

PH015 0037 DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | MAR 31 1975 |
| DATE ENTERED     | MAY 21 1975 |

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Oneida Stake Academy

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

N. W. Corner of 2nd South and 2nd East

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Preston

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Idaho

CODE

016

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

041

**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            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE           | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH              | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                  | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS        | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE      |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT          |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS              |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT             |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC             |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL             |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION         |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:                 |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Eastlake School District #201

STREET & NUMBER

120 East 2nd South (Office of Superintendent)

CITY, TOWN

Preston

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

39 West Oneida

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

STATE

Idaho

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

—FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

610 N. Julia Davis Dr., Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exterior form of the Oneida Stake Academy is a cruciform twostory mass with centered belfry on a nearly square site (62' x 80'). The primary building material is a soft volcanic stone (creamy white in color) quarried from hills a few miles distant. Window frames, quoins, and sculptured details are of concrete. The frame belfry is very reminiscent of those to be seen on many barns of the period in the general area. The overall style is a charmingly vernacular variant on Romanesque Revival.

Original and present condition of the interior has been described by the leading historian of Franklin County, Mr. Newell Hart:

"The main entryway, original condition: Upon entering the building's front doors one was immediately in presence of a spacious hall, at the end of which was a water fountain and antique clock above; on each side of the fountain were doors leading to the library and a large classroom.

One was also greeted by a charming double stairway which met overhead and proceeded in form of a wider, single stair to the upper auditorium. The upper portion was graced by a balustrade with hand-turned rungs.

Near each of the dual stairs on this main floor were doors leading to classrooms or office space on the west and east sides of the building.

Present condition of main floor: The double stairway was removed and replaced by a single, square-turning stair. It is concrete and clings to three walls enroute, blotting out a narrow vertical window on one side as it climbs. The designer of this cold stairway could have been inspired by viewing an old B grade prison movie.

The various rooms have been combined into one large space where industrial arts classes are presently conducted, with some partitions moved back to allow use as tool cage-rooms etc.

One enters the building and is immediately faced with a blank frontal partition straight ahead, and with walls, open stairway, upper regions, etc., all painted with whitewash. There is no charm, no warmth, not a picture in sight; nothing but monolithic, dirty grayish-whiteness in all directions.

Most of the changes were made for practical space needs, or to satisfy various codes.

Basement: not much change, except partitions have been removed to allow for school district storage of new or discarded material. Wooden floor replaced by concrete years ago. Iron support columns, Ionic at the capital, still intact.

Upper auditorium: changes consist of stage removal, addition of a false hung ceiling, and placement of several divider-like instrument and practice rooms. This is the band room. Hardwood flooring, diagonally placed, not covered - still in good condition. The ceiling, arched and decorated with a double-roll plastering effect, is intact above the celotex ceiling. Not sure about the old chandeliers.

Recently discovered photos of interior rooms, including the auditorium, and showing students at work, will aid in restoration of the original atmosphere and decor (1903-1912 era). Living children of the builder are searching for original blueprints of the stairway."

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

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## SPECIFIC DATES

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oneida Academy operated from 1888 until 1922. The first two years were in Franklin, Idaho - the state's first permanent settlement - and after that in Preston. The permanent Academy was built in Preston in 1890-94 and still stands.

During its 32 years in Preston it grew up during this horse and buggy era with the town itself. Its impact on hundreds of students was such as to now persuade them that their experience, their special inspiration, must have contributed to something of a Golden Age in the community. A number of prominent Idaho leaders, including Ezra Taft Benson, former Secretary of Agriculture, are products of this academy.

The Academy was one of a number established in the late 19th Century by the L.D.S. (Mormon) church both to establish a kind of moral climate and also to assist the educational process in certain communities.

The Academy building itself was superintended by a German immigrant (John Nuffer, who was 'called on a mission' for this special task), and was built of native greyish sandstone. Its Romanesque statelines has long been one of its beloved architectural features, though in later years (following an earthquake, 1934) some of the Germanic touches were streamlined.

The building, today, is the oldest of two or three surviving buildings from those days of church-sponsored education.

The Academy, in its atmosphere of architecture, course of studies, and its strong cultural leanings, was something like a small college in a country setting.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newell Hart, ed., Hometown Album (Preston, 1973); Preston Citizen, November 23, 1972, January 4, 1973, May 2, 1974; issues of the Herald Journal (Logan, Utah) in 1956 and the Deseret News (Salt Lake) in May 1963.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

VTM OK  
HL

UTM REFERENCES

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466020 0427920  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
 J. Meredith Neil, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION  
 Idaho Bicentennial Commission

DATE  
 March 18, 1975

STREET & NUMBER  
 210 Main Street

TELEPHONE  
 (208) 384 3890

CITY OR TOWN  
 Boise

STATE  
 Idaho 83702

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE X 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 National Park Service.

*Meredith Neil*

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 26, 1975

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*James A. Connelly*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *W. M. ...*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE MAY 21 1975  
 DATE MAY 14 1975