

PH0508977

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 7 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 8 1978

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 The Hotel Utah
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
South Temple and Main Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN
Salt Lake City VICINITY OF 02
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Utah CODE 049 COUNTY Salt Lake CODE 035

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 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 Utah Hotel Company
STREET & NUMBER South Temple and Main Street
CITY, TOWN Salt Lake City VICINITY OF _____ STATE Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Salt Lake County Recorder's Office
STREET & NUMBER Salt Lake City & County Building 450 South State Street
CITY, TOWN Salt Lake City STATE Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Utah Historic Sites Survey
DATE March 1972 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Utah State Historical Society
CITY, TOWN Salt Lake City STATE Utah

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 Hotel Utah is distinguished as a monumentally scaled example of Neo-Classical Revival, or a subtype described as "modern Italian Renaissance" by the 1911 architects. Designed by Parkinson and Bergstrom of Los Angeles, the demanding design required the artistry of hundreds of the best contractors and craftsmen in the region for two years. Upon opening, a description of the building filled ten full pages in the Deseret Evening News, a major local newspaper.

The ten-story landmark utilized the most contemporary concrete and steel skeletal structural system, while being sheathed in white matte glazed enameled brick and decorative white matte glazed enameled terra cotta.

The windows of the Hotel Utah are glazed generally with plate glass, although art glass is used in some principal rooms, the original roof was of concrete and arranged as a roof garden with a serving pantry so that during the summer parties could be given and food served.

In the basement are located a large kitchen, fifteen cold storage rooms lined with tile, a Turkish bath, barber shop, and general storage. Originally the grill in the basement was tiled in a design giving the effect of sky and foliage.

The sub-basement contained an ice plant with a daily capacity of 50 tons. The ice plant and the heating plant were operated by an engine located at the power house in the middle of the block at Temple Square. Connections between the power house and the hotel were made through a 1500 foot tunnel under Temple Square into the sub-cellar.

The first floor of the building contains the large lobby, which is 87 ft. by 87 ft. in addition to the side corridors, offices, and the side entrance corridor. An eighteen foot balcony surrounds the lobby at the mezzanine level. The mezzanine floor contains the Ball Room, elaborately treated in stucco with white maple flooring.

The building above is supported by immense steel girders which weigh about 52 tons each. The girders over the ballroom were designed to sustain eight stories, with a clear span of 52 feet. The dining room girders were arranged to carry nine stories with a span of 52 feet to the center of the columns.

The entrance lobby is wainscoted in marble ten feet high, and there are twelve columns supporting the roof and designed in a composite order. These are about 30 feet high with a marble base and are finished in scaglia to match in Irish green marble. The bays between each column are treated elaborately in stucco.

The third mezzanine contains a print shop where hotel menus and other materials are drawn up. Penthouse apartments, containing a reception hall, living room, master study, all-electric kitchen and bath occupy the corners of the east wing of the tenth floor. The penthouses are surmounted by the hotel tower which rises four stories above the roof garden and is topped by a massive beehive set on a pedestal. On each of the four pedestal panels are an eagle and shield, all of which is lit by 6,400 lights at night.

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In addition to the public rooms, there are 315 guest rooms, approximately forty per floor. Each floor had three sample rooms in connection with the bedrooms, and these were provided for storage and presentation of the goods of traveling salesmen stopping at the hotel. All principal rooms were connected with baths, numbering 210 with hot and cold water. Telephones were installed in every room, connected with three exchanges in the lobby, where a telegraph office is also located.

The lighting fixtures are finished in bronze and are elaborately designed to match the interior design of the various rooms.

Several additions and modifications have been made over the years. In 1948, the hotel management drilled a well which provided the 13,000,000 gallons of water used monthly. The ninth and tenth floors have been divided into suites.

In 1961, the Sky Room was created on the tenth floor, replacing the old roof garden. A \$3.1 million modernization took place in 1967. The garage was enlarged, the ballroom, convention areas, dining rooms and coffee shop were redecorated. The guest rooms were renovated and refurnished, and lighting and plumbing were modernized.

In 1975, the granite facing around the base of another addition was quarried at the original quarry at Cold Springs, Minnesota. The decorative terra cotta glazing on the outside of this last addition was made by the same company that made the original glazing, using molds cast from the original molds. The complicated filigree is composed of lion's heads, egg-and-dart, and lamb's tongue motifs. This annex added 160 guest rooms, a 15,000 sq.ft. ballroom, an 11,000 sq.ft. exhibit hall, several smaller meeting rooms and a new Sky Room restaurant.

To date, no other hotel built in the Inter-mountain west has achieved the prominence and reputation afforded the Hotel Utah, much of which has come as a result of its inherent architectural character.

