

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: Southwest Corner of First South and Main Street UTM: 12/424810/4513070
 Name of Structure: Old Clock at Zion's First National Bank T. R. S.
 Present Owner: Zion's First National Bank Acreage: Less than one
 Owner Address: 102 So. Main
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84110
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Located at a point approximately 55 feet south and 15 feet west of the Northeast corner of Lot 6 Block 69 Plat A Salt Lake City Survey (Southwest corner of First South and Main Streets). The nominated property is approximately 4 feet square with the clock about 20 feet in height.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Unknown Construction Date: 1870's Demolition Date:
 Original Use: Clock Present Use: Clock
 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: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Fall '79 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.):

Deseret News, August 3, 1962.
 "Old Clock Faces It--Time for Project," Deseret News, Feb 25, 1975.
 Paul Goeldner, Utah Catalog, Historic American Buildings Survey, Salt Lake City, Utah Heritage Foundation, 1969.

Researcher:

Date:

Architect/Builder:

Building Materials:

Building Type/Style:

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

Dating from the 1870's, the clock in front of Zion's First National Bank on Main Street reflects characteristics of Victorian period decoration and is one of the only pieces of street furniture of this period remaining in downtown Salt Lake City. An eclectic interpretation of Renaissance prototypes, classical moldings, and ornamental motifs are re-proportioned and re-assembled here with Victorian flamboyance. A square base supports a column of combined undulating classical elements. The column in turn supports the large orb from which clock faces are visible on four sides. Bronze drapery, pierced cresting, and a finial complete the ornamental scheme.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1870's

This is one of the few remaining items of nineteenth century Street Furniture in the downtown area of Salt Lake City. It is approximately one hundred years old. Zion's First National Bank has always owned the clock. The architect and builder are unknown.

No record exists of when the clock was first erected, but tradition has it that the clock was brought to Salt Lake City in a wagon pulled by oxen. It was probably erected on its present site sometime in the 1870's, since photographs of this corner taken in 1868 do not show it, and one taken in 1880 shows the clock erected and running, already a city landmark. The original works were driven by a water wheel. According to Joseph Boud, a long time Zion's Bank employee who retired in 1958, a diversion tunnel from City Creek drove the water wheel. Later the water wheel was replaced with a spring drive. Mr. Bond remembers winding the springs (four large ones), every five days. Still later, the spring drive was abandoned for a series of wet cell batteries. Every six months Mr. Charles Spahr of Western Union would change the solution in the cells. The batteries were kept in the basement of the bank near the vault. Just prior to 1912 a master clock system was installed in the bank and the old clock was connected to it. Probably it was at this time that the works were replaced with International Business Machine gears. For many years IBM serviced the clock. Even now, after almost a century of service, the internal workings of the old clock are so solid that only occasional service is required.