

Temple Milestones



- 1846 Ship *Brooklyn* sails from New York (February 4)
- Mormon Battalion recruited in Iowa (July 15)
- Brooklyn* Saints arrive in San Francisco Bay (July 31)
- 1847 Mormon Battalion arrives at San Diego (January 29)
- John Horner one of first settlers in Alameda County (March)
- Brigham Young and Mormon pioneers arrive at Salt Lake Valley (July 24)
- President Young sends epistle to California Saints (August 7)
- 1848 Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill (January 24)
- 1851 Parley P. Pratt presides over Pacific Mission at San Francisco
- 1856 George Q. Cannon publishes *Western Standard* in San Francisco (February)
- 1857 Brigham Young calls Saints to return to Utah (fall)
- 1892 Oakland Branch organized when California Mission is reopened (October 2)
- 1894 Karl G. Maeser directs Church exhibit in San Francisco

- 1896* Tabernacle Choir gives concert in Oakland (April 14)
- 1898* Wilford Woodruff dies in San Francisco (September 2)
- 1906* San Francisco earthquake occurs (April 18)
- 1915* Church exhibit at Panama-Pacific International Exhibition attracts interest (February 20–December 4)
- 1917* United States enters World War I (April 6)
- 1918* End of World War I brings decade of growth in California
- 1927* First Northern California stake organized at San Francisco (July 10)
- 1928* George Albert Smith attends Boy Scout meeting in San Francisco (April)
- 1933* California members make excursion to Salt Lake Temple (June)
- California members make excursion to Arizona Temple (December)
- 1934* David O. McKay visits future Oakland Temple site (January 21)
- Oakland Stake organized (December 9)

- 1937* Property purchased on Lake Merritt for possible future tabernacle
- Bay Area Genealogical Committee begins functioning
- 1942* Construction restricted because of World War II (March)
- First Presidency authorizes purchase of Oakland Temple site (November 16)
- 1947* Key parcel purchased, giving access to temple site (August)
- 1949* Plans announced for Los Angeles Temple (January 17)
- 1955* Architect Harold W. Burton presents plans for Interstake Center (January 14)
- Harold W. Burton becomes Church architect
- Swiss Temple first to use films in presenting endowment
- Interstake genealogical library recommended
- 1956* Third stake organized in East Bay Area (August 19)
- 1957* Ground broken for Interstake Center by Steven L. Richards (July 20)

1960 Interstake Center dedicated by President David O. McKay (September 25)

1961 Plans to build temple announced (January 23)

Genealogy library established in new Interstake Center

1962 67 percent of pledged amount collected; construction to begin (by May)

Ground broken by President McKay (Saturday, May 26); contract awarded

Pouring of concrete under way (September)

1963 Cornerstone laid by President Joseph Fielding Smith (Saturday, May 25)

Roofed over and interior work progressing (December)

1964 Temple president appointed (January)

Sculptures of Christ and Apostles lifted into place (spring)

Pacific Northwest stakes added to the Oakland Temple district (June)

President McKay makes surprise visit to temple (Sunday, August 2)

Tours given to students leaving for school (Saturday, September 12)

End of construction, keys handed over to temple president (Friday, September 25)

Public open house held (October 5–31)

Temple dedicated, overflow in separate building for first time (Tuesday–Thursday, November 17–19)

First endowment session for stake leaders (December 17)

“And It Came to Pass” Pageant opens (December)

1965 Temple opened to general Church membership (Tuesday, January 5)

Sunday lecture series inaugurated in Interstake Center

1967 Temple floodlighting praised by architects

1970 Pageant performances increased to twelve, moved to summer

1977 *Messiah* performances inaugurated at Interstake Center

1978 50,000 Christmas lights attract attention

- 1979* Kieth Merrill upgrades pageant script, new costumes
- 1980* Genealogy name “extraction” program inaugurated
 First Tongan ward, representing growing ethnic population
- 1988* Temple closes for extensive renovation (December 29)
- 1989* Earthquake causes only a few minor cracks (October 17)
- 1990* Temple reopens with two additional endowment rooms (October)
- 1991* No damage to temple during “Oakland Hills Firestorm”
- 1992* New visitors’ center and genealogy library in basement dedicated (September 12)
- 1993* “Easter Miracle” performance and special display
- 1996* Ship *Brooklyn* plaque next to visitors’ center dedicated
- 1998* Christmas lights increased to 500,000
- 2004* Visitors’ center remodeled to emphasize Christ and the Restoration

2006 Dedication of Sacramento Temple takes workers and patrons from Oakland (September 3)

2014 Temple commemorates fiftieth anniversary (November 17)