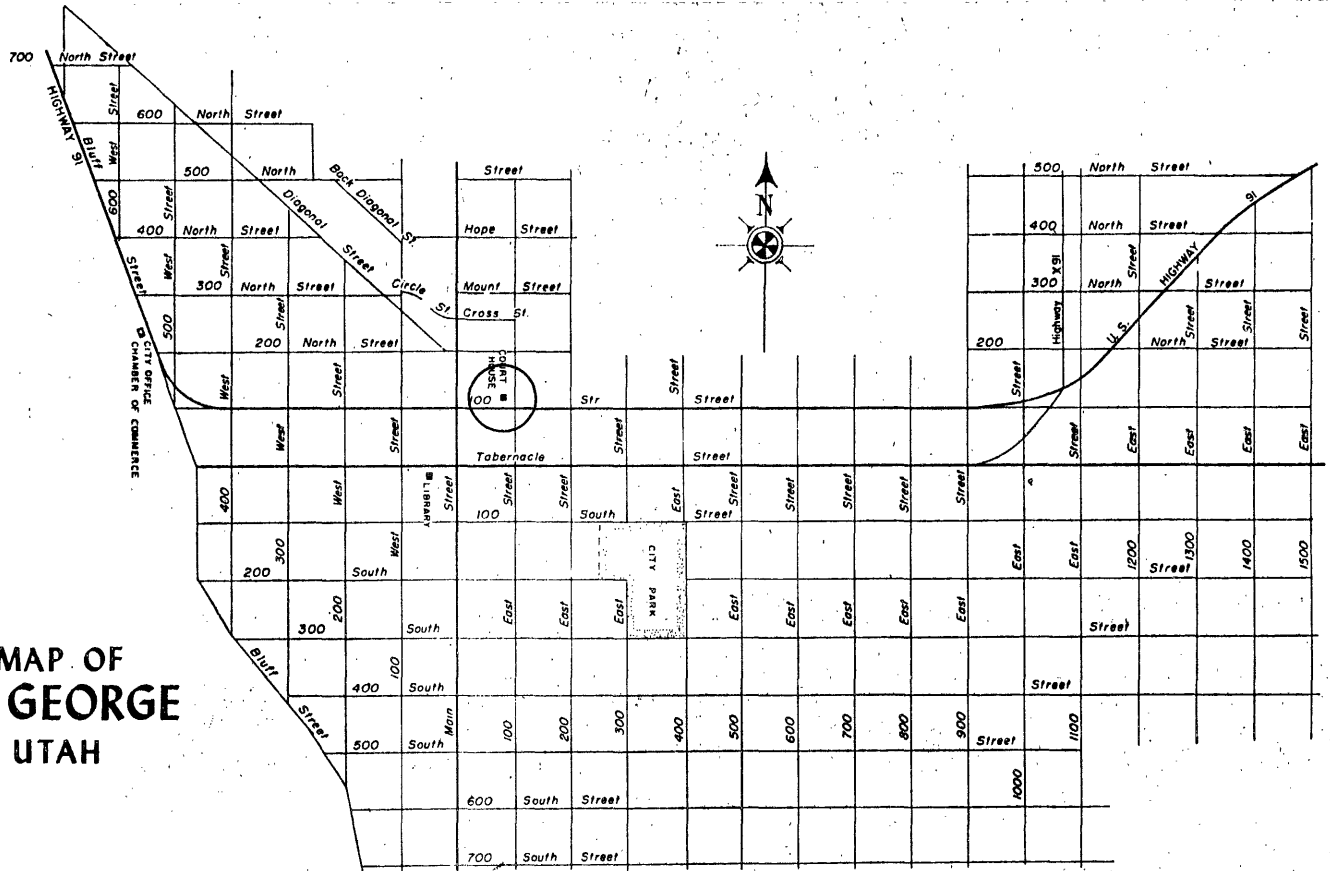
OLD WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

85 EAST 100 NORTH
 ST GEORGE, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 6' - 59"
 LONGITUDE : 113° - 34' - 30"

DATE : MAY 1970
 SCALE : 1" = 30'

**MAP OF
ST. GEORGE
UTAH**



OLD WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

25 EAST 100 NORTH
ST. GEORGE, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 6' - 39"
LONGITUDE : 113° - 34' - 50"
TELEPHONE DIRECTORY MAP

DATE : MAY 1970
NO SCALE