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 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 checked="" 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 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		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909-1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Parkinson and Bergstrom

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The corner of South Temple and Main Street has long been an important site in Utah History. Located across the street east of the Temple Block, a "string" of one-story buildings were constructed in 1850 for use as a general tithing office and bishop's storehouse. The buildings were used for their original purpose and served as offices for the Presiding Bishopric of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints until their demolition in June, 1909, to make way for the Hotel Utah. Because of the currency shortage, tithing contributions were generally made in i.e., wheat and other farm products, animals, or hand-made items. Concerned with the temporal welfare of church members, the Presiding Bishopric distributed the goods to the needy of the church. At times settlement efforts in the surrounding valleys were supported by goods supplied from the tithing office. The office served as a center in carrying out the cooperative philosophy instituted by the church founder, Joseph Smith.

Upon completion of the one-story buildings, a larger two-story structure was added to the south end for the purpose of housing a merchandise store. The store and general tithing office served as the center of commerce in early Utah. In addition to collecting and distributing tithing goods, the tithing office served as a market where tithing goods could be purchased or traded. One contemporary observed penned the following description of the General Tithing Office--

"Here are piles of rawhide, both cow and mustang, or even pig-skin; bins of shelled corn, and cribs full of corn in the ear; wheat and rye, oats and barley; casks of salt provisions; wool, homespun, yarn, and home-woven cloth in hanks and bales; indigo; cocoons and raw silk; butter, cheese, and all manner of farm produce; even the most destructible of vegetable growths,--not only potatoes, turnips, and other root crops, but green peas (sic) and beans; fruit, and young cabbages; hay, carpenters' work, boys' caps, slop-shop overalls; hemp-rope, preserves, tinware, stogies, confectionery, adobe bricks and tiles, moss and gramma mattresses; buckskin leggins, gloves, moccasins, hunting-shirts, and complete suits...These are but a minute fraction of the contents of the Church Tithing Stores."¹

In addition to its importance in Utah's early commercial history, the corner is of significance as the site of the territory's first newspaper office. Established in 1850, the Deseret News was first printed in a one-story building immediately to the east of the two-story structure. In 1854 the printing plant was moved into the adjacent store and remained there for two years until 1856 when it was moved to the second floor of the Council House. In 1863 the Deseret News returned to the two-story building where it remained until 1903. As a church-owned paper, the Deseret News served an important function in publishing news, printing talks by church authorities, and unifying the territory through published reports of activities in the various Utah settlements.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leonard J. Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1958.
Deseret Evening News, June 5, 1909, p.1; April 18, 1910, p.1; June 10, 1911, pp.4, 17-21.
The Salt Lake Herald-Republican, April 2, 1911, p.4.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 2	4 2 4 9 0 0	4 5 1 3 3 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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: A. Kent Powell, Preservation Historian/ Kim Gainer, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Utah State Historical Society DATE: October 19, 1977

STREET & NUMBER: 603 East South Temple TELEPHONE: (801) 533-5755

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE: *[Signature]* DATE: Oct. 28, 1977

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE: 1.3.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE: 1.3.78

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In addition to the two-story Deseret News building and one-story General Tithing Office buildings demolished to make way for the Hotel Utah was a nearby house known as the "emigrant house." In the frame building, located to the rear and east of the tithing office, emigrants were housed until places could be found for them in Salt Lake City or other Mormon communities. Later, following the arrival to Utah of a group of Hawaiian converts to Mormonism, the building served as headquarters for the Hawaiians when they visited Salt Lake City from their settlement of Iosepa in Skull Valley.

The historic significance of the South Temple and Main Street location was recognized in 1909 when a Deseret News reporter wrote: "...while the purpose in tearing the old pile down is to replace it with a handsome modern structure of the sky-scraping variety which will cost in the neighborhood of a million and a half dollars, yet to the people of this city and this state, who came to this place when there was no Salt Lake City, and when the spot occupied by the old building was merely a sagebrush plain, and who have watched the city grow and progress until it has become one of the leading cities on the American continent--all during the life time of the adobe structure--will experience a twinge of regret in seeing it razed to the ground."²

The location across from the Salt Lake Temple and in the heart of the Salt Lake business district was ideal for a first class hotel. Community promoters lamented that Salt Lake City "...suffered for years in the estimation of the traveling public...(because of) the universal circulation of reports that our city was far in the rear in the matter of providing for the comfort of tourists."³

However, with the completion of the Hotel Utah, the Deseret News editor continued "...the travelers who will tarry within our gates...will carry away such reports of the royal way Salt Lake can take care of her guests that her reputation as a queen of entertainers will rank as high as that of any city in the West."⁴

Although plans to construct a first class hotel in Salt Lake City had been discussed prior to 1909, it was not until May 20, 1909 that the Utah Hotel company was incorporated with Joseph F. Smith, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as President of the company. Construction began immediately with the demolition of the Deseret News Building, General Tithing Office and Emigrant House in early June 1909. Architects for the modern Italian Renaissance building was the firm of Parkinson and Bergstrom of Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. General contractor for the construction was James Black Masonry and Contracting Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

Work proceeded rapidly on the ten-story building and within two years, on June 9, 1911, the hotel was opened for business. The day following the official opening of the Hotel Utah, the Deseret Evening News carried a four-page description of the new structure.

