

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
FEB 20 1976
RECEIVED
MAY 24 1976
DATE ENTERED

**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

First National Bank

AND/OR COMMON

Masonic Hall, Wells Fargo or Bamberger Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

163 South Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bamberger Company

STREET & NUMBER

163 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Salt Lake City Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

City and County Building

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City,

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Utah Historical Sites Survey

DATE

August 20, 1975

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Description: As originally built, the First National Bank was a four-story brick and stone building with a Mansard roof and cast iron front. The fourth story was originally enclosed within the Mansard roof and featured a vertical window bay extension with an octagonal metal cupola. The bottom floor, which has been altered with the addition of new materials, consisted of a central panel of three large windows, flanked on either side by door bays. The detailing, i.e., iron mullions, iron grillwork, transoms, pilasters, etc., were of the same patterns and style as still extant on the second and third stories (photo enclosed). No attempt was made to rebuild the upper floor after the fire in 1875. The iron pinnacles were left intact and an iron pediment was placed on the cornice where the fourth floor window bays had been.

The present facade of the old bank continues to display its elaborate cast iron storefront. The front facade is basically divided into three vertical panels, each separated by pilasters. The second and third stories are identical in their fenestration and detailing. The central panels consist of three tall, double-hung sash windows separated by deep, pilaster-like mullions decorated with Ionic capitals. The side panels have single windows with similar mullions. Plain horizontal bands at the floor levels are accented with intricate classical ribbons of egg and dart, dentils and undulating waves. When first built, intricate iron arched grills were located at the tops of the window bays, perhaps to serve as sun screens. This gingerbread has been removed, but the iron fencework across the porch and bottom of the third story remain. The cornice, complete with pinnacles and arched pediment, likewise are intact. All of the ironwork is painted white and is very striking in its effect.

While the ground floor has been adapted in use as a theatre, the two upper floors are essentially intact in both plan and fabric. The fancy wooden stairways, doors, wainscoting and mouldings are nearly all preserved, as are the original glass-paneled partitions in the old Masonic Library, and the heavily classical plaster cornices and centerpieces. The second level and part of the third level are being used for offices but the main assembly room on the third floor is vacant.

Although altered somewhat, the First National Bank building is still replete with unusual detailing, is visually interesting, and has great educational value and restoration potential.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1871-2

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Cast iron front: Richard M. Upjohn
General Architect: Thomas J. Thompson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance: The First National Bank Building is significant architecturally by virtue of having the oldest known cast iron storefront in the Intermountain West. Its designer, Richard M. Upjohn (1802-1878) of New York, was one of America's most distinguished 19th Century architects, a pioneer and leader in the Early Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival and Stick styles of American architecture. The old bank building is one of only two relatively intact commercial buildings erected in Salt Lake City before Brigham Young's death in 1877. Home of the first chartered bank in Utah, the upper floor of the bank was also one of the earliest meetingplaces for the Masonic lodges in Salt Lake City. The popular building also housed the Wells, Fargo Company, Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company, Masonic Library--the official territorial library, various law offices and, from the mid-1880's, the offices of Simon Bamberger, later Governor of Utah.

History: Utah's first national bank, the Miner's National Bank of Salt Lake City, was chartered March 3, 1866, and was succeeded by the First National Bank of Utah, developed from the partnership of Warren Hussey and Charles Dahler. Hussey was a gold broker and land agent in Colorado in the early 1860's. Dahler was the Denver agent of Ben Holladay's Overland Stage Route. When Holladay sold out to Wells, Fargo Company in 1866, Hussey and Dahler associated in banking enterprises in Central City and Denver, Colorado, Virginia City, Nevada, Helena, Montana, and Salt Lake City. Hussey managed the Salt Lake City office and quickly developed his institution into Utah's most important financial houses, with branches in Corinne and Ogden. Imaginative and energetic, Hussey expanded the bank in anticipation of the railroad's arrival in 1869. He bought out the Miner's National Bank and, on August 17, 1869, received a charter for the First National Bank of Utah. The bank was designated the official U.S. Depository and became immensely profitable, returning dividends totaling 100% of the capital paid in 1871-72. As president of the bank and its sole owner, Hussey commissioned architect Thomas J. Johnson to design a four story brick, stone, and cast iron bank as a permanent investment. The iron front was designed by Richard M. Upjohn of New York who, in 1870, also designed St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Salt Lake City. Built concurrently with the bank's greatest years of success, 1871-72, the expensive structure may have contributed to the bank's demise in 1873. The estimate of construction, \$80,000, was far exceeded by the actual cost, \$140,000. In addition, liberal loaning policies coupled with a slump in mining and business activity related to the Panic of 1873, proved too much for "Hussey's bank." The bank was unable to meet heavy withdrawals and suspended payment in September, 1873. The bank was involuntarily liquidated in December, 1874; the official reason for the failure: "incompetent management." Hussey was forced to leave Utah in 1874, one

