

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received JUN 11 1980
date entered AUG 27 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Washington Relief Society Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 100 West and Telegraph Street ___ not for publication

city, town Washington ___ vicinity of congressional district 02

state Utah code 049 county Washington code 053

3. Classification

Category ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	Ownership ___ public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private ___ both Public Acquisition ___ in process ___ being considered	Status ___ occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied ___ work in progress Accessible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted ___ yes: unrestricted ___ no	Present Use ___ agriculture ___ commercial ___ educational ___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial ___ military	___ museum ___ park ___ private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>meeting hall</u>
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4. Owner of Property

name Britt and Yvonne Kendall

street & number Box 84

city, town Washington ___ vicinity of state UT 84780

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Building - Recorder's Office

street & number 197 East Tabernacle

city, town St George state UT 84770

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Washington Relief Society Hall has served variously as meetinghouse, post office, co-op store and mortuary since its construction in 1875. The oldest part of the single story structure, the east wing, is adobe. In ca 1904 the west wing was added, forming an "L" plan. The entire structure is stuccoed.

The building represents a style of architecture that prevailed in Utah during the earliest years of settlement. Simple classical elements applied to vernacular forms created a Greek Revival mode that was the first allusion to "high style" architecture here. It was preceded by vernacular forms and supplanted by later Victorian styles.

Small, rectangular buildings with low gable roofs, gable end street facades, typically symmetrical facade piercing and molded cornices with gable end returns characterize Greek Revival architecture in Utah. The form was common for all secular and religious buildings in early Utah including chapels, tabernacles, co-ops and cash stores, tithing offices, post offices, court houses, town halls, and relief society halls. The Washington Relief Society is a typical example.

The Washington Relief Society Hall documents the wide use in early Utah of adobe, a serviceable, economical and easily available building material. It also helps illustrate a transition from purely vernacular types to the deliberate integration of selected stylistic elements into an existing folk tradition.

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 1875 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Though once predominant, few Greek Revival buildings survive in Utah. The impermanent nature and small scale of many of them and the changing taste which favored Victorian forms caused most to be lost. The Washington Relief Society Hall is therefore an important extant example of the Greek Revival mode and of the first allusions to a specific architectural style in the movement away from vernacular forms. It is the oldest extant public building in Washington, erected at great sacrifice by a community still struggling to survive.

The high cost of freighting manufactured goods to Utah, the scarcity of cash to pay for them, and the reluctance to rely upon "Gentile" suppliers all urged a policy of self-sufficiency. The prospect for cotton shortage caused by strife between North and South led LDS Church President Brigham Young to direct the establishment of a Cotton Mission in the "Warm Valley" of the Virgin River in Southern Utah. In the spring of 1857 the first group of colonists arrived at the site of Washington City. The cotton cultivators survived malaria and recurring, destructive flash floods in addition to lean diets and Indian conflicts and in 1866 a cotton mill was dedicated.

The Relief Society of Washington Ward was organized in 1868 after the ward was separated out of Harmony Ward. In 1875 a small adobe hall, now the east wing, was built. This space was rented to the Washington Cooperative Association store; the Relief Society members met in homes and applied the rent to relief of the needy. The post office, customarily lodged in the home of the postmaster, operated from the Co-op Store for several years prior to World War I.

Between 1903 and 1905 the west wing was added, allowing the members to resume their meetings there. The relocation of the Co-op Store after World War I the original wing to the use of Society members. Members of the society made clothing and quilts for those in need, conducted fund raising bazaars and lunches, carried on Church work, and through World War II laid out the dead for burial. In 1960 the LDS Church sold the property. It is still in use as a meeting place for civic and service organizations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Andrew Karl Larson, The Red Hills of November, Salt Lake City, Deseret News Press, 1951.

Verna L. Dewshup and Katharine M. Larson, eds., Relief Society Memories of St. George Stake, 1867-1958.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name St. George, UT

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

1	2	2	7	6	4	7	5	4	1	1	2	0	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

West half of Lot 3 Block 21 of the Washington Town Plat.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diana Johnson, Assistant Architectural Historian/Henry Whiteside, Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date 28 Feb 80

street & number 307 West 200 South telephone 801-533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City state UT 84101

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/30/80

For HCRS use only

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

Forney W. Ray
Keeper of the National Register

date

8/27/80

Attest: *Paula Stoner Reed*
Chief of Registration

date

8/22/80