

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Site No. \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: Off State Highway 114 UTM: 12 439650 4456170  
 Provo, Utah County  
 Name of Structure: Lakeview Tithing Office/Bunnell Creamery T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: Elvin Bunnell  
 Owner Address: RFD 1 Box 343  
 Provo, Utah 84601  
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:  
 Legal Description Kind of Building:

In the NW ¼ of Sec 34 T6SR2E; Commencing 20 chains W and 22.41 chains S from NE corner of Section 33, T6SR2E, Salt Lake Base and Meridian, thence S 20.53 chains, W 20.64 c, more or less to W line of Lot 3, or old meander line; thence along said line N 28° W 12.73 c, N 57° W 6.40 c, N 15° 30' W 6.03 c, E 33.81 c to point of beginning. One acre

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Leslie L. Bunnell Construction Date: 1899 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: Creamery Present Use: Storage  
 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-Reso  
 Deteriorated  Major Alterations  Not Contributory  State Register  Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 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.):

Jeppesen, Christian, Jr., Compiler. History of Lakeview Ward 1855-1951.  
 Provo, Utah: J. Grant Stevenson, 1969.

Utah Historic Sites Inventory Form. Available at Utah State Historical Society.

Street Address:

Site No:

Architect/Builder: Unknown/Leslie L. Bunnell

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style: One-part Block/Vernacular with Victorian trim

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:  
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Lakeview Tithing Office is a one story brick building with a combination gable and hip roof, a stone foundation, and a false front. There is a chimney three quarters of the way down the ridge line. The false front is typical of small town commercial buildings at the turn of the century, as is the corbelling of its upper edge, the jigsaw cut decorative elements in the wooden arches over the facade openings, and the rock-faced shoulder arches over the same openings. The false front is stepped. The facade openings consist of a door centered between two windows. Behind the lower step of the false front on the east side of the building is an extension off the main block of the building. It is a rectangular room with a shed roof and rear entrance, and is situated under the eaves of the main roof. It was probably part of the original construction. According to information in a 1975 Utah Historic Sites Inventory form, it is likely that the room was used to house a boiler that powered the machinery of the creamery. The building has received no major alterations, is in fair condition and maintains its original integrity. Although a house and other farm buildings and structures are located on the property this creamery/tithing office is the only one intended for inclusion in this nomination.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1899

The Lakeview Tithing Office, built in 1899, is historically significant as one of 28 well preserved tithing buildings in Utah that were part of the successful 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.

The Lakeview Tithing Office was originally constructed as a creamery by Leslie L. Bunnell in 1899. Leslie and his father, Stephen I. Bunnell, operated a successful dairy operation for a number of years, and this creamery served as the headquarters of their business, which involved making and selling cheese and butter, as well as selling milk. It was the first creamery in Lakeview, a small, unincorporated farming community located between Provo and Utah Lake. The 16'x16' room on the west side of the creamery served as the home for the family, which included five children, until 1904, when the adjacent house was built. Soon after that, the Bunnells sold the creamery to the Lakeview Ward of the LDS church for use as a tithing office. The west room was used as an office and the east room served as a storage area for grain and other tithing commodities. The Bunnell family bought the tithing office/creamery back around 1920 and used it for a granary. Occasionally, the west room was used as a residence--the last time was during World War II, when a single man lived there for several months. Currently the building is used for storage by the Bunnells.