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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 15 1993

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Star Hall

other names/site \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 159 East Center Street N/A not for publication

city, town Moab N/A vicinity

state Utah code UT county Grand code 019 zip code 84532

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
Name of related multiple property listing:		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
<u>N/A</u>		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>N/A</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet

M. J. [Signature] 4-6-93  
Signature of certifying official Date

Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] 5/14/93  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

entered in the  
National Register

## 6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION / religious facility

EDUCATION / school

SOCIAL / meeting hall

Current Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE / auditorium

SOCIAL / meeting hall

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Romanesque

Other: Richardsonian Romanesque

Materials  
(enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls Sandstone

roof ASPHALT (shingles)

other WOOD (trim)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Star Hall is a beautiful Richardson Romanesque style meeting hall in Moab, Utah. It is one of the only remaining historic structures in this southeastern Utah town. In plan, Star Hall is T-shaped, with the narrow portion (also a gable end) facing south onto Center Street, the main east/west street in Moab. The top, wide portion of the 'T' (the rear of the building) faces north toward the center of the block. The structure has had very little alteration to its exterior since it was constructed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1905-06. It was apparently repaired and updated c. 1925 and again in 1968.

The walls are made of twenty-one courses of locally quarried, rock-faced ashlar, reddish-pink sandstone. The mortar is the same color as the sandstone blocks and is predominately sand. The structure has a main, north/south gable roof with slightly smaller cross-gables with lower ridge lines over the 'T' extensions. All roofs are covered with nonhistoric brown asphalt composition shingles and all gable ends are pedimented. The eaves are wide, composed of tongue and groove boards, painted a dark brown. The pedimented, south-facing gable end is covered with plain wooden shakes which are Pabsco Spanish Tiles painted with Pratt & Lambert Red #231. These shakes replaced original shakes which had deteriorated by 1968.

Star Hall has a centrally located, round arched main entrance facing south onto Center Street. The main arched entrance has wooden paneled, double-doors with narrow sidelights and a fan-light window above. Immediately above the arched stone entry are metal letters reading "Star Hall". While Star Hall is the original name of the building, these letters are probably not original. On either side of the main entrance and immediately above the top of the door are two decorative metal light fixtures of unknown date. (They were not present in a photo taken in 1909.)

Originally, three stone steps led to the main entrance from a dirt sidewalk. During the 1968 remodel of Star Hall, these original stone steps were replaced with three concrete steps leading up from a concrete sidewalk. The top of the original stone steps and the modern top step match the top of the beveled water table which is composed of two courses of dressed sandstone blocks.

The main entrance is flanked symmetrically by pairs of windows. The front windows, as with all windows in Star Hall, are two-over-two, double-hung windows with sandstone lug window sills and round arches of sandstone blocks over the half-round fixed transoms. The window sills lines around the building are all at the same height with the tops of the window sills approximately five feet (1.5 meters) above the present ground surface.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:  
\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) <u>ARCHITECTURE</u> <u>SOCIAL HISTORY</u>     	Period of Significance <u>1906-43</u>     Cultural Affiliation <u>N/A</u>   	Significant Dates <u>1906</u>    
Significant Person <u>N/A</u>	Architect/Builder <u>Will Shafer (architect?)</u> <u>Steve Day, Will Bliss, A.M. Stocks, Bill Hawks (builders)</u>	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Star Hall is significant as one of the finest examples of the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style in southeastern Utah (Criterion C). As a well-preserved and locally rare example of the style, it is important to Utah's architectural history. Due to its stature as one of the only remaining historic structures in Moab, Star Hall is a unique symbol of the community's heritage. Star Hall is also significant as the primary community meeting and recreation hall in Moab, initially owned and operated by the LDS church, and later by the local school district (Criterion A). It has made a lasting contribution to the social history of Moab and its beauty and architectural style make the preservation of Star Hall vital to the local community.

The first recorded deed of the Star Hall property shows Leonard Leonidas Crapo (b. 1838 - d. 1929) buying all of Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Block 18 of Moab, Utah for \$200 from the Land Office at Salt Lake City. Mr. Crapo was the first county attorney, a Justice of the Peace, a postal delivery worker, and one of Moab's first uranium miners.

