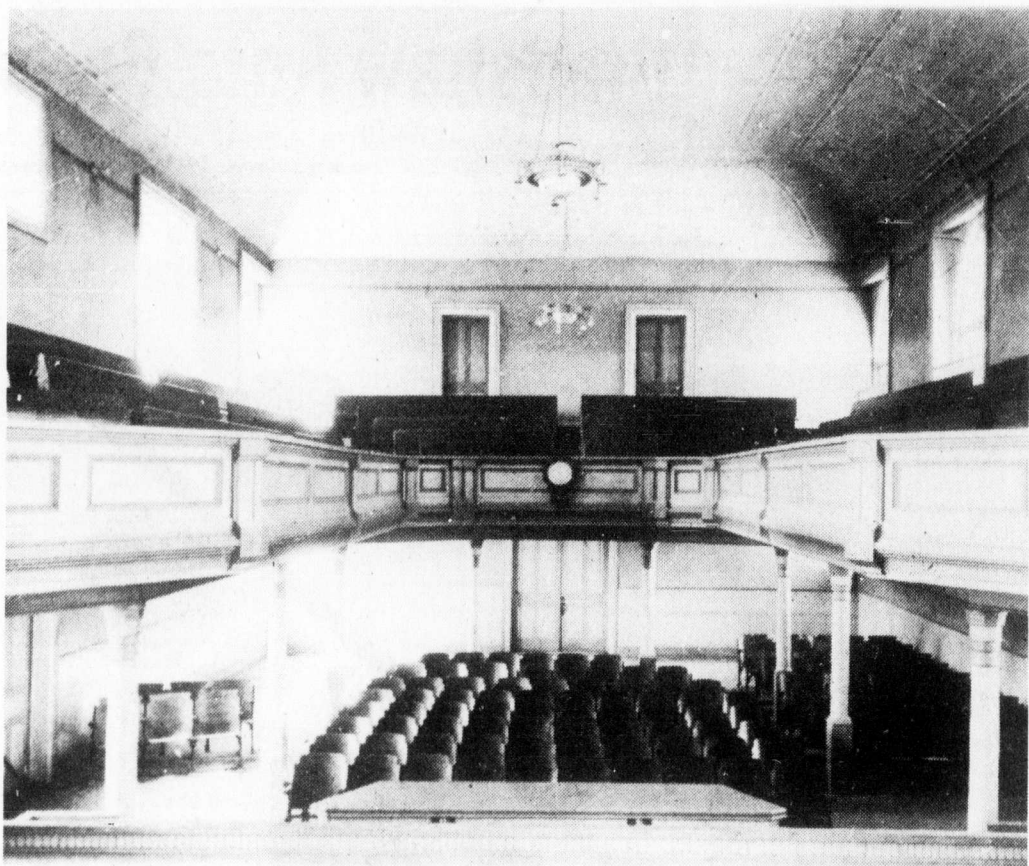




HISTORICAL BUILDING. This is the old tabernacle, one of the first church buildings constructed in Cedar City. It

replaced the social hall and was located on property set aside in original plans for the community.



INTERIOR VIEW. This is an inside view of the Old Tabernacle.

Tabernacle -- a historical part of Cedar City's history

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story about the historical Cedar City Tabernacle has been prepared and presented through the Daughters of Utah Pioneers. It is published in our readers and as an effort to acquaint residents of the significance of the 124th birthday anniversary of Cedar City which is celebrated during the month of November.

Through the efforts of the DUP Camps in Cedar City two special displays have also been prepared and can be observed in the windows of Christensen's and California Pacific Utility. The Christensen's display is of the old bell while the display at the Power Company deals with pioneer relics.

Our gratitude to Zella Matheson for her special assistance in these Anniversary Projects.

+++

CEDAR CITY TABERNACLE

As Cedar City grew in population the Social Hall, which was used for all public gatherings, was inadequate and it was decided that it was time to construct a suitable church building. The ground for the building was set aside for church purposes when the Cedar City townsite was surveyed. The architectural design was discussed and Mayhew Dalley was

asked to submit a plan. His plan was accepted and the ground was staked and the trenches for the footings were dug. For several seasons water was placed in the trenches at intervals to settle the ground. On November 27, 1877 a meeting was held on the site and the corner stone was laid. In a meeting January 8, 1883 it was decided that 82,000 brick and rock for the foundation and window sill rock should be ordered. January 1884 a director for the building was appointed and masons, quarrymen, carpenters and blacksmiths were chosen. Assembling of material went steadily on. The Co-op store owned a saw mill on Deep Creek where the lumber for the building was sawed. In February 1885, 32 teams, wagons and drivers went to Deep Creek for lumber in snow and freezing weather. George Ashdown supervised the carpenter work. The shingles were made by the Walker Brothers and Alouise Bauer. The windows and transoms were purchased in Salt Lake City for \$325.00.

Minutes of the first Sacrament Meeting held in the building were recorded March 20, 1887. The plastering wasn't done until

Continued on Page Three

Tabernacle -- historical edifice

Continued from Front Page

1888 at a cost of \$195.25. The tower with a ball and weather indicator was completed at a later date. Louis Root did the first painting inside and out. A fence was commenced in 1891 and finished the following year. The trees were donated and planted by George Perry in 1892. The rock slab from which the tablet was made was hauled to the site where Edward Ashton of Salt Lake did the finishing and inscription which read, Cedar Tabernacle, erected 1885. The gallery was completed and the clock placed in the tower at later dates.

A history of the Tabernacle compiled by Margaret Urie was briefed for this article by Zella Matheson. Many names are mentioned but space will not permit the listing of them.

ODE TO THE TABERNACLE

The dear old Tabernacle now
Is weather worn and old,

Twas built some forty years or more
By brave men, I've been told.

The old clock in the tower
Has ticked away the years,
It has been a place of pleasure
And one of grief and tears.

It was there we took our sacred dead,
The last rites to say,
Twas there we gained renewed faith and
hope
To meet each one again.

At conference our leaders came
To preach the word of God.
Some of these good men are living still,
Some lie beneath the sod.

They are going to raise you to the
ground
To replace by a building new,
But as we gaze on it, a majesty,
Our thoughts will be of you.

As I write these lines in tribute
Dear memories come back to me
Of the old time choir sweetly singing
"Nearer My God To Thee."

So farewell dear old tabernacle,
We hope to be resigned,
And love and reverence ever more
The church among the pines.

Martha Dutton Adams