

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 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
other names/site number Plano Stone Church

2. Location

street & number 304 South Center Avenue not for publication
city, town Plano vicinity
state Illinois code IL county Kendall code 093 zip code 60545

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

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:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/religious structure

Recreation and Culture/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/sandstone

walls Stone/sandstone

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is a free-standing stone building at 304 South Center Avenue in Plano, Illinois. Built and dedicated in 1868, the one story building is a symmetrical rectangle with a front facing gable roof. The front, or east, wall is constructed of rock face sandstone blocks in regular courses, while the remaining three walls consist of irregular courses of roughcut stone. The gabled roof meets the exterior wall with a slight overhang and a wide frieze below, typical of the Greek Revival style. Cut stone quoins appear on all four corners of the building and on both sides of each window. The windows, four on each side wall, have round arch lintels of cut stone with keystones and stone sills. The window sash are nine over nine with a full round arch. The front entry is a double door with a semi-circular transom window above. This window has the same square cut stone hood above with a keystone. The only change to the exterior of the building is the replacement of the original stone steps with concrete steps.

The interior of the building consists of a small vestibule inside the front door with the main room beyond. The vestibule is approximately 8'x12'. Originally the vestibule was flanked by two alcoves that faced into the main room. These alcoves contained stoves for heating the room. Today the two alcoves have been enclosed, with one serving as the stair access to the basement room and the other is a closet. These changes occurred in the 1940s. The room has a cove ceiling, and there is a raised dias at the west end of the room. All the wainscoting, window sash, and doors are original. Behind the pulpit is a projecting bay which was added in the 1940s to house the new organ equipment. Also, the amber glass panes in the windows were added at that time. The interior furnishings include wrought iron pew end-pieces and a handsome wooden pulpit.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Religion
Politics

Period of Significance

1868-1881

Significant Dates

1868

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Smith III, Joseph

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints meets Criteria A and B and Criteria Consideration A because of its significant role as the headquarters of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (RLDS) from 1868 to 1881 and because of its association with Joseph Smith III, second president of the RLDS Church and eldest son of Joseph Smith, Jr., founder of the Latter Day Saints movement.

Joseph Smith III became the prophet-president of the RLDS Church in 1860, 16 years after the death of his father at the hands of a mob in Carthage, Illinois. A large number of the older Smith's followers accepted the leadership of Brigham Young, then President of the Council of Twelve Apostles of the fledgling church, and followed him in a mass migration to the Salt Lake Basin in present-day Utah. A remnant remained in the Midwest, however believing that the rightful claims of succession lay with "the seed of the martyr." In 1860, after several overtures from leaders of a "reorganized" church headed up by several former church leaders, Joseph Smith III agreed to assume the presidency and prophetic office of his father under the name Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Then a citizen of Nauvoo, Illinois, Joseph Smith III was later persuaded by church member and leaders in Kendall County, Illinois, to move his family and business to Plano. (Smith became the editor-in-chief of the Saints Herald, a monthly publication and official organ of the young RLDS Church.) The headquarters of the church moved with him.

Joseph Smith III was a major player in the activities leading up to the building of the Plano Stone Church. In 1867, the members of the local Plano congregation appointed a building committee, and Smith was made its chair. He, with others, made the selection of the location and design of the building, as well as the choice of its builders. Work was begun on the church on March 18, 1868, and, on November 15 of that year, the completed building was dedicated with much pomp and circumstance. The Plano Stone Church also had the distinction of being the first church building legally titled under the name of the Reorganized Church.

From 1866 until 1881, Plano served as the head- See continuation sheet quarters of the RLDS Church, and from 1868 the Plano Stone Church was its central house of worship. Smith himself served as pastor of the Plano congregation for a number of years during that period. The Plano

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter Day Saints

Church was his personal base of operations during the early and critical years of the Reorganization. During this time, Smith traveled all over the nation and across the globe, regathering the "scattered Saints" to the fold of the Reorganized Church. Smith's role in this process and in the solidification of a fractured group of fragments into a mainstream American Christian church assures his place in history. The pre-eminence of the Plano Stone Church in that early period was paramount until 1881, when Smith and the headquarters of the church relocated to Lamoni, Iowa.