On February 22, 1884, Crapo sold Lot 1 (where Star Hall is now located) to Randolph H. Stewart and Orlando W. Warner for \$1,000. While not explicitly listed on the warranty deed, Stewart and Warner undoubtedly purchased the property for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon church). In 1881 Randolph H. Stewart was sent to Moab by the LDS church to organize the Moab Ward (congregation) and build the first Mormon church. Stewart was the bishop of the Moab Ward and Orlando W. Warner was a member of the ward bishopric, a second counselor. On July 25, 1885, Stewart sold the property to Warner for \$500. Then on August 7, 1896, Warner and his wife Priscilla, "sold" the property to the trustees-in-trust of the LDS church for \$1.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints had Star Hall built as a recreational center or amusement hall for its Moab Ward members. The church contracted the construction of the hall to local Moab residents:

Will Shafer had the contract to do the woodwork. Steve Day cut the timber by a blue print supplied by Will Shafer. Will Bliss had a contract to do

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss. Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, 1988, pp. 124-126.
- Cortes, Phyllis, editor. Grand Memories. Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. Utah Printing Co., Salt Lake City, 1972.
- Roberts, Allen D. Religious Architecture of the LDS Church: Influences and Changes Since 1947. Utah Historical Quarterly 43:3, 1975.
- Roberts, Allen D. A Survey of LDS Architecture in Utah: 1847-1930. Limited publication, Salt Lake City (copy available at Utah SHPO), 1974.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- \_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- \_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register
- \_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- \_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_ Other State agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local Government
- \_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>6/2/6/6/1/0</u>	<u>4/2/7/0/2/6/0</u>	B	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing				
C	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	D	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

As stated in the records of the Grand County recorder and assessor, Star Hall is located in Block 18, Lot 1, in Moab, Utah (Moab City Plat). The legal description is the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 1, Township 26 South, Range 21 East. Also: Beg. NW cor. Blk 18, Moab T. th E. 181 ft, th S. 151 ft, th E. 50 ft, th N. 13 ft, th E 135.5 ft. th N. 138 ft, th E 115.5 ft, th S. 231 ft th W. 462 ft, th N. 231 ft to beg.

Tax No. 26-21-1-18-1-3-4-5-8-9

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are those recorded for Star Hall in the Grand County Recorder and Assessor Offices, Moab, Utah. These boundaries also include the Moab Church House, previously listed on the National Register.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Nancy Coulam and Lloyd Pierson / Cultural Resource Specialists

organization National Park Service date January 1993

street & number 125 West 200 South telephone 801-259-7164

city or town Moab state UT zip code 84532

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Star Hall, Moab, Grand County, UT

The long east and west sides of the T-shaped Star Hall are 69.5 feet long (21.19 meters). The 'bottom' or south-facing side of each extension of the upper part of the 'T' is 10.0 feet long (3.04 meters). The east- and west-facing sides of the upper part of the 'T' are 28.5 feet long (8.69 meters). Despite the overall symmetry in dimensions and appearances, there are slight differences between the east and west sides of the building, so the east and west sides are described separately.

The east side of the main 'stem' portion of Star Hall contains four windows and one door which currently look out on the historic Moab LDS Church meetinghouse (listed on the National Register; now a Daughters of Utah Pioneers facility), a modern tennis court and school building. Originally, the east side faced onto poplar trees and the church. Located to the north of the four east side windows is an arched entrance. The door in this east entrance is paneled wood with a fan-light window above and leads into the main room just south of the stage. (Instead of a door at this location, the west side contains another window.)

The south-facing (or Center Street-facing) side of the east portion of the top of the 'T' contains a single, central arched window. A single brick chimney is centered in the gabled roof above this south-facing window. On the east-facing side of this portion of the 'T' are two more arched windows, and a single door which leads to the basement.

The rear of the structure has been somewhat obscured by the addition of a concrete pad containing the air conditioner on the east side, and a low, one-story, concrete block storage room on the west. These c. 1971 additions abut the original walls of Star Hall. From the rear of the building a second brick chimney is visible. (At least one historic chimney, located on the south end of the west side, has been removed.) The rear elevation was probably configured with a centrally-located pair of doors and two evenly spaced windows to each side. (See photo #2.)

