

Salt Lake Utah Temple

The Salt Lake Utah Temple is the largest and most well known temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Its location was chosen on July 28, 1847, by the second president of the church, Brigham Young. The temple site was dedicated six years later in 1853, and the great work commenced shortly thereafter on April 6 of that year.

Construction on the temple was a slow and grueling process. For the first sixteen years of construction, oxen were used to haul the gigantic blocks of granite fifteen miles down Little Cottonwood Canyon and across the Salt Lake Valley to the temple site. It wasn't until the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, that granite was taken to the temple site by rail, greatly speeding up the tedious process.

Thirty-nine years after the groundbreaking ceremony in which the cornerstone was laid, the fourth president of the church – Wilford Woodruff – laid the capstone by means of an electric motor and switch on April 6, 1892. The exterior of the temple was completed. At the ceremony, President Woodruff proposed that the structure's interior be completed within the year, making it possible for the temple to be dedicated exactly forty years after the laying of the cornerstone. Carpenters, seamstresses, artists, glassblowers, and others worked together to complete the elaborate interior just twelve months later.

"Salt Lake Temple." Wikipedia.com. 6 July 2008 < www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt_Lake_Temple >

"Salt Lake Temple." Utah.com. 6 July 2008 < www.utah.com/mormon/salt_lake_temple.htm >