It was in January 1866 that President Joseph Smith and his family moved to Plano from Nauvoo. He and his wife Emmeline had four children, Carrie, Emma, Zaide and Joseph Arthur. The house for the family was provided by Bishop Israel Rogers.

Joseph Smith had visited in Plano a number of times since he had assumed the presidency of the Church in 1860 and was no doubt known by some of the townspeople. He immediately became involved in the life of the community and during his residence here was always engaged in various projects for the good of the town.

On December 7, 1866, Joseph was elected one of the Village Trustees and from the Board of Trustees was elected President that same month. He served four terms as a Trustee (1866-70) and was also elected a Justice of the Peace, and was active in the Temperance movement.

The Fourth of July celebration was always a big summer event. In 1868 he was one of the Central Committee of arrangements to plan the celebration. Interested in the cultural life of the town he was one of a committee to devise means by which a lecture course might be instituted. The efforts resulted in five lectures being offered.

Through the years he was often asked to participate in community functions such as Memorial Day programs and Commencement services. He was one of the speakers at the memorial service for our assassinated President James Garfield. The local newspaper had this to say of his remarks: "Elder Joseph Smith delivered an able and eloquent address, which literally brought tears to the eyes of the audience. Mr. Smith's effort was highly spoken of by all who heard it."

During his years in Plano, Joseph Smith III served several terms as a Justice of the Peace. Early in 1880 he met with some criticism because he had to cancel hearing a case because of a pressing church appointment. Shortly after this he resigned. The March 11, 1880, KENDALL COUNTY RECORD took note of this in an article: "Justice Joseph Smith resigned his office as magistrate last week which will necessitate an election to fill the vacancy at the coming town meeting. Mr. Smith is an able man and well posted in the law, but other pressing duties connected with the Church prevents his giving requisite attention to law matters that is really received in a town of this size. And we recommend great care in the election of his successor. Let us have a straight temperance man and one as well qualified in law as Mr. Smith, if we have one in the township."

9. Major Bibliographical References

The History of the Reorganized Church, Vol. 3-5, Herald Publishing House, 1970
Anderson, Audentia, ed., Joseph Smith III and the Restoration, Herald House, 1952.
Launius, Dr. Roger, Joseph Smith III: Pragmatic Prophet, University of Illinois Press, 1988.
Restoration Trail Forum, Vol. 3, No. 2 (May, 1977)

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kendall County Historical Society

The Archives, RLDS, Independence, Missouri

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 16 | 372120 | 4612860
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____ | _____ | _____

B _____ | _____ | _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____ | _____ | _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 and 2, Block 66, Hennings Second Addition to Village of Plano, Illinois

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the city lots historically associated with the church building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William J. Knapp, Director of Historic Sites
 organization Historic Sites Administration, RLDS Church August 3, 1990
 street & number P. O. Box 338, 149 Water Street telephone 217-453-2246
 city or town Nauvoo state Illinois zip code 62354

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information call 202/343-9542.

WEEKLY LIST OF LISTED PROPERTIES
10/29/90 THROUGH 11/02/90

NOV 09 1990

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City,
Vicinity, Certification Date, Reference Number, NHL status

ALASKA

Bethel Borough-Census Area
First Mission House
231 Third Ave.
Bethel 10/30/90 90001551

ILLINOIS

Cook County
Oak Lawn School
9526 S. Cook Ave.
Oak Lawn 11/02/90 90001725

Kendall County
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
304 S. Center Ave.
Plano 11/02/90 90001724

La Salle County
Ranson Water Tower
Plumb St. between Cartier & Columbus
Ranson 11/02/90 90001723

Lee County
Whitney, Col. Nathan, House
1520 Whitney Rd.
Franklin Grove vicinity 11/02/90 90001726

Warren County
Patton Block Building
88 & 90 Public Square
Monmouth 11/02/90 90001727

LOUISIANA

Lincoln Parish
Ruston State Bank
107 N. Trenton St.
Ruston 11/02/90 90001730

LOUISIANA

Richland Parish
Rhymes, Nonnie Roark, Memorial Library
206 S. Louisa St.
Rayville 11/02/90 90001736