The west-facing side of the 'stem' has five arched windows identical in construction and placement to those on the front and east sides of the structure. The west side windows look out on the Grand County Courthouse. (This 1937 brick, PWA Moderne style building is potentially NR-eligible.) Originally the south-facing extension of the top of the 'T' contained another arched window, identical to the arrangement on the east side, but as part of the 1968 remodel, this window was converted into an arched door to provide access to the west wing of the stage. Below the door, nine concrete steps have been added on a stone base. This base does not alter the integrity of the building since it is constructed of the same local rock-faced ashlar sandstone blocks as the original construction stones. The mortar in this additional base, while cement, matches the original mortar in color. The west-facing end of the 'T' has two arched windows, but unlike the east side, no door is present north of the windows on the west side of the 'T'. Another fan-light window is centered in the gable above the west windows.

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The double doors of the main, south-side Center Street entrance open onto a foyer which was divided by small ticket booths in 1968. The foyer in turn opens onto a single large room with a stage at the north end. The stage and the main, large room have been the interior configuration of the building since it was built in 1906. The interior was unaltered until 1968 when the Grand County School District spent \$84,000 'tilting' the floor upwards to the south to improve sight lines and accommodate 236 seats. The balcony in the south end of the interior was also original, but in 1968 its floor was also 'tilted' and now has 56 seats. Red velvet drapes were hung over all the interior windows in the 1968 remodel. It is unclear whether the glass chandelier lighting fixtures are original or historic or were added during the 1968 remodeling.

From the west wing of the stage, a staircase descends to the basement of Star Hall. Two dressing rooms and modern HVAC ducts and equipment have been added between 1968 and today, but most of the basement shows the original rustic block construction. The basement stairs on the east side are a notable feature since they are constructed of large slabs of stone. The mortar and sandstone blocks exposed on the north side of the basement are showing some erosion and salt deposition.

In 1968 the Grand County School District (the current owner) spent \$84,000 to reconstruct the floor of the main room and the balcony, to install seats, refinish the stage, add exterior stairs on the west side to provide access to the stage, and hang new drapes and stage curtains. In 1971 the school district spent \$9,501 installing an air conditioner. Other than these changes, the structure has remained the same as when it was first opened as an meeting and recreational hall in 1906.

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the rock. Stone came from the Goose Island stone quarry about a mile above the river spring. Will Bliss hauled the rock by team and wagon, making about four trips a day. Steve Day quarried it. A.M. Stocks dressed the rock for the arches for doors and windows and Bill Hawks helped lay up the rock.<sup>1</sup>

William Albert Shafer (b. 1859) was a carpenter by trade who moved to Moab in 1888. Steven H. Day (b. 1883 - d. 1970) was not known for any particular construction skill or trade. Angus Murray Stocks (b. 1844 - d. 1920) was a noted mason and blacksmith, and once Star Hall was built, he was one its most renowned fiddlers and square dance callers. A.M. Stocks moved to Moab in 1885 and was one of the finest stone masons and stone quarriers in the region. William Jesse Bliss and John Willis "Bill" Hawks were also considered fine stone masons. (Bill Hawks had moved to Moab in 1902 to work as a mason on the old courthouse.)<sup>2</sup>

While the exact date these men broke ground for the start of construction of Star Hall is unknown, on Nov. 3, 1905 the Grand Valley Times newspaper referenced the nearly completed construction of Star Hall: "It is reported that the new hall building will be raised two feet before the roof is put on. The building which was kept going so well during the summer seems to have struck one of those stagnant shoals so common to this climate."<sup>3</sup>

Then on Dec. 29, 1905 the same newspaper reported: "Practically nothing in the way of improvements has been shown in Moab, outside the work that has been accomplished in getting up the walls of a new amusement hall. Not a step toward making the town more attractive and healthier as a residence point."

Once Star Hall was completed in May 1906, it did make the community "more attractive and healthier as a residence point" since the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints used Star Hall for recreational, social and cultural activities. The church sponsored dinners, dances, plays and other community functions in Star Hall. One participant remembered the events:

They used to serve dinners in there, and I remember going to a lot of dinners in there. Everybody would have to furnish food and I know they'd have long tables clear the length of that big room...after they'd had their [dinner], or got the meal out of the way, they'd clear the tables out and then dance, and sometimes they'd dance most of the night.<sup>4</sup>

X See continuation sheet

<sup>1</sup>Phyllis Cortes, editor. Grand Memories. Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. Utah Printing Co., Salt Lake City, 1972, p.69.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Grand Valley Times, Vol. 19, No. 23, page 1, column 2.

