

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 8970 South 200 West UTM: 12 430200 4602080  
 Paradise, Cache County  
 Name of Structure: Paradise Tithing Office T. R. S.  
 Present Owner: Paradise Town  
 Owner Address: Paradise, Utah 84328  
 Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: 01-097-0059  
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Commencing 7 rods N or SW corner of Block 22 Paradise Townsite Survey; thence N on street line 13 rods, E 15 rods, S 20 rods, W 10 rods, N 7 rods, W 5 rods to beginning. 1 27/32 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Mormon Church Construction Date: c. 1876 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: Tithing Office Present Use: Meeting hall/museum  
 Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:  
 Excellent  Site  Unaltered  Significant  Not of the  National Landmark  District  
 Good  Ruins  Minor Alterations  Contributory Historic Period  National Register  Multi-Resource  
 Deteriorated  Major Alterations  Not Contributory  State Register  Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 Photo No.:  
 Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:  
 Abstract of Title  Sanborn Maps  Newspapers  U of U Library  
 Plat Records/Map  City Directories  Utah State Historical Society  BYU Library  
 Tax Card & Photo  Biographical Encyclopedias  Personal Interviews  USU Library  
 Building Permit  Obituary Index  LDS Church Archives  SLC Library  
 Sewer Permit  County & City Histories  LDS Genealogical Society  Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Carter, Tom. "Folk Design in Utah Architecture: 1849-90" in Utah Folk Art: A Catalog of Material Culture, ed. Hall Cannon. Provo, Utah: BYU Press, 1980.

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. London: Oxford University Press, 1944.

Utah Historic Sites Survey, 1972 - Utah State Historical Society

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Building Materials: Brick

Building Type/Style: Greek Revival/Temple Form

## Description of physical appearance &amp; significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Paradise Tithing Office is a one story brick rectangular temple-form building with a stone foundation and a gable roof. The Greek Revival temple-form building was the preferred building type for religious buildings in Utah in the late nineteenth century. Typical of a Greek Revival inspired temple-form building, it has a boxed cornice that returns on the gable ends and is oriented gable end to the street with a door pushed to one side, flanked by windows. The brick was obtained from the Hyrum brickyard, one of the first brick yards in Cache Valley.<sup>1</sup> A large semi-circular decorative arch is set into the gable section of the facade, having been designed as a space to post the name of the building and the date of construction. Openings on the north, south and east sides include a single window on the north facade, a pair of windows at the rear (east facade), and a door on the south facade. All of the windows are the long, two over two double hung sash type, and have sandstone sills. The doors are multi-paneled, each having an oval transom. Yellow brick was used as a decorative motif in the relieving arches of the openings, in the line of brick between the building and the stone of the foundation, and as an outline of the decorative arch in the gable end. A chimney, set slightly off-center along the roof ridge indicates that there are two rooms on the interior. There is a single room in the basement. The  
(See Continuation Sheet)

## Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1876

Built in 1876, the Paradise Tithing Office is historically significant as one of 28 well preserved tithing buildings in Utah that were part of the successful tithing system of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon church) between the 1850s and about 1910. Tithing lots, which usually included an office and several auxiliary structures, were facilities for collecting, storing, and distributing the farm products that were donated as tithing by church members in the cash-poor agricultural communities throughout the state. Tithing offices were a vital part of almost every Mormon community, serving as local centers of trade, welfare assistance, and economic activity. They were also important as the basic units of the church-wide tithing network that was centered in Salt Lake City. In addition, the Paradise Tithing Office is architecturally significant as one of eight extant examples of Utah's tithing offices which were designed in the Greek Revival style. It is one of seven of those buildings which is a temple-form building. Of those seven temple-form buildings, it is one of the three best preserved examples of the type. The other two examples include the tithing offices at Escalante and Kanosh. The temple-form building originated in the Greek Revival period of American building,<sup>1</sup> and typically has its short end to the street and a pedimented gable end in imitation of monumental classical buildings.<sup>2</sup> The temple-form building was the preferred building type for early public, commercial and religious buildings in Utah, having been brought to the area by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints after 1847.<sup>3</sup> Very few unaltered, well preserved examples of this building type are presently extant in Utah.

Notes

<sup>1</sup>Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America, (London: Oxford University Press, 1944), p. 268.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Paradise Tithing Office  
Description Continued:

building is in an excellent state of repair, has received no alterations, and therefore maintains its original integrity.

<sup>1</sup>Utah Historic Sites Survey, Utah State Historical Society, 1972, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Paradise Tithing Office  
Significance Continued:

Notes: (Continued)

<sup>2</sup>Hamlin, p. 266.

<sup>3</sup>Tom Carter, "Folk Design in Utah Architecture: 1849-90," in Utah Folk Art: A Catalog of Material Culture, ed. Hal Cannon, (Provo: BYU Press, 1980), p. 44.

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The Paradise Tithing Office was built c. 1876 to serve as the collection and storage center for tithes donated by members of the Paradise Ward of the LDS church. The building was constructed of bricks manufactured in the nearby town of Hyrum at one of the first brickyards in Cache Valley. It is unknown who did the actual construction work, but it is likely that the labor expended in the building's construction was donated as a form of tithing contribution. Typical of other Utah towns of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Paradise was a cash-poor, agricultural community, therefore tithes were usually farm products such as hay, grain, eggs, livestock, etc. These were stored in the tithing office and in the two granaries that were located on the property (now demolished or moved). By at least the 1920s cash had become plentiful and was used instead of "in kind" commodities for tithing donations. As a result, the tithing office was no longer needed for its original use, so it was either left vacant or used as a meeting place for a number of years by auxiliary organizations of the church, as was often done with old tithing offices. The building was purchased from the church by the town in 1958, and in recent years the local chapter of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers have used it as their meeting place and relic hall.