Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## DATA SHEET

MAY 2 7 1975

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

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#### CONDITION

#### **CHECK ONE**

**CHECK ONE** 

\_EXCELLENT

\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED \_\_RUINS

....UNALTERED

\_\_XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_UNEXPOSED

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

The original part, the chapel, is a rectangle 40' by 80' with a portico over the front entrance and a small utility room at the back. The foundation is of stone, 6 feet thick and 9 feet high. The walls are of adobe, 3 feet thick. The exterior has been covered with plaster or stucco for at least half of the building's life. The single centered inset tower is capped by five spires.

The roof is shingled. The gable is of medium pitch with a boxed and returned cornice and a decorated frieze of wood. On each side wall were three large 3-sashed recessed windows with capstone lintels and brick sills. Directly underneath were basement windows in the stone foundation. A later addition covered the windows on the north. The only windows in the front facade are 2 half-round ventilators in the wall and in the porch.

The main entrance is composed of 2 doors under the portico. The portico follows the line of the main gable. It is supported by 6 fluted columns of wood, the stairs originally descending to ground level both to the front and sides.

The basement inside is devoted to small classrooms. The main floor is a single room. Its walls are plastered with a 4 foot high wooden slat paneling around the bottom and a decorative, possibly hand-carved moulding around the top. There are three chandeliers hanging from carved mountings.

In the rear is a balcony, approached from the sides by winding staircases. It is supported from beneath by fluted columns and from above by square ones. These columns are of wood and are painted in a "marbled" pattern similar to that on the columns in the tabernacle in Temple Square. On the front of the balcony is a facade of decorative woodwork.

The rostrum in front starts out from a 15 foot section of the rear wall, then forms a large, irregular circle with an approximate 25 foot diameter, standing away from the walls and hiding two access doors to the rear. It is largely surrounded by a railing supported by carved newell posts. It is level from the podium to the first row of seats, then rises with each of 5 rows of choir seats.

On the rear wall over the choir is a mural in green, gray and white, featuring a bust of Joseph Smith in an alcove surmounted by 2 cherubim holding a banner which reads "Holiness to the Lord."

The only apparent alterations in this original part are a new stairway from the portico outside, descending only to the front—the original descended to the sides as well—with an added 4 iron railings; and a large door, folding, on the north side leading to the new amusement hall and replacing two of the windows.

The two additions, to the north side and to the rear—a cultural hall and a Relief Society room and kitchen—both with full basements, are well integrated to the exterior style of the original building.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1857-63	BUILDER/ARCI	HITECT Augustus F	`arnham
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1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNINGCONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_XRELIGION SCIENCE
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On February 11, 1851 (or 1857—there is some discrepancy among sources) Lorenzo Snow broke ground for the new building in a rather elaborate ceremony. The first stone was laid on February 12, 1857. The tabernacle was built almost entirely of local materials, with local labor. Cost was some \$60,000. Architect was Augustus Farnham. Apparently the best materials and artisanship available were used, and at the time of erection it had the reputation for being the finest meetinghouse in the Territory of Utah.

Work on the tabernacle continued as Johnston's Army approached in 1857-58. When the town was evacuated in 1858, grain was stored in the rock foundation.

The building was finished in 1862, including the Joseph Smith mural which was commissioned by Brigham Young and painted by Daniel Waggelund. The dedication on March 14, 1863, was the occasion of a momentous gathering attended by several noteworthy dignitaries: Brigham Young presided and Heber C. Kimball offered the dedicatory prayer.

The five spires have been blown off the tower, at least once in 1906 by a Davis County east wind. They were restored some 50 years later.

In 1925 the north wing with amusement hall and classrooms was added. The building was "remodeled, redecorated and modernized" and a new pipe organ was added in 1942. In 1957 a new wing was added to the rear of the amusement hall, containing a kitchen, Relieg Society room, and offices. The new part was dedicated on February 10, 1957, by President David O. McKay.

On March 14, 1963, a centennial service was held in and for the building. The featured speaker was President Hugh B. Brown, who rededicated the building "for another hundred years." He declared the tabernacle to be "holy ground" where every prophet but Joseph Smith had occupied the pulpit.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

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Please add to Item No. 8 on the Bountiful Tabernacle, Davis County, Utah.

The Bountiful Tabernacle is significant historically by virtue of its being the oldest religious structure in the State of Utah, the religious building enjoying the longest continuous use in Utah, and the oldest edifice built by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) to be in continuous use as a place of worship. Every prophet of the Mormons, save Joseph Smith, who was killed in Nauvoo, Illinois, before coming West, has preached in the tabernacle.

The Bountiful Tabernacle also has the distinction of being the oldest extant example, and undoubtedly the most impressive example from any period, of early Greek Revival architecture in Utah. Greek Revival styling was the first prominent style to take hold in Utah after the technology was developed to advance from the levels of primitive shelter and vernacular architecture. Architect Augustus A. Farnham, an early convert to the Mormon Church, was born in Andover, Massachusetts, and called upon his knowledge of Greek Revival motifs to enhance a potentially ordinary adobe meetinghouse. Each craftsman in turn contributed his finest decorative work to set the tabernacle apart from other public buildings at the time. From the fine circular stairways leading to the gallery--built by George W. Lincoln, to the classically pilastered and arched reredos framing the Weggeland portrait of Joseph Smith, the building was finished and detailed in the most refined methods the Bountiful pioneers were capable of. Recently saved from destruction by Mormon Church leaders, there is no other Utah structure that better represents the aspirations, pride, and accomplishments of pioneers in a primitive environment than the Bountiful Tabernacle.