<sup>4</sup>Interview of Lydia Ann Taylor Skewes by Betty Tibbetts Farrow, April 29, 1974. Partial copy of interview in USHPO file.

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Star Hall, Moab, Grand County, UT

In 1925, after Star Hall had been the center of church-sponsored activities for nineteen years, the LDS church sold all of Lot 1 in Block 18 to the Grand County School District. There is some confusion over the purchase price for the structure and property. The Times Independent newspaper stated that the Grand County School District had offered the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints a total of \$8,500 -- \$7,000 was for Star Hall and one half of the adjoining lot and \$1,500 for the church building (now the Daughters of Utah Pioneers building) and the rest of the property. According to the Times Independent, this total offer of \$8,500 was accepted by the General Authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.<sup>5</sup> However, the actual warranty deed filed July 11, 1925 and recorded July 10, 1926 indicates the church sold Lot 1 to the Grand County School District for \$1.00.

Whatever the actual purchase price, after Star Hall became school property in 1925, the school district hired noted Salt Lake architect, Walter E. Ware to examine the building. He proposed replacing the window glass, repairing doors and windows and placing a ceiling over the stage. As stated by the Times Independent: "The repairs contemplated will all tend to make the hall more comfortable during cold weather." Since the stage is covered with a ceiling today, it is likely these repairs were carried out about 1925, but the school district has no records of such expenditures. Whether or not Star Hall was altered in 1925, the school district continued to use Star Hall as a theater and auditorium, as well as a large classroom.

In 1968 the Grand County School District hired the Salt Lake architectural firm of Richardson and Richardson to draft plans for remodelling the interior of the building. The main alteration at this time was 'tilting' (reconstructing) the main floor and balcony to provide a better view of the stage and installing 292 permanent seats (236 on the bottom and 56 in the balcony). This alteration of the interior allowed Star Hall to retain its original function as Moab's auditorium, theater, community meeting house, and civic center. To this day, public meetings, concerts, theatrical performances, and most other community functions are still held in Star Hall.

The Richardsonian Romanesque style was made popular by Henry Hobson Richardson in the late 1800s and it was most frequently used for churches and county courthouses.<sup>6</sup> It is therefore not surprising that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chose this impressive style for its local recreational hall, Star Hall. Hallmarks of the Richardsonian Romanesque style are semicircular arch motifs for windows, entry porches and doors; and rock-faced stonework. Star Hall exemplifies this style in Utah, along with the Roman Catholic Rectory of the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City and the John Dixon house in Payson.

X See continuation sheet

<sup>5</sup>Times Independent, 1925, Vol. 51, No. 23, page 1, column 3; and June 18, 1925, Vol. 51, No. 25, page 1, column 5.

<sup>6</sup>Thomas Carter and Peter Goss, Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940 (Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah Press, 1988) pp.124-26.



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Since completion of construction in 1906, Star Hall has been one of the most important buildings in Moab, Utah. It has functioned as the central locus of community recreation, and social and cultural life since 1906. Since 1925 it has also served an important educational function with classes held there, as well as school performances, plays, graduation ceremonies, etc. Today, almost nine decades after its construction, it continues to serve the same functions as it did originally. Star Hall is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A since it exemplifies how the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has integrated religion with the social, cultural and recreational activities of its members. The church's sponsoring of the latter activities along with religious services is currently typified by the construction of recreational rooms and basketball courts within its modern churches. This early pattern of separate facilities was consistent in the history of the church, making Star Hall an important example of this building type. Although the building was originally owned and used by the LDS church, it is no longer owned by a church nor used for religious functions (Criteria Consideration A).

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Star Hall, Moab, Grand County, UT

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### Photo No. 1

1. Star Hall
2. Moab, Grand County, Utah
3. Photographer: Roger Roper
4. Date: December 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. South (main) and east elevations. Camera facing north-northwest.

### Photo No. 2

1. Star Hall
2. Moab, Grand County, Utah
3. Photographer: Roger Roper
4. Date: December 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. North (rear) and east elevation of "T". Camera facing south-southwest.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet