

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE
“RANDOLPH TABERNACLE”



Preparation for construction of the historic edifice began 11 March 1895, with the donation from townspeople of \$30.00 to build a picket fence around the vacant Church lot. A year later the lot was plowed and leveled by teams of horses pulling scrapers.

On 5 July 1898, a meeting was called by Bishop Archibald McKinnon (ancestor of many present-day residents) at which the “motion was made and seconded and carried that we build a good, large meeting house... A house that should be modern and large enough to accommodate people from far and near.” Excavation began Sep 26 that year, and on 2 Nov 1898, “workmen commenced to lay rock for the foundation.” Outside dimensions were 102’X50’. The brick walls were to be 19” Thick, with 2” for air space.

The roof went over the erection in the early summer of 1902; the first meetings were held in the basement of the new structure in Feb 1905. When thinking of the slowness of construction (over 16 years), consider that every item of work had to be done by hand by volunteers who had also to take care of their own families and ranch work in a day long before tractors, wheel-sprinklers, and stack hands.

Many stories could be related of the hard work, intrepid faith, and willing sacrifice that were woven into this unique erection by the time of its completion and dedication on 25 July 1914. Apostle (later Church President) George Albert Smith gave the dedicatory prayer. Total cost of the building at the time was \$23,884.76. It was boasted the auditorium (now called the “chapel”) could seat 700 persons.

Grass was not planted around the church until 1929.

Various levels of remodeling and add-ons have taken place over the years, but the original structure has remained intact. However, there was a 1977 paint job on the steeple roof that (somehow) ended up a bright blue color, visible for several miles up and down the valley! Despite that fact, the Randolph Tabernacle was added to the Governor’s List of Historical Sites in the State of Utah.

In 1984 a major addition and renovation project was undertaken, resulting in the magnificent Meetinghouse we now so much enjoy. The strikingly attractive blend of a new addition and the old building, and the agreeable restoration of the latter, was dedicated anew in an impressive service 30 Mar. 1986.

The building is “cherished by all who worship God in it every week,” with companion feelings of awe, respect, love and gratitude for the foresight and forbearance of those faithful Latter-Day Saints of long ago who gave us this precious heritage.