

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JUN 23 1983

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Tooele County Courthouse and City Hall

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 71 East Vine Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Tooele \_\_\_ vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Utah code 049 county Tooele code 045

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="float: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

## 4. Owner of Property

name Tooele City

street & number City Hall, 90 North Main Street

city, town Tooele \_\_\_ vicinity of state Utah

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tooele County Courthouse

street & number 47 South Main Street

city, town Tooele state Utah

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1968  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington, D.C. state -----

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Old City Hall is a Greek Revival inspired temple-form stone building. It was built in 1867 of uncoursed rubble masonry containing some red sandstone. The building is a rectangular form (27'-3" x 66'-5"), one story in height at the front, and two stories at the rear. It has a gable roof. A belfry was added sometime after 1874.

This building is oriented with its gable end toward the street, a typical characteristic of temple-form buildings. It has a heavy wooden cornice, and a door is centered between two windows on the facade. A round date stone is located in the point of the gable over the door. Each of the openings on the facade has a semicircular relieving arch of stone, and the date stone is also surrounded by a ring of stone pieces. The windows are the two over two double hung sash type. There is a segmented transom over the door.

Originally the building had three long, narrow windows on the east and west side walls. A window on the east wall was later enlarged to contain an inset door, providing additional access to the interior of the building. A modern addition, made in the 1970s which connects the old courthouse to the city library, resulted in covering two of the windows on the west wall. These changes, however, have not affected the original integrity of the building. The door in the east wall was added well within the historic period, and the brick addition attached to the rear of the west side is unobtrusive, and has provided access to the building, so that it may function as part of a cultural complex.

The belfry, reflecting the influence of the Picturesque movement which followed the period of the Greek Revival, has lathe turned posts accented by scroll brackets, and a distinctive spindle band. It has a slightly bellcast pyramid roof. The addition of the belfry may have been an attempt by the Tooele townspeople to highlight the building in the Victorian period when because of its small scale it would not have been as distinctive among the larger buildings of the period. It may also represent an attempt to bring the building up to date using decorative features of the period. Or, it may have been added strictly for practical reasons, and was designed using the most typical decorative features of the period.

The Old City Hall in Tooele is an excellent, well preserved example of a Greek Revival inspired temple-form building. It has received alterations, previously mentioned, which were made to allow it continual use, but which do not affect the original integrity of the building.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1867 **Builder/Architect** Isaac Lee/Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Tooele County Courthouse and City Hall, built in 1867, is significant as an important governmental building in the historical development of Tooele County, Utah, and as an excellent example of an early city hall-county courthouse in the state. It is one of fourteen such structures documented and remains both the oldest (known to date) and only extant temple-form city hall in Utah.<sup>1</sup> The temple-form, which typically has its short end to the street and a pedimented gable facade in imitation of monumental classical buildings,<sup>2</sup> originated in the Greek Revival period of American building,<sup>3</sup> and was the first and most common building type used in Utah's early public buildings. Tooele County, located immediately west of Salt Lake County, was organized in the 1851–52 period, some four years after the founding of Salt Lake City by Mormon pioneers. Within the county political framework, Tooele City functioned as the center, but did not gain votes as the County Seat until 1861, and did not become the effective location of county government until 1867, upon completion of this building. The red sandstone, rectangular structure, topped by a belfry (post-1874), also served as an early pioneer social center. It functioned as a courthouse and city hall until 1899, and as city hall until 1944; thus, the Tooele County Courthouse and City Hall formed a central link in the community's social and political life. In 1968 the building was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Tooele County, located approximately twenty-five miles west of Salt Lake City, and extending to the Nevada border, formed one of the earliest units of government in Utah. Settlement in the area reportedly occurred in 1849, with agricultural and milling activity dominant. Within this early period, Mormon ecclesiastical authority also served political purposes; but in 1851 Tooele County was organized and the "first" civil political government in the county was formed in 1852. Although Tooele City, incorporated on January 3, 1853 -- the fifth incorporated settlement in Utah -- was the predominant settlement, the Territorial legislature placed the county seat at Richville. However, in 1861 that act was repealed and citizens voted to make Tooele City the seat of county government. County court continued to be held alternately in Tooele, Richville, and Grantsville until 1867 when the new building was constructed in Tooele to house county facilities.<sup>4</sup>

The structure was built in 1867 of red sandstone, in an uncoursed rubble masonry construction. Interestingly, this time marked a transitional period in building materials and ideas of permanence in the Tooele area. Writing from Tooele in March, 1867, Eli B. Kelsey stated:

The time honored "adobe" is fast loosing [sic] prestige as a building material, and brick and rock are rapidly taking its place. The primitive log cabin, with its turf roof, is fast

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Daughters of Utah Pioneers, History of Tooele County, Salt Lake City: Publishers Press, 1961  
Goeldner, Paul, Utah Catalog, Historic American Buildings Survey. Salt Lake City: Utah Heritage Foundation, 1969.  
Inventory of the County Archives of Utah, Number 23, Tooele County, Ogden, Utah: The Historical Records Survey (WPA), 1939.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name Tooele, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	3	9	0	1	5	0	4	4	8	7	2	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning 83 feet West of the S.E. corner of Lot 1, Block 7, Plat A Tooele City Survey, running thence West 30 ft., North 66 ft., East 30 ft., thence South 66 ft. to beginning.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Philip F. Notarianni, Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date March 1983

