

# Time Line

Scott C. Esplin

## **December 1832**

Commandment to build Kirtland Temple (first dedicated Latter-day Saint house of worship; see D&C 88)

## **March 27, 1836**

Kirtland Temple dedicated

## **1845**

Plans for a canvas tabernacle in Nauvoo

## **1846**

Saints leave Nauvoo before canvas tabernacle can be erected

## **1847**

Log Tabernacle built at Miller's Hollow, Kanesville (Council Bluffs), Iowa



Kirtland Temple  
*Courtesy of Church Archives*

*Scott C. Esplin*

**July 28, 1847**

Brigham Young designates location for Salt Lake Temple Block, future home to Tabernacle

**July 31, 1847**

First Bowery built on southeast corner of Temple Block

**December 24, 1847**

Brigham Young sustained as President of the Church in Log Tabernacle at Kaneshville (Council Bluffs), Iowa

**Spring 1849**

Second Bowery built on Temple Square (replacing First Bowery)

**Spring 1851**

Plans announced for construction of Adobe Tabernacle on Temple Square



Old Adobe Tabernacle  
*Courtesy of Church Archives*

**August 2, 1851**

Ground broken for Adobe Tabernacle

**April 6, 1852**

Adobe Tabernacle dedicated by President Willard Richards

**April 6, 1853**

Ground broken for Salt Lake Temple

**Summer 1854**

Third Bowery built on Temple Square, north of Adobe Tabernacle

**Spring 1858**

Third Bowery dismantled before arrival of Johnston's Army

**1860**

Third Bowery reconstructed, though slightly smaller than previous boweries

**1860**

Henry Grow erects wooden bridge over Jordan River, using the design later used in the Great Tabernacle roof

*Time Line*

**1861**

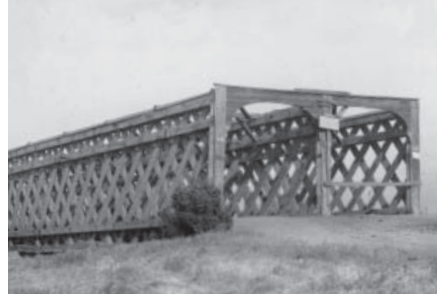
William Folsom named acting Church architect

**Summer 1861**

Adobe Tabernacle remodeled

**August 23, 1862**

Wilford Woodruff records Brigham Young's plans for a 15,000-seat tabernacle on Temple Square



Bridge built by Henry Grow  
*Courtesy of Church Archives*

**April 6, 1863**

Plans announced in general conference for construction of Salt Lake Tabernacle

**1863**

Third Bowery relocated to south side of Temple Square before construction of Tabernacle; beams used as floor joists for the Tabernacle

**April 18, 1863**

Survey completed for Tabernacle

**Spring 1863**

Ground broken for Tabernacle

**Summer 1864**

Cornerstones laid for Tabernacle piers

**September 1, 1865**

Work begins on Tabernacle roof

**January 1866**

Preliminary work begins on Tabernacle organ

**April 1867**

Truman Angell replaces William Folsom as Church Architect



Tabernacle under construction  
*Courtesy of Church Archives*

*Scott C. Esplin*

**Summer 1867**

Base laid for organ

**August 1867**

Work completed and scaffolding removed from roof

**October 7, 1867**

First meeting held in Tabernacle

**June 24, 1868**

Funeral for Heber C. Kimball held in Tabernacle

**May 10, 1869**

Completion of transcontinental railroad

**November 8, 1869**

Construction begins on Tabernacle gallery

**April 1870**

Construction completed on Tabernacle gallery

**Summer 1870**

Construction completed on Tabernacle organ

**August 12–14, 1870**

Debate between Orson Pratt and John P. Newman, U.S. Senate chaplain, regarding plural marriage

**1875**

Ornamental water fountain added to center of Tabernacle for Sunday School Jubilee

**October 9, 1875**

Tabernacle dedicated by President John Taylor

**August 1877**

Announcement made to dismantle Adobe Tabernacle and replace it with Assembly Hall

