

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 28 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAY 6 1976

## 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



Parowan Meetinghouse

AND/OR COMMON

Parowan Rock Church

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Center of block at West side of Main Street  
between Center and 100 South

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Parowan

VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Utah

049

Iron

021

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

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

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Real Estate Department

STREET & NUMBER

50 East North Temple

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Salt Lake City

VICINITY OF

Utah

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Iron County Courthouse - County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

15 East 100 North

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Parowan

Utah

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Utah State Historic Sites Survey

DATE

June 2, 1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

STATE

603 East South Temple, Salt Lake City

Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## 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

#### Description:

- A. Location: Situated in the center of an eight-acre block. An entrance to the building leads from each side of the block. On either side of the paths leading from the gates are avenues of trees, some ornamental and some fruit.
- B. Building plan: Split level with two major levels and a gallery.
1. Lower level: Relief Society hall and five small classrooms around a central aisle.
  2. Main level: Assembly hall with entrances, stairways and gallery on the south end and pulpit on the north end.
  3. Gallery: horseshoe shaped, gallery facing the pulpit below.
- C. Building materials:
1. Native red sandstone foundation and walls, laid in coursed rubble.
  2. Native pine trim, structural lumber and pillars. Pillars were turned on a lathe made by melting down old cannonballs, wagon tires and iron scraps.
- D. Dimensions: Height of building is 28 feet; outside measurements are 45 by 50 feet.
- E. General Appearance: Meetinghouse is a rectangular box with a low-pitched gabled roof. On the roof over the entry is a louvered belfry. The front facade of the building is symmetrical and features two separate entrances, one each for men and women. Old photos indicate the front wall was of balloon-frame construction at one time. The wall is now stone, laid in a rubble manner, and painted gray. A circular medallion in the upper front gable no longer has its inscription.
1. Trim: Cornice, window and all interior trim is simply molded or plain.
  2. Windows: Double-hung sash windows, 16/16 type. Each side of the building has three windows, regularly spaced. Windows on the bottom level are 8/8 doublehung sash type and are placed directly below the windows on the main floor.
  3. Doors: Main entry doors are paned, each being about 2 by 8 feet, of the raised panel type.
- F. Condition: The building is essentially in original condition, having been altered only slightly in 110 years. Abandoned for decades, the meetinghouse suffered some abuse but its architectural fiber is remarkably intact. Both interior and exterior have great restoration potential. The building is structurally sound.



# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1862-1866

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ebenezer Hanks, Edward Dalton,  
William H. Warren

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Significance:

The Parowan Rock Church or meetinghouse is an important monument to the pioneering efforts of early colonists who settled Parowan in 1851 as part of the first phase of "the inner cordon of settlements" in the Mormon Kingdom. Intended to be a "center city" of Zion from which other settlements would expand, Parowan quickly established itself as one of the largest and most strategically important colonies in southern-central Utah. The rock meetinghouse, built between 1862 and 1866 as the first permanent house of worship, was appropriately impressive and large in scale, though modestly vernacular in style.

Parowan had one of the early Mormon "stakes," a large ecclesiastical unit composed of several "wards" or congregations. The Parowan meetinghouse thus became a "stake center" or tabernacle where frequent mass meetings of the combined local congregations were held. (The seating capacity of the chapel is 800, unusually large for this early date). In these regional meetings, decisions and plans were made which initiated the overall development of valleys in southern-central Utah.

The three architects-builders, Ebenezer Hanks, Edward Dalton and William A. Warren, were also prominent religious community leaders.

The architectural significance of the building derives from its being one of the best examples of Mormon pioneer vernacular architecture. The church's split level plan, typical of early religious buildings, consisted of a chapel and gallery upstairs and six smaller classrooms downstairs. The separate entries for men and women may reflect colonial origins from Puritan New England. The overall architecture, however, is vernacular and is without evidence of attempts at stylization. All of the four walls are made of an orange-brown sandstone laid in coursed rubble. The roof is simply gabled and is adorned by a modest, curiously proportioned belfry. Square window bays feature 16/16 windows--indicative of the scarcity of larger pieces of glass in pioneer times. The cornice is simply molded and boxed and has a plain frieze.

Unused as a church for decades, the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers now maintain a museum in the building. The local community, as well as the broader historical community, recognize the Parowan rock church as one of Utah's best landmark symbols of pioneer life and culture.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE Addition Page

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PAROWAN ROCK CHURCH

Footnote to statement regarding separate entry's for men and women.

Luella Adams Dalton, History of the Iron County Mission, Parowan, (Privately Published) p. 4.