

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000101 Date Listed: 3/10/92

American Fork Second Ward Meetinghouse
Property Name

Utah UT
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

fr *Antonietta Lee*
Signature of the Keeper

3/11/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Criteria Considerations (Exceptions), A is checked.

This information was confirmed with Charles Shephard of the Utah State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 16). 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 10-800a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name AMERICAN FORK SECOND WARD MEETINGHOUSE
other names/site _____

2. Location

street & number 130 West 100 South N/A not for publication
city, town American Fork N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Utah code 049 zip code 84003

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input 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>N/A</u>		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</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.

W. S. [Signature] 1/23/92
Signature of certifying official Date

Utah Division of State History, Office of 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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	<u><i>Antoinette Rose</i></u>	<u>3/10/92</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Antoinette Rose Signature of the Keeper 3/10/92 Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION / religious structure

Current Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY / manufacturing facility

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Gothic

Other: Eclectic

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof WOOD (Shingle)

other GLASS (stained glass windows)

METAL (finials)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The American Fork Second Ward Meetinghouse is a brick, eclectic Gothic Revival style building constructed in 1903-04 and expanded in 1930 by a large, well-matched addition. Only minor modifications have been made to the building since then, none of which affect its overall architectural integrity.

As built in 1903-04, the meetinghouse had a basically rectangular plan with the narrow end facing the street and a square entrance tower at the southeast corner. The original building featured a large assembly room or chapel, the tower with its entry vestibule, and a two-story rear (north) section containing small classrooms and offices. The rear section projected slightly beyond the side walls of the chapel, giving the building footprint a slight "T" shape, though the overall form was rectangular. The original building was constructed of brick masonry with a wood-framed interior floor and roof structure. The 35-foot tall spire on the tower is also wood-framed.

The building's architectural style is Gothic Revival in spirit and eclectic in detailing. All major window bays are Roman-arched with thick mullions and Gothic transoms. Door bays and the lancet bays in the tower are also Roman. Extensive brick corbeling is used to trim the window and door openings, cornices, and tower pinnacles. The front gable is trimmed with stepped corbeling terminating in a semi-circular arch under the apex. The spire is a massive two-tiered structure with wood shingles painted with an aluminum-colored coating. Colorful Victorian-era stained glass transoms and metal pinnacle and spire finials add further detail.

A major addition to the west side of the main building was constructed in 1929-30. The roughly L-shaped addition, when connected to the original structure, resulted in a building with a U-shaped plan with the open end of the "U" facing the street. The main entry was shifted from the tower to the center of the connecting wing. At the same time, the chapel was remodeled by reversing the location of the podium from the north end to the south.¹ The new, two-story section contained a recreation hall and classrooms. It was built with brick, trim, openings, and a gabled roof matching those of the original architecture. The replication is so complete that the addition appears to have been built at the same time as the original. Since its completion, the building has remained virtually intact with the exception of a small gabled canopy built to protect the rear entrance and the modification of some windows on the west elevation.

___ See continuation sheet

¹"New \$30,000 Recreational Hall for City," American Fork Citizen, 20 July 1929, p. 1.

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wards was common in many Mormon communities at this time, brought on by population growth, the death of many long-time local leaders, and changing church policies.

The Second Ward, along with the other three wards, soon felt the need for its own building. In a ward council meeting of 29 September 1901, Second Ward Bishop Joseph H. Storrs proposed that the ward begin efforts to provide a new building. He named a committee of five to recommend a building site. This was accomplished by November 1901, but planning for the construction continued for nearly a year. At a special meeting on 9 October 1902, the Bishop reported that they had taken upon themselves the responsibility of contracting for the brick and obtained the members' approval. The bishop appointed a finance committee, and James H. Pulley, a local carpenter/builder, presented a plan for the building.² Pulley had recently been given the assignment to "get the plans" for the city hall, which was also being built at the same time. It also seems likely that Pulley designed the other three ward meeting-houses, given the similarity of their appearances.

Each of the four wards in American Fork were building new meetinghouses during this period and found "they could get brick cheaper in large quantities, so they all ordered their brick together, thus all the four ward chapels were constructed of the same color red brick."³ According to the ward minutes, all the required brick was on hand by 5 July 1903 and "the masons would finish their work in a few days and the material was on the ground for the roof. Ward members all working together were doing a fine job, but it was slowed down for lack of finances."⁴

The ward began using the meetinghouse on January 31, 1904, even though all of the work on the building was not completed. By June of 1904, the ward still owed \$700.00 and needed an additional \$1,050.00 to finish the building and the tower. The tower, easily the most distinctive feature of the building, included a special room for Mormon prayer circles. That same month, Robert L. Ashby, a high school woodworking teacher, moved into the ward building to work on the interior woodwork. When he finished, Ashby rejected attempts to pay him for his work. Other members of the ward similarly donated labor and money to the project, which cost a total of \$10,000.20. After the final debts were paid, the Second Ward Meetinghouse was dedicated on 17 February 1909.⁵

 X See continuation sheet

²Ellen J. Tracy, "History of Second Ward Chapel of the American Fork, Utah," Historical Scrapbooks, American Fork City Library. Also, Meeting minutes, American Fork Second Ward Bishopric, 9 October 1902. Copies of portions of these minutes are available in the National Register file, Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

³ibid.