**September 2, 1877**

Funeral service for Brigham Young held in Tabernacle



Tabernacle organ

*Courtesy of Church Archives*

*Time Line*

**August 3, 1879**

Funeral service for Joseph Standing, martyred missionary, held in Tabernacle

**October 10, 1880**

Pearl of Great Price sustained as a standard work by the Church

**September 26, 1881**

Memorial service for President James A. Garfield held in Tabernacle

**1882**

Tabernacle rostrum remodeled

**January 8, 1882**

Assembly Hall dedicated by President Joseph F. Smith

**1883**

Choir stand enlarged to hold two hundred singers (previously held about seventy-five singers)

**1884**

Gas lighting and heat first used in Tabernacle

**April 1, 1884**

Concert by Adelina Patti, first operatic performance in Tabernacle

**1890**

Baptismal font installed in Tabernacle basement; Tabernacle roof covered in tin



Tabernacle baptismal font  
*Courtesy of Richard Crookston*

*Scott C. Esplin*

**October 6, 1890**

Manifesto ending plural marriage sustained in general conference

**1894**

Weekly sacrament meetings in Tabernacle discontinued

**May 12, 1895**

Susan B. Anthony speaks in Tabernacle

**October 3–5, 1895**

Great Eisteddfod, Welsh singing festival, held in Tabernacle



The Tabernacle interior decorated for the statehood celebration, 1896.

*Courtesy of Church Archives*

**January 6, 1896**

Statehood celebration in Tabernacle

**1900**

Tabernacle organ rebuilt

**February 11, 1900**

Memorial service for members killed in Philippines during Spanish-American War

**1915**

Tabernacle organ rebuilt

**April 1923**

Amplification first used for general conference

*Time Line*

**August 10, 1923**

Memorial service for President Warren G. Harding held in Tabernacle

**October 1924**

First radio transmission of general conference

**October 18, 1927**

John Philip Sousa performs in the Tabernacle

**July 15, 1929**

First Mormon Tabernacle Choir radio broadcast

**April 1930**

*The Message of the Ages* pageant held in Tabernacle, commemorating centennial of the Church

**1933**

Rostrum remodeled a second time

**1942**

Tabernacle roof reinforced

**October 1942**

Special sacrament and testimony meeting held as part of general conference

**1947**

Shingle roof replaced with aluminum

**July 1947**

Hundredth-anniversary pioneer commemoration held in the Tabernacle

**1947**

Stewart L. Grow finishes thesis, "A Historical Study of the Construction of the Salt Lake Tabernacle"

**1948**

Organ rebuilt by Aeolian-Skinner Company

**October 1948**

General conference first broadcast on television

**1951**

"Quiet room" at the rear of Tabernacle first used during general conference



Sacrament cup  
*Courtesy of Scott C. Esplin*

*Scott C. Esplin*

**1954**

Architect Frank Lloyd Wright calls Tabernacle “one of the architectural masterpieces of the country and perhaps the world”

**1962**

General conference first broadcast by shortwave radio; Tabernacle Choir’s *Music and the Spoken Word* first broadcast on television

**September 26, 1963**

President John F. Kennedy speaks in Tabernacle



President John F. Kennedy speaking at the Tabernacle pulpit, 1963  
*Courtesy of Church Archives*

**1967**

General conference first broadcast in color television

**1968**

Basement added

**1970**

Tabernacle designated as National Historic Landmark

**April 3, 1971**

Tabernacle designated as National Civil Engineering Landmark

**1975**

First satellite transmission of general conference

**April 3, 1976**

Revelations now known as Doctrine and Covenants 137 and 138 (originally placed in the Pearl of Great Price) sustained

**1977**

Rostrum remodeled a third time

**September 30, 1978**

Official Declaration 2, extending the priesthood to all worthy males, sustained in general conference

**September 23, 1995**

“The Family: A Proclamation to the World” read to Church membership by President Gordon B. Hinckley



*Time Line*



Newly restored Tabernacle  
*Courtesy of Richard Crookston*

**April 2000**

General conference first held  
in Conference Center

**September 14, 2001**

Memorial service for the  
National Day of Prayer and  
Remembrance following  
terrorist attacks of Septem-  
ber 11, 2001

**Winter 2002**

Special concerts held for  
Olympic and Paralympic  
Winter Games

**2005–2007**

Extensive seismic renovation  
of Tabernacle stone pillars  
and roof reinforced; exits  
reconfigured

**March 31, 2007**

Tabernacle rededicated  
by President Gordon B.  
Hinckley

