

PH0150037 DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 31 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Oneida Stake Academy

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N. W. Corner of 2nd South and 2nd East

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Preston

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Idaho

CODE

016

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

041

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

Eastlake School District #201

STREET & NUMBER

120 East 2nd South (Office of Superintendent)

CITY, TOWN

Preston

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

39 West Oneida

CITY, TOWN

Franklin

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

— FEDERAL ☒ STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

610 N. Julia Davis Dr., Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
XGOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
___RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

XUNALTERED
___ALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exterior form of the Oneida Stake Academy is a cruciform twostory mass with centered belfry on a nearly square site (62' x 80'). The primary building material is a soft volcanic stone (creamy white in color) quarried from hills a few miles distant. Window frames, quoins, and sculptured details are of concrete. The frame belfry is very reminiscent of those to be seen on many barns of the period in the general area. The overall style is a charmingly vernacular variant on Romanesque Revival.

Original and present condition of the interior has been described by the leading historian of Franklin County, Mr. Newell Hart:

"The main entryway, original condition: Upon entering the building's front doors one was immediately in presence of a spacious hall, at the end of which was a water fountain and antique clock above; on each side of the fountain were doors leading to the library and a large classroom.

One was also greeted by a charming double stairway which met overhead and proceeded in form of a wider, single stair to the upper auditorium. The upper portion was graced by a balustrade with hand-turned rungs.

Near each of the dual stairs on this main floor were doors leading to classrooms or office space on the west and east sides of the building.

Present condition of main floor: The double stairway was removed and replaced by a single, square-turning stair. It is concrete and clings to three walls enroute, blotting out a narrow vertical window on one side as it climbs. The designer of this cold stairway could have been inspired by viewing an old B grade prison movie.

The various rooms have been combined into one large space where industrial arts classes are presently conducted, with some partitions moved back to allow use as tool cage-rooms etc.

One enters the building and is immediately faced with a blank frontal partition straight ahead, and with walls, open stairway, upper regions, etc., all painted with whitewash. There is no charm, no warmth, not a picture in sight; nothing but monolithic, dirty grayish-whiteness in all directions.

Most of the changes were made for practical space needs, or to satisfy various codes.

Basement: not much change, except partitions have been removed to allow for school district storage of new or discarded material. Wooden floor replaced by concrete years ago. Iron support columns, Ionic at the capital, still intact.

Upper auditorium: changes consist of stage removal, addition of a false hung ceiling, and placement of several divider-like instrument and practice rooms. This is the band room. Hardwood flooring, diagonally placed, not covered - still in good condition. The ceiling, arched and decorated with a double-roll plastering effect, is intact above the celotex ceiling. Not sure about the old chandeliers.

Recently discovered photos of interior rooms, including the auditorium, and showing students at work, will aid in restoration of the original atmosphere and decor (1903-1912 era). Living children of the builder are searching for original blueprints of the stairway."

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☒ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oneida Academy operated from 1888 until 1922. The first two years were in Franklin, Idaho - the state's first permanent settlement - and after that in Preston. The permanent Academy was built in Preston in 1890-94 and still stands.

During its 32 years in Preston it grew up during this horse and buggy era with the town itself. Its impact on hundreds of students was such as to now persuade them that their experience, their special inspiration, must have contributed to something of a Golden Age in the community. A number of prominent Idaho leaders, including Ezra Taft Benson, former Secretary of Agriculture, are products of this academy.

The Academy was one of a number established in the late 19th Century by the L.D.S. (Mormon) church both to establish a kind of moral climate and also to assist the educational process in certain communities.

The Academy building itself was superintended by a German immigrant (John Nuffer, who was 'called on a mission' for this special task), and was built of native greyish sandstone. Its Romanesque statelines has long been one of its beloved architectural features, though in later years (following an earthquake, 1934) some of the Germanic touches were streamlined.

The building, today, is the oldest of two or three surviving buildings from those days of church-sponsored education.

The Academy, in its atmosphere of architecture, course of studies, and its strong cultural leanings, was something like a small college in a country setting.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newell Hart, ed., Hometown Album (Preston, 1973); Preston Citizen, November 23, 1972, January 4, 1973, May 2, 1974; issues of the Herald Journal (Logan, Utah) in 1956 and the Deseret News (Salt Lake) in May 1963.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 427920 4660260
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 12 427920 4660260
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

UTM OK

HL

B 12 427920 4660260
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 12 427920 4660260
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

J. Meredith Neil, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION

Idaho Bicentennial Commission

DATE

March 18, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

210 Main Street

TELEPHONE

(208) 384 3890

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Meredith Neil

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 26, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

MAY 21 1975

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

MAY 14 1975

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story stone building, likely a church or institutional structure, featuring a prominent steeple. The building is partially obscured by bare trees in the foreground. A dark, multi-story building is visible to the right. The image is framed by a white border.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

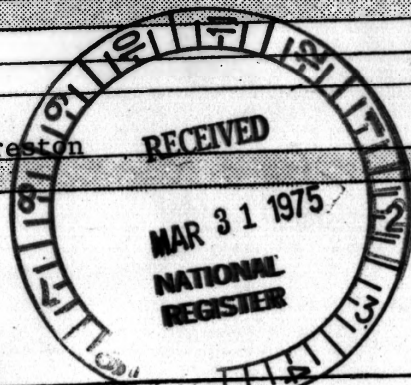
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE. Idaho	
COUNTY Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 21 1975	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Oneida Stake Academy			
AND/OR HISTORIC: same			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: NW Corner of 2nd South and 2nd East			
CITY OR TOWN: Preston			
STATE: Idaho	CODE	COUNTY: Franklin	CODE
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Newell Hart			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1974			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Newell Hart, Rt. 3, Box 273, Preston			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View from Northwest			

#1081



Oneida Stake Academy, Preston, Idaho; taken Febr. 1974

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1081