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Resources of Utah, 1872, Bentham Fabian, Salt Lake Tribune Printing and Publishing Co., Salt Lake City, 1873.
 Deseret News, Salt Lake City, May 17, 1875.
 Daily Herald, Salt Lake City, May 17, 1875.
 Utah - A Centennial History Volume II, ed. by Wain Sutton, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., Chicago and New York, 1949.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 2	4 2, 4 8, 8, 0	4 5 1, 2 9, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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

Allen D. Roberts/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

DATE

October 22, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

603 East South Temple

TELEPHONE

(801) 533-5755

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

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Melvin T. Smith

TITLE

Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

January 29, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John F. [Signature]

DATE

5/24/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ACCTHS

DATE

5.21.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 20 1976
RECEIVED

MAY 24 1976

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE Two

year before a fire burned the roof and upper story of the bank (November 17, 1875). Hussey continued banking in Colorado and Montana, Idaho, Washington, and New York (1880-83). He was "Utah's first banker of consequence."

At the time of the fire in 1875, the bank's first floor was occupied by the Deseret National Bank. This bank evolved from Hooper, Eldredge and Company, the first financial house in Territorial Utah, later to become the Bank of Deseret with Brigham Young as president. The bank obtained a charter in 1872, became the Deseret National Bank and apparently moved into the building after the demise of the First National Bank. At about this time Walker Brothers became owners of the structure. More famous as a mercantile firm, Walker Brothers had carried on an unofficial banking business since 1859. They acquired the bank building as an investment and did not do business in it themselves.

It is clear that many pioneer companies vied for office space in the prestigious 4-story structure. Among the early patrons were the Stock Exchange, Flagstaff Mining Company, Huger and Jonassen--attorneys, Patrick Brothers, Mr. Ball--receiver of the First National Bank, C.M. Carter--attorney, Wells, Fargo Company, Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company, offices of Supreme Court Justice Sutherland and his associates.

After the fire of 1875 the bank was immediately repaired but no attempt was made to rebuild the upper story. Instead, a new, flat roof was built over the third floor and a new pediment or parapet wall was built across the front facade. The renovated bank then became the new home of the Masonic lodges of Salt Lake City, the upper floor being dedicated for Masonic purposes November 14, 1876. The Masons had previously met with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) in a rented room in Trowbridge's Building. After leasing the two upper floors of the bank, the Masons prepared the second floor for use as a Masonic Library--which was dedicated September 1, 1877. The Masons used the building until March 19, 1896.

In the mid-1880's, Simon Bamberger obtained the building for his offices. Bamberger was a German Jew who came to the United States in 1859 and ultimately settled in Salt Lake City where he began a prosperous business career. He invested in hotels, mining interests and railroads and became very wealthy. Bamberger served on the Utah State Senate and was eventually elected Governor of Utah. The Bamberger family continues to maintain part ownership of the site through Clarence Bamberger and the Bamberger Investment and Exploration Company. The Utah 3 Theatre uses the ground floor of the building at present.

The architectural significance of the old First National Bank derives from its having the oldest known and most intact iron storefront in the region. Iron storefronts were very rare in early Utah, even after the coming of the railroad in 1869. The famous Z.C.M.I. storefront, designed by William H. Folsom and Obed Taylor, was built after 1875 and is the only other iron front in Salt Lake City. It is not known whether the bank

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
FEB 20 1976
RECEIVED
MAY 24 1976
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE Three

storefront was made locally but records indicate that Richard M. Upjohn of New York designed the front. Upjohn, who was a leader in American architecture since the 1840's, was nearing the end of his career in 1871. His design for the bank may have been one of his last significant works. Project architect Thomas J. Johnson may also have been imported from out-of-state. He is only listed in business directories of 1872 and was not shown to have had a local residence. The 1872 building records indicate Johnson designed three very large homes in Salt Lake City during the year.

At the time of its construction, the First National Bank was considered to be the finest building in the territory. The Resources of Utah, 1872 records:

"It has a frontage of 33 feet and runs back 108 feet, is four stories high, with a Mansard roof. The basement and first story are built of stone and the upper ones of brick, and it has a handsome iron front. When completed it will be the handsomest building in the City. Its cost will be \$80,000."

Newspaper descriptions at the time of the fire were no less complimentary. The Salt Lake Tribune, November 17, 1875, headlined: "Finest building in the city in ashes, \$200,000 lost." The paper reported that the bank cost \$140,000 and was "considered the handsomest and most costly bank building on the Pacific Coast." It was noted that the walls and ornamental ironwork were not damaged.

In short, the First National Bank is replete with significant historical associations and represents an almost unique architectural development in pioneer Utah.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
FEB 20 1976 RECEIVED
MAY 24 1976
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE Two

History of Salt Lake City, Edward Tullidge, Salt Lake City, 1886.

Banking Enterprises in Utah, 1847-1880, Leonard J. Arrington, Business History Review,
Vol. XXIX, No. 4, December 1955.