

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 108 N. Main Street
Farmington, Davis County, Utah UTM: 12 425440 4537980

Name of Structure: Farmington Tithing Office T. R. S.

Present Owner: Farmington City Corporation
130 N. Main

Owner Address: Farmington, Utah 84025

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:
Legal Description Kind of Building:

Commencing at the SW corner of Lot 2 Block 14 Plat A Farmington City Survey, thence N 165 feet, E 247.5 feet, S 165 feet, W 247.5 feet to beginning. 0.84 acres

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: LDS Church Construction Date: 1907-09 Demolition Date:

Original Use: religious--tithing office Present Use: government

Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:

- Excellent Site Unaltered Significant Not of the National Landmark District
- Good Ruins Minor Alterations Contributory Historic Period National Register Multi-Resource
- Deteriorated Major Alterations Not Contributory State Register Thematic

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photography: Date of Slides: 1984 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1984 Photo No.:

Views: Front Side Rear Other Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:

- Abstract of Title Sanborn Maps Newspapers U of U Library
- Plat Records/Map City Directories Utah State Historical Society BYU Library
- Tax Card & Photo Biographical Encyclopedias Personal Interviews USU Library
- Building Permit Obituary Index LDS Church Archives SLC Library
- Sewer Permit County & City Histories LDS Genealogical Society Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Knowlton, George Quincy. A Brief History of Farmington, Utah. Kaysville, Utah: Inland Printing, 1965.

LDS Church Presiding Bishopric Letterbooks. Davis Stake, 1907-08. Available in LDS Church Archives.

Architect/Builder: unknown/Edward Cottrell

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: Victorian Eclectic/Period Cottage

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Farmington Tithing Office is a one story brick building with a pyramid roof, a scored concrete foundation, and a projecting gabled pavilion on the facade. It was designed from one of at least three standard plans which were created for tithing offices around 1905, two of which have been identified. The design of the Farmington Tithing Office has been identified as Type No. 3, and is almost identical to the design of the Manti, Sandy, Richmond and Panguitch tithing offices. It is also very similar to the Hyrum Tithing Office. The facade is symmetrically arranged with a gabled pavilion centered between pairs of one over one double hung sash windows. The pavilion has a round arch opening above which is a semi-circular vent. Pilasters are attached to the corners of the pavilion. Two doors open off the pavilion, each set at an angle into the wall under the pavilion. The arrangement of openings on the three sides of the building is irregular, but is very similar to that of other tithing offices of this type. Decorative elements include a string course above the windows and brick dentils under the cornice. Rock-faced brick highlights the relieving arches of the windows and the relieving arch of the large arch of the pavilion. A small domed cupola tops the building.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1907-09

Built in 1907-09, the Farmington Tithing Office is historically significant as one of 32 well preserved tithing buildings in Utah that were part of the successful "in-kind" tithing system of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon church) between the 1850s and about 1910. Tithing lots, which usually included an office and several auxiliary structures, were facilities for collecting, storing, and distributing the farm products that were donated as tithing by church members in the cash-poor agricultural communities throughout the state. Tithing offices were a vital part of almost every Mormon community, serving as local centers of trade, welfare assistance, and economic activity. They were also important as the basic units of the church-wide tithing network that was centered in Salt Lake City.

On May 9, 1907 the bishop of the Farmington Ward, James H. Robinson, received approval from the Presiding Bishopric in Salt Lake City to erect "a large tithing office at Farmington, in which accommodations will be provided for the Stake Presidency, High Council, etc."¹ Cost of the building was estimated to be \$3,000. Plans for the building were sent from church headquarters, and the construction was performed primarily by Edward A. Cottrell, a local builder.²

The design of the Farmington Tithing Office is one of at least three standard tithing office plans that were developed at church headquarters around 1905 and sent out to a number of wards in the state that requested to have a new tithing office built. Those plans were perhaps the first examples of what eventually became a policy with the church - developing standard building plans at church headquarters rather than having each ward generate its own. Other tithing offices in the state that have virtually the same design as the Farmington Tithing Office are those in Manti, Richmond, Hyrum, Sandy, and Panguitch.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Description (Continued)

A large, rear brick addition was built onto the Farmington Tithing Office, probably in the 1960s. Although it is almost equal in size to the original building, it was built to complement the original section. The pyramid roof was extended to become a hip roof, the brick stringcourse and line of dentils below the cornice were also extended to wrap around the entire building, and the brick of the new section was carefully matched with that of the original section. The addition, which served as the city fire station, has two large fire truck bays on the south side. The tithing office maintains its original integrity despite that large addition because the addition is compatible with the original in terms of design and materials, and because three of the four original exterior walls remain virtually unaltered.

History (Continued)

A standard plan was also used in the construction of a hay shed on the Farmington tithing lot. In June of 1907 Bishop Robinson received approval to construct a \$300 hay shed to replace the one that had been destroyed in the wind the previous fall. Regarding the hay shed, the Presiding Bishopric stated, "We would prefer that you follow closely the plan enclosed and that you will see that the hay shed is well braced and placed at a convenient location on the tithing lot."³ That building no longer remains standing, so it is unknown what the plan type was and whether it was the same as that used for granaries and hay sheds found on tithing lots in other towns.

Around 1948 the Farmington Tithing Office was sold to Farmington City and became the city hall. Soon after that, part of the building was made into a public library. A large, well-matched fire station was built on the rear of the building probably in the 1960s. The building currently houses a local history museum.

Notes

¹Presiding Bishopric Letterbooks, to Bishop James H. Robinson, Farmington Ward, Davis Stake, May 9, 1907.

²George Quincy Knowlton, A Brief History of Farmington, Utah (Kaysville, Utah: Inland Printing, 1965), p. 28.

³Presiding Bishopric Letterbooks, to Bishop James H. Robinson, Farmington Ward, Davis Stake, June 26, 1907.