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah 84101

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*A. Kent Powell*

title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 6-9-83

For HCERS use only

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

date 7/21/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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approaching its destiny, namely, to shelter the lower orders of the animal creation for a little season, and then become one of the things of the past, while the "genus homo" find refuge in structures of brick and stone, with shingle roofs.<sup>5</sup>

In August, 1867 a newspaper article reported that the citizens of Tooele were constructing a social and multi-purpose hall, which was "being done by shares." The notice continued, "the house is substantially built of rock; its dimensions, 60 x 30. It will be used for a dancing hall, for dramatic representations and other social and intellectual purposes. It is estimated that this building will cost twelve thousand dollars."<sup>6</sup> In addition, the structure was to house county and city records, and form a type of community center.<sup>7</sup>

According to one source, bids to erect the structure were actually submitted to county officials on February 13, 1865. Those involved in the construction were: Isaac Lee, James Hammond, W. C. Gollaher, and John Gordan.<sup>8</sup> The architect is unknown. A basement was then excavated, where a jail was to be located, and a foundation laid. A Tooele County history noted that a two-room structure started by Isaac Lee, one of the contractors, was purchased and placed on the foundation. Finish work was then completed, including the plastering of the interior by George Atkin and George W. Bryan.<sup>9</sup>

In describing the building's use, the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, History of Tooele County, records:

Upon the completion of these two rooms, it was decided that the building might serve as the general entertainment and amusement center for the community, inasmuch as no such building was then available and could also be used for purposes of holding court or transacting any city or county business also. A committee was appointed to consider any suggestions or offers from anyone who might be interested. An offer of leasing the building to present home dramatic plays and entertainments was made by William C. Foster and Thomas Croft, and was considered favorable by the council.

On December 25, 1870, the first entertainment was held in this building and the lessors offered a rental of \$400.00 for the building. However, due to hard times the financial end of the project was not so good, and in April of 1871, the lessors appeared before the council and petitioned them to be merciful, and offered all the furnishings they had acquired for dramatic purposes in payment of the overdue rent. This petition was accepted and the building was from then on used as a court house except for special entertainments given on very special occasions.

. . . it became necessary to build onto the building to enlarge the jail quarters. The Tooele City officials then petitioned the county officials to permit them to use a portion of the building for city offices. This was granted.<sup>10</sup>

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Thus, the Tooele County Courthouse and City Hall continued to function as such until 1899. At that time a new court house was built and the county moved into that facility. The structure then became solely the City Hall, until 1941 when Tooele City erected a new building. In 1942 the city leased the 1867 structure to the Daughters of Utah Pioneers for fifty years. That group utilizes the hall as a museum.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>The other thirteen documented examples, either listed in, or nominated to, the National Register are as follows: Beaver County Courthouse (1882), NR; Eureka City Hall (1899) and Juab County Building (1890), NR, Eureka Historic District, Tintic Mining District MRA, Utah and Juab Counties; Piute County Courthouse (1903), NR; Salt Lake City and County Building (1891-94), NR; Sevier County Courthouse (1892), NR; Park City City Hall (1884, rebuilt 1889), NR, Park City Main Street Historic District, Summit County; Lehi City Hall (1918-26), NR, Utah County; Ophir Town Hall (ca. 1870), nominated to the NR, March 1983, Tooele County; Summit County Courthouse (1903-04), NR; Helper City Hall (1927), NR, Helper Commercial Historic District, Carbon County; Spring City City Hall (1893), NR, Spring City Historic District, Sanpete County; and Mt. Pleasant City Hall (1939), NR, Mt. Pleasant Historic District, Sanpete County

<sup>2</sup>Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America, (London: Oxford University Press, 1944), p. 266.

<sup>3</sup>Hamlin, p. 268.

<sup>4</sup>Inventory of the County Archives of Utah, Number 23, Tooele County (Ogden, Utah: The Historical Records Survey (WPA), 1939), pp. 14-15, 19, 41.

<sup>5</sup>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Journal History," March 14, 1867, p. 1. Located at the LDS Church Historical Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah.

<sup>6</sup>Deseret Weekly News (Salt Lake City), vol. 16, p. 269.

<sup>7</sup>Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP), History of Tooele County (Salt Lake City: Publishers Press, 1961), p. 203.

<sup>8</sup>DUP historic marker plaque No. 84, erected on the structure in December, 1941, also includes the names of William Broad, John Gillespie, and George Atkin as involved in the construction of the hall.

<sup>9</sup>DUP, History of Tooele County, p. 203.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., pp. 203-204.

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Salt Lake Tribune, February 11, 1945, p. B3.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, "Journal History," April 30, 1867, p. 3; March 14, 1867, p. 1; August 17, 1867, p. 1; and August 18, 1867, p. 2. Located at LDS Historical Archives, Salt Lake City, Utah.