

# “The ‘Temple Block,’ Salt Lake City”

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New York, February 6, 1892



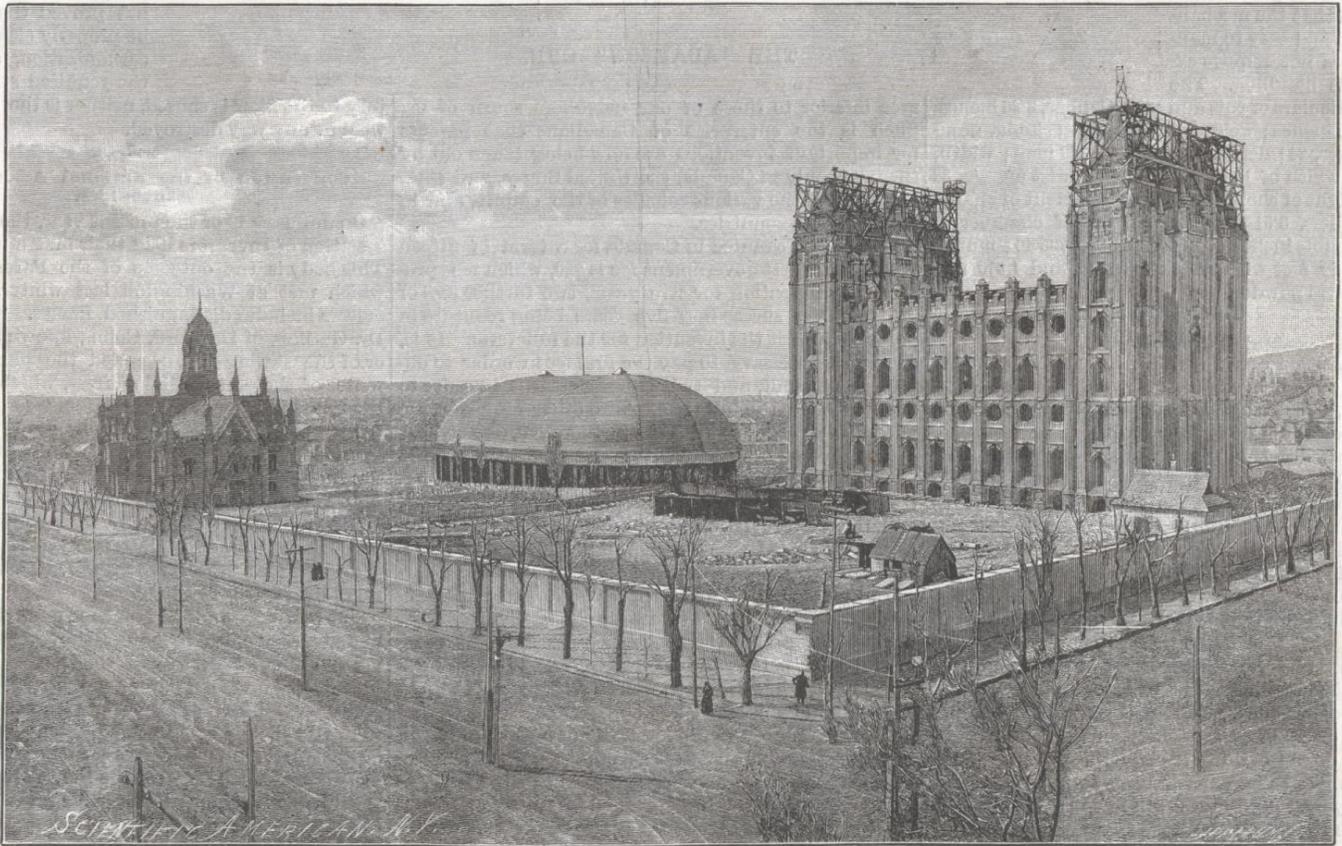
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THE FIVE MILLION DOLLAR MORMON TEMPLE AT SALT LAKE CITY.

“The Mormon Tabernacle at Salt Lake City, the central one of the three structures shown in our illustration, has had the reputation of being, ever since its erection, the largest assembly hall in America. It is capable of comfortably seating 8,000 people. It is 250 feet long, 150 feet wide, and 80 feet high. The building was completed October 6, 1867, having been a little more than two years and a half in process of erection. Its construction was superintended by Mr. Henry Grow, and the cost was paid by the voluntary contributions of the Mormon people. The roof is composed of a lattice truss, the thickness from the inside of the ceiling to the shingles being ten feet, and the trusses resting upon forty-four sandstone piers built in the most substantial manner. There are twenty double doors, nine feet wide, opening outward, with large windows above them running up under the eaves, serving the double purpose of lighting and ventilation, there being also two large windows in the roof. It is lighted by electricity. The large organ with which it is furnished was made in Salt Lake City, and nearly all of the work was done within the Tabernacle itself. Mr. Joseph Ridges superintended the construction and Messrs. Johnson & Taylor added many improvements. It has 57 stops and 2,648 pipes, the largest made of wood brought from Southern Utah, and its cost was over \$100,000.

“Twice a year, April 6 and October 6, the Tabernacle is filled to its utmost capacity. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the building is its marvelous perfection as a sound chamber, a faint whisper being plainly heard 250 feet away, at which distance also can be distinctly heard the fall of a pin dropped only two inches upon a table. The latter fact was demonstrated only a few weeks since, in the presence of a representative of the *Scientific American*. Curiously enough, however, it appears that although a speaker need never speak very loudly to be distinctly heard in all parts of the building, yet a serious obstacle to the hearers – the moving of feet, or other slight cause, naturally producing as far-reaching effects as the voice.

“The Temple, shown at the right of the picture in its present unfinished state, was commenced in 1853. Upon the arrival of the Mormons in Salt Lake Valley, in 1847, Brigham Young, looking toward Ensign Peak, marked the site with his cane, saying: ‘This is the place to stay; this is the spot I have seen in vision.’ When completed it will be one of the most durable and imposing edifices in America. The walls are ten feet thick at the surface of the ground. There are to be three towers at each end, the center ones being each 220 feet high. The building is 186 feet long by 99 feet wide. It is built of white granite, quarried at the mouth of the Little Cottonwood canon, twenty miles distant, and formerly hauled by ox teams, but now brought by rail direct to the Temple grounds. It has cost up to date nearly four millions of dollars. The Mormon temples are not designed for public worship, but for the administration of ordinances, rites and ceremonies, etc., and the assemblies of the orders of the priesthood.

“The Assembly Hall, in the southeast corner of ‘Temple Block,’ is 68 by 120 feet in size, and has an auditorium designed to seat 2,000 persons. The cost of the building was nearly \$250,000.”