⁴ibid.

⁵ibid.

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By 1929, growth of the Second Ward membership and changing church policies prompted the ward to expand the meetinghouse. The local newspaper explained the decision as follows.

On the 9th day of June, 1929, the Bishopric of the American Fork Second ward, in regular session of Sacrament meeting of the members of the ward, presented the problem of meeting the new plans of activity as outlined by the General Authorities of the Church with the existing facilities offered by the present building accommodations (sic). It was pointed out that to be able to make a success of the plan it would be necessary for the ward to have an Amusement Hall in connection with the Ward Meeting house.

By a unanimous vote of the members present it was decided that the entire membership of the ward would assume the obligation of financing the remodeling of the chapel to make it in harmony with the new Amusement Hall, and to furnish adequate (sic) class rooms to take care of all the activities of all the organizations of the ward.⁶

As a result, under the direction of Church Architect Don Carlos Young, architects Young and Hansen of Salt Lake City designed the addition and directed a remodeling of the earlier wing.⁷ Ramm Hansen and Joseph Don Carlos Young, Jr. formed an architectural partnership in 1916 that lasted until the 1950s. Their work was diverse and included the old Federal Reserve Bank and old Deseret Gymnasium buildings in Salt Lake City, the Women's Residence Hall at Utah State University and numerous projects for the LDS Church including the Riverton, Utah, Second Ward Meetinghouse designed in 1928.⁸

Work on the addition to the American Fork Second Ward Meetinghouse began on 14 June 1929. The contract for this work was given to Chipman Mercantile Co. The total cost of this hall, which became known as "Firmage Hall" because of a \$15,000 donation from Mr. and Mrs. John Firmage, and other alterations and additions to the original structure was \$48,555.54. These new changes were celebrated by the ward on 2-4 February 1930. Church President Heber J. Grant dedicated the building on 4 September 1932, after the small loan needed to complete the project was paid.⁹ According to one resident, "for many years this was the nicest place in town to hold wedding receptions as well as dramas and other gatherings."¹⁰

The meetinghouse continued to be used as an LDS church until the early 1980s when it was abandoned by the Second Ward in favor of a newer facility. In 1984 the building was purchased by Michael Bigelow, the present owner. The interior of the

X See continuation sheet

⁶"Second Ward Chapel Dedicated," American Fork Citizen, 9 September 1932, p.1.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Architects File, Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

⁹"Second Ward Chapel Dedicated," American Fork Citizen, 9 September 1932, p.1.

¹⁰Tracy, "History of Second Ward Chapel...."

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building was modified slightly to accommodate a residence for the Bigelows in the upper floor Sunday School Room, and a pipe organ design and manufacturing plant on the main level and basement. The current owner restored windows and other original features which had been altered over the years. He placed a wood shop in the gymnasium addition and created an assembly shop in the former chapel, in both instances retaining the original openness and architectural character of the spaces.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The four LDS meetinghouses built in American Fork c. 1903-04 were all eclectic Gothic Revival style buildings. This was a distinct variation from the existing meetinghouse, the Science Hall (now demolished), an 1861 Greek Revival structure typical of the Greek Revival style public buildings erected by the Mormons throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. As the century came to a close, however, designers of Mormon buildings began employing various Victorian styles. Following the pattern of other Christian denominations, Gothic Revival styling was considered especially appropriate for church buildings. The precedent for Gothic Revival religious architecture in American Fork was set by the Presbyterians, who constructed a brick church in the style in 1879-81 (National Register, 1980). In the early 1900s, the four LDS ward meetinghouses continued the Gothic Revival theme.

The large addition to the Second Ward Meetinghouse, built along the west side of the building twenty years later, also has significance in documenting the results in the changing way in which Mormons practiced architecture after 1920. Prior to that time, the designs for all ward meetinghouses were provided by local designers or private architects from larger cities. Local members also constructed the buildings themselves during this period. Due to rapidly increasing membership and building expenses after World War I, LDS Church leaders created a centralized architectural department and designed replicative "standard plans" in an effort to erect meetinghouses more quickly and at less expense. The first standard plans featured Colonial Revival elevations applied to L and U-shaped floor plans. These plans contained significantly more square footage than before because of an organizational policy change requiring all of the religious auxiliary organizations to be housed in the ward meetinghouse rather than in separate structures.¹¹

When the 1929-30 addition to the American Fork Second Ward was designed, it was sized and located so as to create the church's new, larger, U-shaped plan. The local newspaper reported it thus:

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¹¹Roberts, Allen D., "Religious Architecture of the LDS Church: Influences and Changes Since 1847," Utah Historical Quarterly, Summer 1975, Volume 43, Number 3.

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"The new 40x80 foot recreational hall united...with the present chapel will make one of the church's most beautiful and serviceable new style U type buildings. It provides a ward chapel, ward amusement center and ward office and class room units which have proved to be the most successful type of structure for the varied needs of a ward."¹²

Rather than apply NeoColonial elevations to an existing Gothic building however, the architects respected the original design and sensitively repeated it in the addition. The final building, then, reflects Mormon architectural designs and building practices from two different eras: the Victorian period of independent, local design and the modern period of standardized and centralized design. Moreover, the American Fork Second Ward Meetinghouse represents a successful blending of the two disparate approaches to design in that the final building features the eclectic Gothic style of the earlier era as well as the larger, more functional floor plan of the later era.

Of the four turn-of-the-century LDS meetinghouses built in American Fork, only the Second Ward and Third Ward buildings survive. The Third Ward Meetinghouse has been adversely altered, including a large addition and the removal of the original steeple and other character-defining features. The Second Ward Meetinghouse is thus the most intact and most significant remaining example of the four churches used by this Mormon community between about 1903 and 1980. It is also the last intact example of the Victorian-era Gothic churches built in American Fork by Mormons. The 1881 American Fork Presbyterian Church, also Gothic Revival, remains in use and is listed in the National Register. The LDS Alpine Stake Tabernacle, a building constructed for the larger meetings of combined congregations, was the last LDS building erected in the "historic period." Begun in 1909 and completed in 1914, its modified NeoClassical style and monolithic boxlike shape differed radically in style from the four earlier ward buildings. This departure from what was now the anachronistic Gothic style ushered in a new era of church building in a variety of revival and modern styles.

¹²"New \$30,000 Recreational Hall for City," American Fork Citizen, 20 July 1929, p. 1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

American Fork Citizen, 1929-32.

Jensen, Andrew, "American Fork L.D.S. Manuscript History," L.D.S. Church Historical Library (MH 10622).

Roberts, Allen D., A Survey of L.D.S. Architecture in Utah, 1847-1930, "American Fork Second Ward," 1974.

_____, "Photographic Collection of Historic LDS Churches in Utah," 1971-91.

_____, "Religious Architecture of the LDS Church: Influences and Changes since 1847," Utah Historical Quarterly, Summer 1975, Volume 43, Number 3.

Shelley, G.F., "Early History of American Fork," 1942.

Tracy, Ellen J., "History of the Second Ward Chapel of American Fork, Utah" (located in the American Fork Library historical scrapbook archives).

Varley, Ray, "American Fork Second Ward Chapel" Intensive Level Survey, 1988. National Register Files, Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

___ 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 .98 acre

UTM References

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/3/1/9/5/9</u>	<u>4/4/6/9/5/3/0</u>	B	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	D	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Com W 361.35 Ft. and N 33 Ft. from A.F. City Monument at 100 South & 100 West; N 86.54 Ft.; N 160.98 Ft.; E 86.04 Ft.; E 78.96 Ft.; S 66.33 Ft.; E 30.35 Ft.; S 57.75 Ft.; W 30.35 Ft.; S 123.42 Ft. to N R/W line of 100 South St.; W along line 165 Ft. to Begin.

___ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

These are the present and historic boundaries of the site.

___ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha S. Bradley, Historian; Allen Roberts, Architect/Architectural Historian; also USHS staff
organization Cooper/Roberts Architects, AIA date November 1991
street & number 202 West 300 South telephone (801) 355-5915
city or town Salt Lake City state Utah zip code 84103

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PHOTOGRAPH LABELS

Photo No. 1 -- Overview Photo

1. American Fork Second Ward Meetinghouse
2. Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Allen Roberts
4. Date: August 1991
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. South elevation (camera facing north)
7. Photo No. 1

Photo No.2 -- Detail Photo

1. American Fork Second Ward Meetinghouse
2. Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Allen Roberts
4. Date: August 1991
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. Detail of transom and inscription placque, south elevation of corner tower, main level (camera facing north)
7. Photo No. 2