MARYLAND

Sonnet County
Rock Creek Methodist Episcopal Church
Deal Island Rd. NE of Scotts Cove
Chance 11/02/90 90001718
St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church and Joshua Thomas Chapel
Deal Island Rd. W of Jct. with Tangier Rd.
Deal Island 11/01/90 90001550
St. Peter's Methodist Episcopal Church
Jct. of Old Crisfield--Marion Rd. & Heart's Ease Rd.
Hopewell vicinity 11/02/90 90001721

MASSACHUSETTS

Worcester County
First Methodist Church
75 Walnut St.
Clinton 11/02/90 90001720

MICHIGAN

Ingham County
St. Mary Cathedral
229 Seymour St.
Lansing 11/02/90 90001716

NEW JERSEY

Burlington County
Wills, Jacob, House
Evesham Township NPS
Brick Rd., W of Evans Rd.
Marlton 11/01/90 89002296

OREGON

Hood River County
Shaw--Dumble House
318 Ninth St.
Hood River 10/30/90 90001601

TENNESSEE

Davidson County
Dozier Farm
8451 River Rd. Pike
Nashville vicinity 11/01/90 90001580

TEXAS

Lubbock County
Tubbs--Carlisle House
602 Fulton Ave.
Lubbock 11/02/90 90001719

WASHINGTON

Yakima County
Buckeye Ranch House
10881 WA 410
Naches vicinity 11/02/90 90001735

Multiple Resource Areas are identified by NHA
Multiple Property Submissions are identified by NPS
Thematic Resources are identified by TR
NHL designates a National Historic Landmark

The following actions have been taken on the following properties:

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City,
Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL status, Requested Action, Decision Date

KENTUCKY

Jefferson County
Kennedy--Hunsinger Farm
Jefferson County NHA
4334 Taylorsville Rd.
Jefferson town vicinity 83002685
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION 11/01/90

The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City,
Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL status

MINNESOTA

Cass County
Battle Point (21CR12)
6 mi. W of Co. Hwy. 8 on Leech Lake, Chippewa NF
Cass Lake vicinity 8/17/90 90001144

MISSOURI

Shannon County
Shavers Ferry Archeological District
Address Restricted
Rector vicinity 10/25/90 90001541

NEW MEXICO

Lincoln County
Pasa Ranger Station Site
Lincoln Phase Sites in the Sierra Blanca Region NPS
Address Restricted
Nogal vicinity 10/22/90 90001533
Nogal Pasa Kiva Site
Lincoln Phase Sites in the Sierra Blanca Region NPS
Address Restricted
Nogal vicinity 10/22/90 90001532
Nogal Mesa Site
Lincoln Phase Sites in the Sierra Blanca Region NPS
Address Restricted
Nogal vicinity 10/22/90 90001531

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston County
Lighthouse Point Shell Ring (38CH12)
Late Archaic--Early Woodland Period Shell Rings of South Carolina NPS
Address Restricted
Charleston vicinity 10/14/90 90001505

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

1. Name of Site:

Common

Historic Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints *

2. Location:

Street and Number

304 S. Center Ave.

Township

Section

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

PLano

County

Kendall

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

() District (x) Building
() Site () Structure

Integrity (check one)

() Altered (x) Unaltered
() Moved (x) Original Site

4. Ownership:

(x) Private
() Public

Status (check one)

(x) Occupied
() Unoccupied
() Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

() Yes () Restricted (x) Unrestricted () No

Present Use (check one or more)

() Agricultural () Industrial (x) Religious
() Commercial () Military () Scientific
() Educational () Museum () Transportation
() Entertainment () Park () Other (specify)
() Government () Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name Reorganized Church, etc.

