

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. _____

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 326 South 280 East UTM: 12 425420 4493490
 Sandy, Salt Lake County
 Name of Structure: Sandy Tithing Office T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Kenneth P. and Elsie S. Rasmussen
 Owner Address: 11766 South 3600 West
 Riverton, Utah 84065
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:
 E: 15 feet of Lot 13 and all of Lots 14, 15, & 16, Block 46, Sandy Station Plat.
 0.21 acre

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Mormon Church Construction Date: 1906-07 Demolition Date:
 Original Use: Tithing Office Present Use: Residential
 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: 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.):

LDS Church Presiding Bishopric Letterbooks. Jordan Stake, 1906-07. Available at
 LDS Church Archives.

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style: Victorian Eclectic/Pyramid Cottage

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Sandy Tithing Office is a one story square brick building with a pyramid roof 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 about 1905, two of which have been identified. The design of the Sandy Tithing Office has been identified as Type No. 3 and is almost identical to the design of the Manti, 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 accented by a large keystone. Above the opening is an inset rectangular panel above which is a semi-circular vent. Pilasters are attached to the corners of the pavillion. Two doors open off the pavilion, each set at an angle into the wall under the pavilion. The arrangement of openings on the other three sides of the building is irregular, but is very similar to that of other tithing offices of this type. An unobtrusive one story modern addition was attached to the rear of the building, but it in no way affects the original character of the building. Decorative elements include a wide frieze which wraps around the building below the cornice line. It consists of dentils on the frieze and string courses of brick which project at different levels. Rock-faced brick

(See Continuation Sheet)

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1906-07

Built in 1906-07, the Sandy Tithing Office is significant as one of 28 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 March 21, 1906, Bishop William D. Kuhre of the Sandy Ward requested permission from the Presiding Bishopric of the LDS church to construct a new tithing office on the local tithing yard.¹ Permission was granted a week later, along with approval for the use of \$2000 in tithes for the construction of the building.² The corner of the tithing yard selected for the new building was occupied at that time by an old hay barn, which was sold and removed from the property during the summer of 1906.³ By July of the following year, the building was virtually complete, and the Presiding Bishopric noted that, as a finishing touch, "a neat fence around it would be an improvement."⁴

The design of the Sandy Tithing Office was one of at least two 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.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Sandy Tithing Office
Description Continued:

highlights the relieving arches of the windows and the relieving arch of the large arch of the portico. A small cupola with a pyramid roof tops the building. The exterior brick walls of the tithing office have been painted, but that change and the addition of the rear extension do not affect its original character.

Sandy Tithing Office
History Continued

Other tithing offices in the state that have virtually the same design as the Sandy Tithing Office are those in Manti, Richmond, Panguitch, and Hyrum, all of which were built between about 1905 and 1910.

Although it was built to serve as a tithing office, the Sandy Tithing Office was also intended to serve in part for "stake purposes,"⁵ probably as offices for the stake presidency, as was the case with a number of other tithing offices built at that time. It is unknown how long the tithing office continued to be used as such, but in 1921, ownership of the property was transferred from the Sandy Ward to the Jordan Stake, indicating a change in use of the building. In 1970, the Sandy Stake, which had assumed ownership of the building in 1966, sold it to the current owners. The uses of the building during the later years of church ownership are uncertain, though, like many of the other tithing offices in the state, it may have served for a number years exclusively as offices for the local stake presidency or as a meeting place for the Relief Society or other auxiliary organization of the church. The current owners divided it into three or four apartments, probably soon after purchasing it in 1970.

Notes

¹Presiding Bishopric Letterbooks, letter to Bishop William D. Kuhre, Sandy Ward, Jordan Stake, March 28, 1906.

²Ibid.

³Ibid., June 23, 1906.

⁴Ibid., July 22, 1907.