

= Laie Hawaii Temple =

Laie Hawaii Temple is a temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints (LDS Church) located on the northeast shore of the Hawaiian island of O?ahu . The temple sits on a small hill , a half @-@ mile from the Pacific Ocean , in the town of L??ie , 35 miles (56 km) from Honolulu . Along with Brigham Young University ? Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center , the Laie Hawaii Temple plays an important role in the town of L? 'ie , with the Visitors ' Center attracting more than 100 @,@ 000 people annually .

In addition to initial building and construction , the temple has been dedicated for use by several presidents of the LDS Church . The temple site was dedicated by Joseph F. Smith on June 1 , 1915 , with Heber J. Grant dedicating the completed structure on November 27 , 1919 . Spencer W. Kimball rededicated the Temple after significant expansion on June 13 , 1978 . After seismic upgrades and remodeling , Thomas S. Monson rededicated the Temple on November 21 , 2010 .

The Laie Hawaii Temple was the first temple built by the LDS Church outside of the continental United States . The temple is also the oldest to operate outside of Utah , and the fifth @-@ oldest LDS temple still in operation . The Laie Hawaii Temple was formerly known as the Hawaiian Temple or the Hawaii Temple until the implementation of the standard naming convention for LDS temples .

= = History = =

= = = Sandwich Islands Mission = = =

During the California Gold Rush , the first ten Mormon missionaries to Hawaii departed San Francisco on the ship Imaum of Muscat . After 20 days at sea , the ship arrived on December 12 , 1850 , in Honolulu Harbor at what was then known as the " Sandwich Islands " (Hawaiian Islands) . A week later , nine missionaries received their assignments ; two headed to the island of Kaua 'i , three to Lahaina on the island of Maui , two to the Big Island of Hawaii , and two stayed behind in Honolulu . These nine missionaries formed the basis of the Sandwich Islands Mission . The first LDS Church congregation in Hawaii was established on the island of Maui in 1851 . Missionaries settled on the island of L?na?i in 1854 , and in L??ie on the island of O?ahu in 1865 .

= = = L??ie = = =

In 1865 , the Church purchased a 6 @,@ 000 @-@ acre (24 km²) sugarcane plantation as a gathering place for the Latter @-@ day Saints in the area . While on a mission to the Sandwich Islands , Joseph F. Smith first proposed building a temple in Hawaii during a meeting in L??ie on February 15 , 1885 . George Q. Cannon , one of the original ten missionaries , visited L??ie in 1900 and became revered as a prophet for promoting the idea of a new Hawaiian temple among his congregations .

In 1915 , Joseph F. Smith , then sixth president of the LDS Church , announced plans for the first temple outside the continental United States and chose L??ie for its construction . According to Mormon folklore , precious materials arrived just in time to complete the building of the temple : Temple builders ran out of wood (a scarce commodity on the islands) during initial construction , but local members received lumber when a ship ran aground and needed to unload some of its cargo of wood . The temple builders volunteered to help the ship and were given the lumber out of gratitude . The lumber taken from the ship proved to be just enough to finish the temple .

When news of the new Laie Hawaii Temple reached Native Hawaiian converts (and other Polynesians) living far from home in the town of Iosepa , Utah , many decided to emigrate back to Hawaii . Although the Hawaiians had lived in Iosepa since 1889 , the closest temple , Salt Lake Temple , was 75 miles away from the colony . Moving to Laie gave the Hawaiians the ability to be closer to the new temple and allowed them to perform sacred ordinances without having to travel great distances . By January 1917 , most of the Hawaiians returned home , leaving Iosepa a ghost

town .

LDS Church President Heber J. Grant presided over the Hawaiian Temple 's dedication on November 27 , 1919 . Grant called the Hawaiian people " descendants of Lehi " (a prophet in the Book of Mormon) , and saw the future of the new temple in Laie as a magnet for Polynesian converts . After the temple was completed , more Polynesians moved to Laie , hoping to participate in temple ordinances . Tourists were also drawn to the area , and guide books of the time compared the Laie temple to the Taj Mahal .

The 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor gave rise to another popular tale about the Laie Hawaii Temple in Mormon folklore . According to variations on this story , Japanese aircraft pilots attempted to bomb or strafe the Hawaiian Temple just prior to , or just after , the attack , but were thwarted by mechanical failure or from an unseen protective force . Some stories suggest that the Japanese pilot who attempted to attack the temple was converted to the LDS Church after he saw a picture of the temple in the possession of Mormon missionaries in Japan . Although there is an eyewitness who believes he saw the attempted bombing and a former missionary who says he met the Japanese convert , historians have found little supporting evidence that would substantiate these stories .

