

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 26 1979
DATE ENTERED APR 2 1979

**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

PROVO THIRD WARD CHAPEL AND AMUSEMENT HALL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

105 North 500 West

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Provo

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

01

STATE

Utah

CODE
049

COUNTY

Utah

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Craig M. Call

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 231

CITY, TOWN

Provo

VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Utah County Building

CITY, TOWN

Provo

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

June 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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Provo Third Ward meetinghouse is one of the earliest English Parish Gothic churches in Utah and one of the best churches of any kind in the county.

The exciting exterior of the chapel features a tall, imposing vestry tower at the southeast corner of the chapel. The tower is one of the most finely detailed in the state. It has a large, Roman-arched bay above which are thick and tall rectangular windows with red sandstone lintels; then a course of corbeled brickwork; a brick panel with the building inscription engraved in stone in the east side; four pairs of tall, Roman-arched, open-air bays which serve as the belfry; more corbeled courses, and finally, decorative wood molding at the base of a two-tiered, segmented, conical steeple which is finished off with a metal weathervane. Another feature of the tower is its corner buttressing. Pairs of very decoratively carved pinnacles are found at the base of the steeple at the four corners.

The front gable of the chapel is also impressive. It features a huge Roman bay within which is a beautiful Roman window which has five delicate Gothic-arched mullions and ornate lead-framed and stained glass panes. This and all other major arches are corbeled with stone or brick. Above the large frontal window are three small louvered bays with Roman arches. At the gable top is a very sculpturesque plaster trimpiece. Similar trim is found at the gable bottom as a facade to the arches. At the south of the building is an interesting semi-circular or apse-like staircase shell. It is built of red stone and extends from grade to three stories above grade. Side windows on the chapel are Gothic with corbeled arches.

The interior, with its rambling and maze-like plan, is disappointing. There are many confusing hallways and stairways added to accommodate to changing needs. The building is not a split level, but has three full floors in many areas.

The Amusement Hall, built in 1913, is of lighter colored brick. The double doors are framed by a gracheted frontpiece with a large, round arched window above the entry. The ornamental brick work is much simpler than that in the chapel. It consists mostly of raised or recessed brick panels. A small dormer is centered in the hipped roof above the entrance. Its residential scale detracts from the massing of the roof.

The Provo Third Ward chapel was probably built with plans designed by Richard Watkins who designed the Maeser Elementary School in Provo which also has a hall and large front arches similar to the Third Ward.

In 1935-40 the interior of the chapel was completely remodeled under the direction of architect Fred Markham. The curved ceiling was changed to a straight surface; doors were cut on the south and a porch was extended over the stairs which were then added. The north stairway was altered and a hallway constructed to the east of classrooms located in the basement. The link between the chapel and the amusement hall was rebuilt and another floor added. It was during this remodeling that the clear glass windows in the chapel were replaced by stain glass windows designed by Bennett Glass.

In 1968, some of the rooms were further renovated.

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 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 1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Provo Third Ward meetinghouse (1903) is one of the earliest English Parish Gothic churches in Utah and one of the most architecturally significant church buildings in Utah County. The tall vestry tower is one of the most finely detailed in the state. The building was probably designed by Richard Watkins, whose best known church is the Spring City Tabernacle. He was also the architect for numerous school buildings, including the Spring City School (National Register), and his work was well known throughout Utah County and other central Utah counties at the turn of the century. The architect for the Amusement Hall addition (1913) is unknown; its design, though not a good example, reflects the influence of the Prairie Style, which was employed by several Utah architects in buildings for the Mormon Church.

The Provo Third Ward chapel and Amusement Hall are significant architectural assets of their community, and their cultural importance is a reflection of the aesthetic and religious imperatives of a people for whom piety and civic pride were simply two sides of the same coin. Historically, the choice of a chapel design evocative of traditional Christianity suggests a tangible expression of the restructuring of the public image of Mormonism under way at the turn of the century by the church's third generation leadership. This period is often referred to by historians as "the accommodation" of the Mormon Church to the social and political realities of the time. With the official abandonment of polygamy a decade earlier, the Church had worked quite conscientiously to erase its previous image as un-American, radical, and morally degenerate. The era of being more American than the rest of America had begun. While the whole subject of ecclesiastical design within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has not been satisfactorily addressed in terms of the historical environment, this conclusion is generally defensible . . . especially if one takes into account the accepted belief that a religious building is as much a statement of the material condition of a church as it is of its spiritual dynamism. The prosperous burghers of Provo could afford a large and dignified chapel, they could afford the conceit of a reproduction of an English parish church because their own version of Christianity had emerged from the cult phase and its established repute, in the minds of its adherents, fitted well with the prestige and status implicit in this particular design. The architecture of the Provo Third Ward is a document that tells us much about Provo and its people in 1903.

In 1901 the Latter-day Saint Church in Provo had been reorganized into three new ecclesiastical units (stakes). The Third Ward was created as part of what became known as the Utah Stake, and its boundaries included part of

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Mr. Fred Markham, October 25, 1977.
The Life and Times of TNT, T. S. Taylor and Theron H. Luke, SCC: Deseret News Press, 1959.
 Manuscript history of the Provo Third Ward. Sanborn maps, Provo, 1890.
 Journal History, L.D.S. Church, L.D.S. Church Archives.
 D.U.P., Memories That Live, Springville: Art City Publishing Company, 1947.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Provo, Utah

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 2 | 4, 4, 3 | 2, 7, 0 | 4, 4, 5, 3 | 9, 0, 0

B | | | | |

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

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G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The two buildings occupy lots 1 and 8 of Block 83, Plat A. They are located in the southeast corner of the block. The nomination does not include the surrounding parking lot.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathryn L. MacKay/Project Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

307 West 200 South, Suite 1000

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

DATE

June 1978

TELEPHONE

(801) 533-6017

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'S SIGNATURE

TITLE J. Phillip Keene, III, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 8, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 4-2-79

ATTEST: William H. Brannan

DATE 3-30-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

the oldest area of the city of Provo. Many of the residents of the ward were, or were descendants of, Provo's leading entrepreneurs, educators, politicians, and religious leaders. The Bishop of the ward, Thomas Nicholls Taylor, was both mayor of Provo (1900-1903) and a leading businessman. His building committee included Arthur Dixon, Edgar Perry, and H. J. Maiben--all local businessmen with interests in real estate, construction, and building supplies. (Dixon established one of the first brickyards in Provo and was a founder of the Provo Pressed Brick Company; Perry was in carpentry, and Maiben ran a paint and glass business.)

With the boosterish energy typical of their class, the building committee pushed the project through rapidly, taking care to involve as much local material and local craftsmanship as possible. The Liddiard and Collins families of stonemasons, and the Tolboe family of carpenters, plasterers and painters--all ward members--were used in the construction, according to Provo architect Fred Markham. The cost of the new building was \$11,000.

In 1913, to accommodate expanding church programs, members erected an adjoining amusement hall, finishing only the top floor for \$15,000. The lower floor was finished in 1926 for \$5,600. The Provo Third Ward Chapel and Amusement Hall served primarily as a religious center, but it also provided west-side citizens with many dances, musicals, fetes, sports contests, and so on. Although not an outstanding example of the Prairie Style, the amusement hall does indicate an awareness of contemporary design currents. Throughout the Mormon Church at this particular time, several examples of experimentation with the Prairie Style for ecclesiastical purposes are to be found.

The entire Provo Third Ward complex, chapel and amusement hall, establishes its significance within Provo's Mormon community by demonstrating the easy marriage of secular and religious activity found in Mormonism and may prove a useful guide to aesthetic developments in Mormon ecclesiastical architecture. The chapel, particularly, is a ornament of the community that produced it--and which it still rewards with its stately presence. In an area with few remaining church buildings of character, the Provo Third Ward is singular in its significance.