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The article described the new building as "the climax in hotel construction in the United States," and went on to observe:

"There are larger hotels than the Utah, and there are those which cost more money, but there is not a hotel from the Atlantic to the Pacific which has the elegance, the comfort and the general beauty possessed by the Hotel Utah. It is a veritable palace from the dome with its myriad electric lights to the cellar, where is the most wonderful kitchen in the world."⁵

While the Hotel Utah provided first class accommodations for visitors to Salt Lake City and helped disperse the communities feelings of inferiority as a second class city, its construction symbolized other developments in Utah's history. The Salt Lake Herald--Republican, acknowledging that the chief stockholders in the company were also high ranking officials in the Mormon church, saw their investment as a symbol of Mormon progressivism. Church leaders had been criticized as reactionaries opposed to the development of the state because it would lessen their hold on members of the church. The charges of reaction-aryism stemmed from the long standing controversy over polygamy and the political influence which the church within the state.⁶

In a more subtle defense of church leaders, the church-owned Deseret News saw in the fact that all segments of Utah society were represented as stockholders of the Utah Hotel company and the Utah Hotel operating company, whose president was the non-Mormon mining magnate Daniel T. Jackling, that after decades of conflict, accommodation and cooperation would be the new order in Utah. "The list of stockholders...indicates unmistakably that it is possible for 'Mormon,' Jew, and Gentile in Utah to live together, trade together and combine their resources for the general good. The raising of such a vast sum as two million dollars for a hotel, when the projectors knew that they could only hope for a small return on their outlay, at least for many years to come, is an instance of public spirit and enterprise that cannot be too highly commended, and is one we trust that will be imitated in other times."⁷

As an agent for accommodation and cooperation among the Mormon and non-Mormon elements of the state, the Hotel Utah has played an important role.

The construction of the Hotel Utah played a role in the story of organized labor in the West. On two separate occasions dynamite bombs were exploded in attempts to delay work on the building. The controversy centered on attempts by the Jones Construction Company and the American Bridge Company to maintain an open shop despite demands by the local structural Iron Workers Union that only union men be hired to erect the steel frame.

Shortly after 3:00 a.m. on December 29, 1909, a bomb was exploded at the construction site in an apparent attempt to wreck the hoisting engine and derrick.

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Only minor damage was done and construction work continued on schedule. Two men, Frank Wilson and James Delaney, were arrested and charged with the crime. Wilson denied any responsibility for the dynamiting but did admit he had been approached by members of the Structural Iron Workers Union and asked to participate in the bombing. However, John Munsey, business agent for the local union, denied any union involvement in the incident. In a trial held in February 1910, James Delaney was convicted of malicious mischief and sentenced to six months in jail. Frank Wilson was not convicted and no tie to the local Structural Iron Workers Union was established.

A second bomb was exploded the morning of April 18, 1910. More successful than the first, the bomb damaged the steel beams in the southeastern part of the building. Glass windows in buildings within a one-block radius of the explosion were shattered. Many residents were awakened fearful that Haley's Comet, which was visible about the time of the explosion, had hit the earth.

It was felt that the deed was the work of the local Structural Iron Workers Union and that the bomb was intended to destroy the compressor thereby preventing the use of the riveters. Once again Jack Munsey, business agent for the union, denied responsibility for the bombing. "I know nothing about it. I am positive that none of our men had anything to do with it and I deplore it as much as anybody else. We do not believe in using force and condemn all attempts of this sort."⁸

Munsey went on to offer a \$500 reward for the arrest of the guilty individuals. Despite additional rewards offered by the Hotel Company, State of Utah, and Salt Lake County, no arrests were immediately made.

Several months after John J. McNamara, President of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, and his brother were arrested for the bombing of the Los Angeles Times Building on October 1, 1910, which killed 20 people and injured 17, Mrs. Munsey signed a statement that a Mr. Williams had been harbored in their house two weeks after the dynamiting of the Los Angeles Times Building. Munsey denied everything but when the McNamara brothers pleaded guilty to the charge of dynamiting the building, Munsey's role in the bombings was exposed.

The bombings of the Hotel Utah represented one of the few instances in Utah labor history when organized labor sought to further its goals by violence.

Since its construction in 1911, the Hotel Utah has become an important Utah landmark. Its architectural beauty, historic location, and tradition make it the best known hotel in Utah. Its uniqueness, especially contrasted with the recently completed chain hotel structures in Salt Lake City, distinguishes the Hotel Utah today in much the same manner as it did other forms of accommodation in 1911.

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FOOTNOTES:

- 1
Leonard J. Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1958) pg. 141.
- 2
Deseret Evening News, June 5, 1909, pg. 1, second section.
- 3
Deseret Evening News, June 10, 1911, pg. 4.
- 4
Ibid.
- 5
Deseret Evening News, June 10, 1911, part 3, pg. 17.
- 6
The Salt Lake Herald--Republican, April 2, 1911, pg. 4.
- 7
Deseret Evening News, June 10, 1911, pg. 4.
- 8
Deseret Evening News, April 18, 1910, pg. 1.