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

Independence

State

Missouri

County

JACKSON

Zip Code

64051

6. Description:

Condition:

(x) Excellent () Good () Fair () Deteriorated () Ruins
() Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? (x) Yes () No

RELIGION

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archeological Site (Pre-Columbian)
- Archeological Site (Post-Columbian to 1673)
- French Influence (1673-1780)
- Illinois Frontier (1780-1818)
- Illinois Early (1818-1850)
- Illinois Middle (1850-1900)
- Illinois Late (1900-present)
- Famous People (give names & dates)

8. Specific Date: 1868

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- Aboriginal (historic)
- Aboriginal (pre-historic)
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communication
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Religion/Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (specify)

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
 Use additional sheets if necessary. **The first Church of the reorganization**

**Served as World Headquarters 1868-1881.
 Oldest church bld in Plano.**

9. Form prepared by:

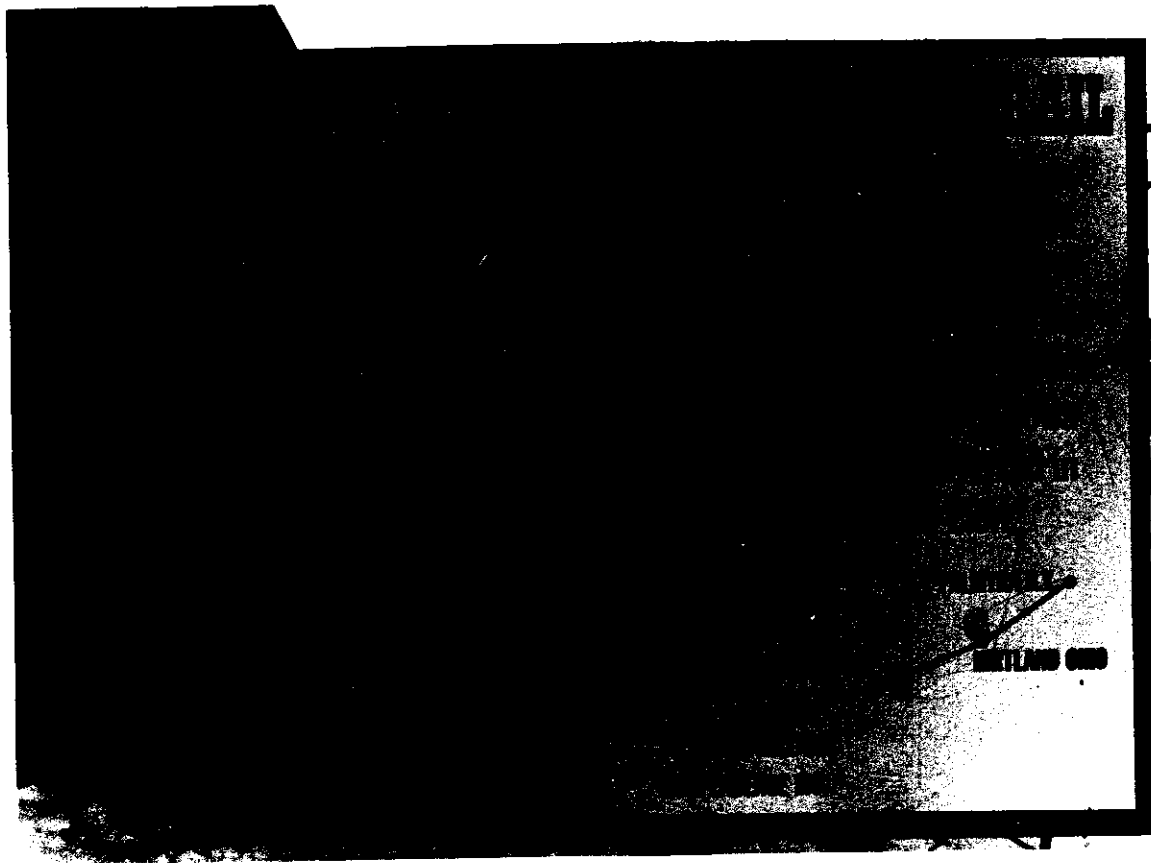
<u>Name and Title:</u>	<u>TH</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Phone:</u>	
<u>Street and number:</u>		
<u>City or Town:</u>	<u>County:</u>	<u>Zip Code:</u>

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Cf Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.





1. [Illegible]

2. [Illegible]

3. [Illegible]