



Groveland Ward Chapel
(Built during winter of 1903-04 at a
cost of \$2,200. Stage added at back
later at a cost of \$1,300.)



H I S T O R Y
of
G R O V E L A N D W A R D
Blackfoot Stake
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
Bingham County, Idaho

From "Dedication Program" for the New Chapel, January 20, 1952:

"What few wards there were throughout the country in 1902 had been organized into what was then known as 'The Bingham Stake' which comprised all the territory including 'Big' and 'Little Lost River', from Sterling on the west to Rexburg on the north and Pocatello on the south with headquarters at Iona, situated seven miles from north-east of Idaho Falls and all Stake meetings were held there.

"James E. Steele of Iona was Stake President, A. E. Stanger and R. L. Bybee counselors. By this time there were quite a number of L. D. S. people in the Groveland District who belonged to the Moreland Ward.

"The stake officers were consulted about organizing a Branch of the Church in this Groveland Community. At a meeting held in the Groveland School House (now the Old Relief Society Building) on April 27, 1902 with President Steele presiding, Bishop Warren P.

Lindsay of the Moreland Ward conducting, Adam Yancey was chosen to act as Presiding Elder of the Groveland Branch. President Steele suggested that as the School District was known as the Groveland District the Branch should also be known by that name.

"The boundary lines were east and south to the Snake River, west to the east boundary lines of the Moreland and Riverdale Wards and north to the lavas.

"At another meeting held May 4, 1902, Benj. D. Jensen was sustained as Clerk; James Chapman, Chorister and Orval Yancey, organist; then on February 1, 1903 under the direction of the Stake Presidency the Groveland Branch was organized into a ward with Adam Yancey, Bishop. Two weeks later on February 15, 1903 the organization was completed with Andrew C. Jensen, Jr. as first and James Chapman as second counselors; Benj. D. Jensen being retained as Ward Clerk, G. W. Hammond, Chorister.



First Bishopric (left to right): Adam Yancey, Bishop
James Chapman, Second Counselor
Andrew C. Jensen, Jr., First Counselor

"On August 5, 1903, a committee of five men were appointed to decide on a suitable church building to be built, this building was finished in 1904 at the cost of \$2,200 and still stands, being vacated when the new building was finished in August 1951. At another meeting held November 15, 1903 Andrew C. Jensen, Sr. and James G. Johnson were appointed to select a site for the Groveland Cemetery, which is where we see it today.

"In 1904 Bingham Stake was divided and this western section was called the 'Blackfoot Stake'. On February 10, 1905 the Stake Presidency Elias S. Kimball, Don C. Walker, L. R. Thomas and Bishop Adam Yancey laid out the Groveland townsite and reserved a place for the building of a new church where the new Chapel now stands.



William Lindsay James Chapman
Adam Yancey

"Andrew C. Jensen was released as first counselor February 26, 1904 (he being called to a Stake office) and on October 2, 1904 James Chapman was sustained as first counselor and William Lindsay second counselor. They served until May 24, 1914 when John S. Bowker was sustained as Bishop with J. H. Hale and James Yancey counselors, Joseph F. Jensen, Clerk. Other counselors with Bishop Bowker were Orson Manwaring, Emron Yancey and Joseph F. Jensen, and up to this time Jens L. Sorenson, Nels Sorenson and Junius Sorenson, Edward B. Johnson and Samuel G. Seamons, had also served as ward clerks.

"Wintle A. Bingham was sustained as ward clerk March 23, 1930 and on May 4, 1930 Bishop Bowker was released and Joseph F. Jensen sustained as bishop with Orson P. Callister and Elmo Bergeson as counselors, retaining Wintle A. Bingham as clerk

"Total membership of the Groveland Ward December 31, 1951 was 574."



Architect's Drawing for New Chapel

"When the townsite was laid out, Bishop Adam Yancey could see the possibility of growth and expansion and had held in reserve a lot for a new church to be built on, and on this piece of ground a group met and after a humble prayer by Horace A. Elison the ground breaking took place. On this beautiful day of June 13th, 1950 the first shovel full of dirt was lifted by Bishop Boyd Denney, then the excavating really began when a huge carry-all and bull dozers were put into operation. . . . "



Erection began June 13, 1950
Completed August, 1951
Picture taken in winter 1951

From back cover of "Dedication Program":

"We especially thank Sister Bertha Y. Jensen
for writing the Ward History and assembling
this booklet."