

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. _____

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 100 West and Center Street
 Loa, Wayne County, Utah UTM: 12 443780 4250400

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

Present Owner: Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Wayne County
 c/o Owana Grundy

Owner Address: Loa, Utah 84747

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: L-43
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Commencing at the NW corner of Lot 3 Block 11 Plat A Loa Townsite Survey, thence
 S 82.5 feet, E 115.5 feet, N 82.5 feet, W 115.5 feet to beginning.
 0.25 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: LDS Church Construction Date: 1897 Demolition Date:

Original Use: religious--tithing office Present Use: meeting hall

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

DOCUMENTATION 3

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.):

LDS Church Presiding Bishopric Letterbooks. Wayne Stake, 1899. Available in LDS Church Archives.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Wayne County. Plaque placed on the building at an unknown date gives many of the historical details pertaining to the building.

Architect/Builder: Peter Christensen (brickwork) and Benjamin E. Brown (woodwork)

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: Greek Revival/ Temple Form

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Loa Tithing Office is a one story brick rectangular temple-form building with a volcanic rock foundation and a gable roof. The Greek Revival temple-form building was the preferred building type for religious buildings in Utah in the late nineteenth century. Typical of a Greek Revival inspired temple-form building, it has a boxed cornice that returns on the gable ends and is oriented gable end to the street. A single door is centered on the gable end over which is a hip roof porch. The porch is supported on slender piers which are accented by jigsaw cut decorative elements and a balustrade of simple diagonally set balusters. There are two openings on each side of the building, two windows on the south side, and a door and window on the north side. There is a gable roof porch over the north entrance which is very similar to the front porch. There is a single window on the east gable end. All of the openings are accented by raised brick decorative arches, and the windows are the two over two double hung sash type. Each of the doors is topped by a transom. The north entrance door is a multi-paneled door and is probably original, whereas the east entrance door was replaced by a modern wooden door. Except for the change of the door, which is a minor change, the Loa Tithing Office is unaltered and is in excellent condition.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1897

Built in 1897, the Loa 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 structure, 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. In addition, the Loa Tithing Office is architecturally significant as one of ten extant examples of Utah's tithing offices which were designed in the Greek Revival style. It is one of nine of those building which is a temple-form building. Of those nine temple-form buildings, it is one of the five best preserved examples of the type. The other four examples include the tithing offices in Escalante, Kanosh, Paradise, and Fillmore. The temple-form building originated in the Greek Revival period of American building,¹ and typically has its short end to the street and a pedimented gable end in imitation of monumental classical buidodings.² The temple-form building was the preferred building type for early religious buildings in Utah, having been brought to the area by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints after 1847.³ Very few unaltered, well preserved examples of this building type are presently extant in Utah.

The Loa Tithing Office was built in 1897 at a cost of \$1,000. Peter Christensen, who constructed the building, also fired the brick in a kiln located between the nearby town of Lyman and Horse Valley Ranch. The woodwork on the building was carved by Benjamin E. Brown, a local craftsman. Although
(See Continuation Sheet

History (Continued)

other buildings and structures such as a barn, granaries, and corrals were possibly located on the tithing lot as well, this building is the only tithing structure remaining in the town.

Until about 1910, the building served as a tithing office for the collection of "in-kind" tithing contributions, primarily agricultural and dairy products and livestock. By that time cash had become more abundant in both this area and throughout Utah as a whole and had almost entirely replaced in-kind donations as the principal form of tithing. Since a cash tithing system did not require the same storage capacities and administrative procedures as did the "in-kind" system, this tithing office, along with most others in Mormondom, was no longer needed for its original use. It served for a number of years as the office of the Wayne Stake Presidency, which supervised the ecclesiastical affairs of several wards (congregations) in the area. The building continued to be owned by the church until 1972, when it was sold to the local chapter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers.