

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Utah	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71,549,0018	DATE 5/4/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON: St. George Tabernacle

AND/OR HISTORIC: St. George Stake Tabernacle

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: At intersection of Tabernacle and Main Streets.  
Other streets numbered from this intersection.

CITY OR TOWN: St. George

STATE: Utah CODE: 49 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 053

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

STREET AND NUMBER: 47 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: 197 East Tabernacle

CITY OR TOWN: St. George STATE: Utah CODE: 49

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.86

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

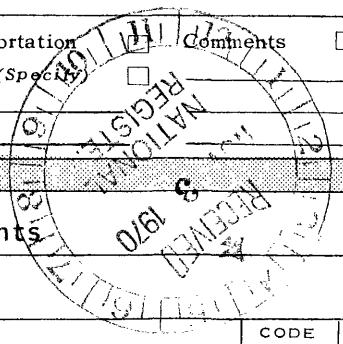
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Utah Heritage Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER: 603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Utah  
COUNTY: Washington  
ENTRY NUMBER: 71,549,0018  
DATE: 5/4/71  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architect Miles Romney prepared plans for this lovely structure under directions from the L.D.S. Church architect. The overall dimensions are 106 feet long, 56 feet wide and 40 feet to the square, including the nine-foot basement walls. Setting at the east end of the gabled roof, the tower, with its clock, rises to 140 feet. The sandstone basement walls are three feet thick, while those of the main floor are only two and one-half. The lovely red sandstone blends beautifully with the setting--the red cliffs from which it was taken.

The interior boasts 29 foot ceilings. A gallery ten feet high extends on the north, east and south walls where it is supported by nine solid turned columns on the sides and two such columns on the east end. The west end of the main assembly room supports a choir loft and a three-level speaker's stand. Two circular stairways lead to the gallery from the main entrance on the east end of the building.

A plaster of paris cornice extends all around the ceiling of the assembly room and consists of moldings, dentals, and 184 bunches of grapes. Three artistic pieces were placed in the ceiling representing large Acanthus leaves, the center one having a garland of flowers around the outside. These, with the woodwork, the shield over the choir loft, and the three crowns, representing the three personages in the Godhead, are convincing evidence that master craftsmen worked well.

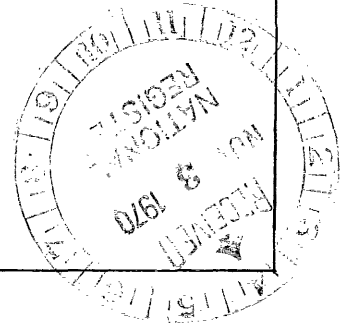
Although very minor decorative modifications have been made to the interior of the assembly hall, it remains much as it was when completed in 1876. In 1878 a sacrament set and organ were provided. In 1883 new chandeliers were added. The total cost of the building has been estimated to be \$110,000.

8. Significance (continued):

Samuel Worthen and Sons; Chief Mason: Edward L. Parry; Woodwork and Architecture: Miles Romney; Assistants to Romney: William Barnes, Edson Barney, Willis Coplan, Hosea Stout, David Rogers; Wood Turning: Benjamin Blake, Thomas Cottam, Joseiah Hardy, Warren Hardy; Painting: David Milne, William Smith; Plastering: William Burt and Sons; Lime Suppliers: Samuel Judd and Sons; Tinner: C. L. Riding.

The lovely structure is still used for church services and community activities.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

In the words of one of Utah's finest historians, A. Karl Larson, the St. George Tabernacle "carries the conviction of dignity and strength. Its appearance, far more than words can tell, reveals the love and infinite pains lavished upon it by those who slowly brought an architect's dream to reality. Born of suffering and travail, it imparts no sense of toil and hardship, but the feeling of effortless creation that only great art can achieve. It is these things which lead the discriminating beholder to assert that tabernacle is the finest example of the chapel builder's art, not just in Utah, but in the whole Mormon experience."

The Tabernacle was one of two "public works programs" undertaken in southern Utah by President Brigham Young. Because of the hard economic conditions facing the Dixie Cotton Mission, the church leader advised the saints to build a tabernacle and a courthouse. They did. All tithing of the Mormon Church south of and including Cedar City, and later Beaver, Utah, was turned to the construction of the Tabernacle.

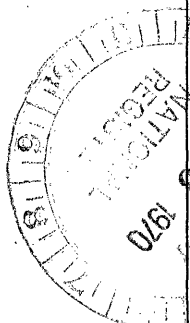
The ground was dedicated by Apostle Orson Pratt June 1, 1863. The walls, the stone portion of the tower, and the roof, were on by December 29, 1871. The interior was furnished in 1875. Brigham Young, Jr. dedicated it May 14, 1876 at a southern Utah mission conference.

All materials were produced locally except for the window panes, door locks, hinges and chandeliers. The window glass was shipped from the Atlantic seaboard by way of Cape Horn to Wilmington, California. Popular legend credits Peter Nielson of Washington, Utah, with paying the whole \$600.00 freight bill from savings he had garnered to improve his own humble dwelling.

Limestone and sandstone for the foundations and walls respectively were quarried nearby. Timber was hauled from Pine Valley 35 miles to the north. Plaster was burned nearby. The timber trusses were hand-hewn with broad axes.

The following people should be credited for their labors:

Builder, suppliers, etc: Quarryman: Archibald McNeil; Blacksmith: Hector McQuarrie; Stonecutters: William Fawcett, Charles L. Walker, Wilson Lund, George Brooks; Masons: Oswald Barlow, George Woodward, Lars Larson,  
(continued on preceding page)



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES *Miller, Albert E., The Immortal Pioneers, 91-95 (privately published, 1946)*

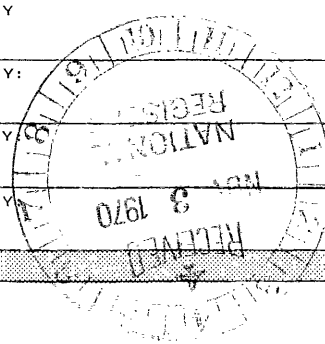
"Early Buildings [in St. George]," Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXIX, No. 3, July 1961.  
 Hafen, A.K., Beneath Vermillion Cliffs, Historic St. George, published privately, St. George, Utah, 1967.  
 Larson, Andrew Karl, I Was Called to Dixie! The Virgin River Basin: Unique Experiences in Mormon Pioneering, 565-576 (Salt Lake City, 1961).  
 "Peter Neilson's Gift," The Red Hills of November, 311-313 (Salt Lake City, 1957).  
 "Erastus Snow and the Public Works Program," With the Outposts of Zion: The Life and Times of Erastus Snow. (Now in process of publication by the University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City) The title cited is Chap. 28 of this forthcoming biography.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		37°	6'	29"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		113°	34'	58"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Melvin T. Smith

ORGANIZATION: Utah State Historical Society DATE: October 2, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Milton L. Weilenmann  
 Title Utah State Liaison Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Cannally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 14 1971

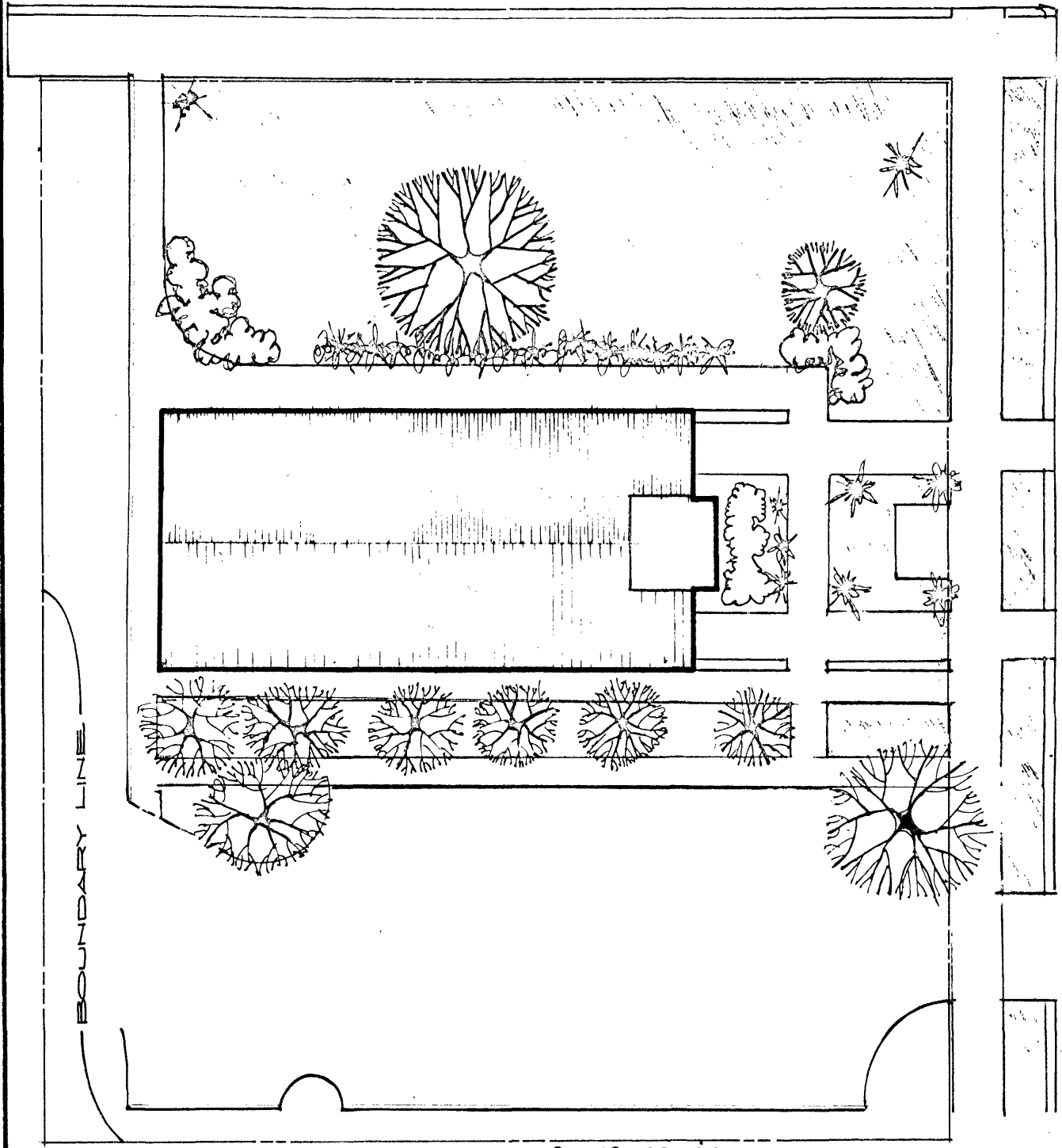
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William H. Muntz  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

TABERNACLE — STREET



BOUNDARY LINE

MAIN STREET



Scale in feet

# SITE PLAN

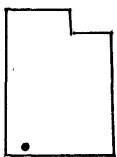
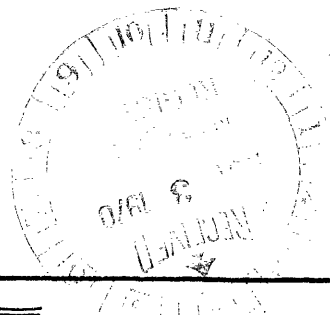
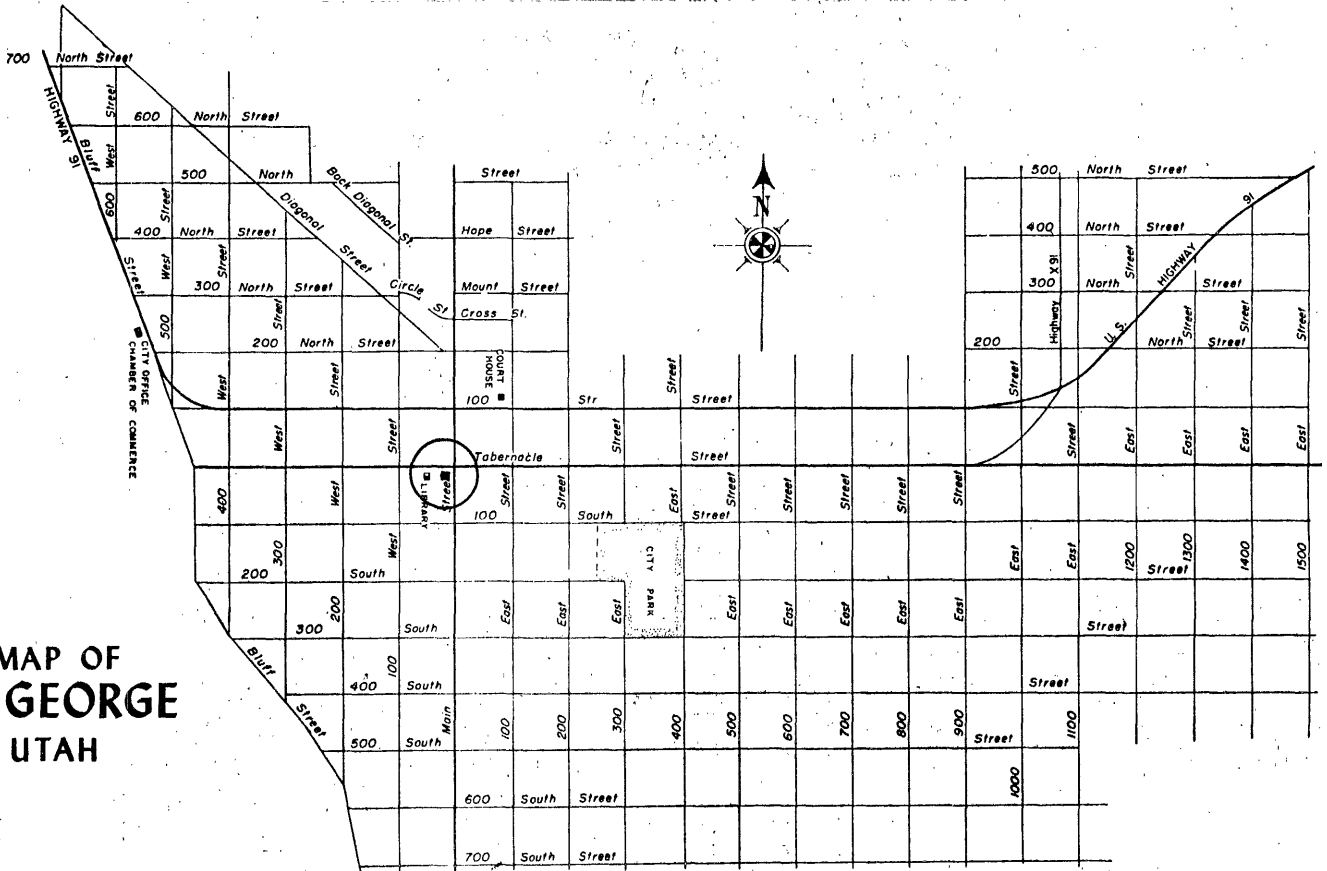


**ST. GEORGE TABERNACLE**  
 MAIN STREET AT TABERNACLE ST.  
 ST. GEORGE, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 6' - 29"  
 LONGITUDE : 113° - 34' - 58"  
 HABS DVG

DATE : MAY 1970

# MAP OF ST. GEORGE UTAH



**ST. GEORGE TABERNACLE**  
 MAIN STREET AT TABERNACLE ST  
 ST. GEORGE, UTAH

LATITUDE : 37° - 6' - 29"  
 LONGITUDE : 113° - 34' - 58"  
 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY MAP

DATE: MAY 1970  
 NO SCALE