= = = Renovation = = =

Beginning in May 1976 , the temple was closed for a two -@-@ year remodeling project , expanding from 10 @,@ 500 square feet (980 m2) to over 47 @,@ 000 square feet (4 @,@ 400 m2) . Church president Spencer W. Kimball rededicated the temple on June 13 , 1978 .

A \$ 5 @.@ 5 million renovation , renewal , and beautification project along Hale La'a Boulevard leading to the temple began in 2003 , lasting 14 months : Norfolk pines suffering from termite infestation were replaced with royal palms , new decorative lighting was added to the terraces , and landscaped roundabouts were put in place . At the same time , the Visitors ' Center was upgraded with interactive kiosks and new displays .

In December 2008 , the Laie Hawaii Temple closed again for structural and seismic upgrades and to restore the ordinance rooms to their original appearance and progressive @-@ style presentation of the endowment (still using film) . The baptistry was repaired and renovated . The temple was rededicated on November 21 , 2010 , by Thomas S. Monson .

= = Architecture = =

LDS Church president Joseph F. Smith wanted the architecture of the Laie Hawaii Temple to resemble Solomon 's Temple referred to in the biblical canon . The temple is often compared to the Cardston Alberta Temple , designed by young architects Hyrum Pope and Harold W. Burton . Pope and Burton 's design was also used for Laie , and their work is rooted in the Prairie style architecture made popular by architect Frank Lloyd Wright in the early twentieth @-@ century . The temples also evoke Mesoamerican architectural motifs , a favored theme of Burton 's .

The temple sits on an 11 @-@ acre (4 @.@ 5 ha) site that was once part of a large sugarcane plantation . Construction of the temple first began in February 1916 . Native materials consisting of crushed lava rock were used to build the temple , along with reinforced concrete . The building 's gleaming white finish was created using pneumatic stone @-@ cutting techniques . The temple has the shape of a cross when seen from the air ; the highest point of the temple is 50 ft (15 @.@ 2 m) , and it measures 102 ft (31 @.@ 1 m) from east to west and 78 ft (23 @.@ 8 m) from north to south . The front exterior was designed in the form of a Greek cross , but lacks a tower , a rarity in LDS Church temples . Apart from the Laie Hawaii Temple , only two other church temples lack towers or spires : the Cardston Alberta Temple and the Mesa Arizona Temple .

The exterior of the temple exhibits four large friezes planned by American sculptor J. Leo Fairbanks and built with the help of his brother Avard Fairbanks . Modeled four @-@ fifths lifesize and cast in concrete , the bas @-@ relief friezes depict God 's dealings with Man . The north frieze depicts the story of the Book of Mormon . The west frieze shows the people of the Old Testament . The New Testament and the Apostasy are depicted on the southern frieze of the temple , and the restoration

of the Church through Joseph Smith is shown on the east frieze . On the grounds of the temple are statues also designed by the Fairbanks brothers , including Joseph being blessed by his father and one of the Prophet Lehi in a scene from the Second Book of Nephi in the Book of Mormon .

As visitors approach the temple and pass a number of reflecting pools , a maternity fountain sits in front of the uppermost pool . Designed by the Fairbanks brothers , this bold relief honors Hawaiian Motherhood and depicts a Hawaiian mother holding a giant clam shell while pouring water over her children . The act is supposed to symbolize mothers pouring their love , hope and care onto their children .

The landscaped temple grounds contain tropical gardens , with plants such as hibiscus , Brazilian plume , birds of paradise , lantana , red ginger , bougainvillea , plumeria , Ixora , and others . At the base of the temple grounds is a fountain separating an LDS Family History Center and a Visitors ' Center , where a ten @-@ foot sculpture replica of Bertel Thorvaldsen 's Christus stands inside the entrance .

The Laie Hawaii Temple is 47 @,@ 224 square feet (4 @,@ 387 @.@ 3 m2) and houses four ordinance rooms and six sealing rooms . Landscape artist LeConte Stewart designed many of the murals found inside the temple .

= = Admittance = =

Laie Hawaii Temple is not used for regular Sunday worship . As temples are considered sacred houses of the Lord , only church members who keep gospel covenants are allowed to enter for the purpose of participating in sacred ceremonies such as endowments , baptism for the dead and eternal marriage , a ritual in which couples and families are sealed for time and all eternity . Because of these guidelines , non @-@ Mormons are not allowed inside temples , but public tours of the grounds outside and of the visitors ' centers are available .

= = Temple presidents = =

Notable temple presidents include Edward L. Clissold (1936 ? 38 , 1943 ? 44 , 1963 ? 65) ; D. Arthur Haycock (1986 ? 89) ; and J. Richard Clarke (1998 ? 2001) .