

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Midvale City Hall
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 12 East Center Street N/A not for publication
city or town Midvale N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Salt Lake code 035 zip code 84047

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 2/22/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

for
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Ball 4/7/94

Entered in the
National Register

Midvale City Hall
Name of Property

Midvale, Salt Lake County, Utah
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter 'N/A' if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public Works Buildings Thematic Nomination

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT / city hall
GOVERNMENT / government office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE / theater
RECREATION & CULTURE / auditorium
RECREATION & CULTURE / museum
WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Moderne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Brick

roof Asphalt
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See Continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Midvale City Hall
Name of Property

Midvale, Salt Lake County, Utah
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1938-1939

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carl W. Scott & George W. Welch / architects

Paul Paulsen & Co. / builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Midvale City Hall
Name of Property

Midvale, Salt Lake County, Utah
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .27 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 4/2/3/0/9/0 4/4/9/5/6/9/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Sidwell No. 21-25-354-0001 & 002

W 87.5 ft of N 49.5 ft of Lot 5. W 87.5 ft of Lot 6 & 5.5 ft. of Lot 8 Hansens Subdivision. S 1/2 ft. of Lot 5 Hansen Sub.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The old Midvale City Hall is located at the corner of Main and Center Streets at the heart of Midvale's historic Main Street area. This property is located on the major intersection of Midvale's two historic transportation routes and is the same parcel which has been associated with the city hall since its construction.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles E. Hughes/Historian

organization Timpanogos Research Associates, Inc.

date November 1993

street & number 5228 S. Morning Crest Drive

telephone (801)261-1956

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT zip code 84123

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets

- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

- Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Midvale City

street & number 80 East Center Street

telephone (801)561-1418

city or town Midvale

state UT zip code 84047

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Midvale City Hall, Midvale, Salt Lake County, UT

Narrative Description

The old Midvale City Hall, built in 1939, is a rectangular, two-story brick building with a concrete foundation and a parapeted gable roof. It is located on the southeast corner of Main and Center streets in the heart of the historic commercial and residential areas of Midvale. No major changes are evident on the exterior of the building and it is in excellent condition.

The building is a good example of the Art Moderne style. Characteristic of that style is the streamlined appearance achieved by the curved windows and rounded corners of the entry and main block of the building, the extensive use of glass block on the entry and flanking vertical windows, and the curved capitals on the buttresses along the side walls. The streamlining is further enhanced by distinct bands of terra cotta coping and by the horizontal lines created by subtle brick coursing, wherein every fifth course is a header course. This coursing pattern continues only about three-fourths of the way up the walls; beyond that the brick is laid in Flemish bond, with alternating header and stretcher bricks.

The building is symmetrical on all elevations, with the facade, as expected, being the most architecturally expressive. The facade consists of a three-tiered entrance/office area attached to the front of the wider and taller gymnasium section that comprises the bulk of the building. The entrance section features an elevated, brick-and-glass-block projecting vestibule with rounded corners, terra cotta detailing, and the city name in large, terra cotta letters embedded in the wall above the double doors. A neon sign bearing the city's name had covered this original lettering for a time through at least the 1950s. Narrow, vertical glass block windows flank the vestibule and light the interior stairways. Ground-level doors on either side of this section provide direct access to these stairways. Windows along the sides and rear of the building are small rectangular or square openings which play no major part in the design composition.

The interior of the building remains relatively the same as when it was constructed. The entry stairways lead down to offices in the raised basement and up to the gymnasium. Original metal stair railing and decorative grillwork featuring the letter "M" for Midvale are notable original features in this section of the building. The rear of the upper floor consists of a gymnasium. The gymnasium has a cathedral ceiling with exposed, heavy beams that support the roof and the floor is hardwood. The upper floor also serves as the main auditorium with a small stage located at the south end. Small service rooms are located at the south end on either side of the small stage. The lower floor contains the original city offices, approximately ten. The interior of the building is in fair condition. The city plans to use the building as a community arts museum and for local plays. Currently no renovations or repairs have taken place inside the building.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Midvale City Hall, Midvale, Salt Lake County, UT

The building is currently being used by Midvale City as a community auditorium to hold plays and other public events. The lower floor is being renovated to accommodate an art gallery to display the work of local artists. Recent landscaping on the grounds by the city has enhanced the exterior of the building.

___ See continuation sheet

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Midvale City Hall, Midvale, Salt Lake County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

Built in 1939, the old Midvale City Hall is significant as the center of local government and community activities for thirty-seven years and as an excellent example of the Art Moderne style. It is the only building in Midvale exhibiting the Art Moderne style, and is relatively uncommon statewide. The Midvale City Hall, built with Public Works Administration (PWA) funds, is also significant for its association with New Deal programs that had a profound impact in Utah during the Depression years. The significance of these programs has been documented in the 1985 National Register thematic nomination of Public Works Buildings.

The old City Hall located at 12 East Center Street, Midvale, Utah, was built in 1939 to replace the inadequate city offices located on Main Street just south of the current location. On June 14, 1938, Midvale Mayor J. Hollis Aylett called a special session of the City Council to discuss the progress of the plans for a new city hall. Dr. H.E. Nelson, chairman of the planning board, reported that a grant to the PWA was being prepared.¹ Carl Scott, a principal in the architectural firm of Scott and Welch, unveiled a preliminary sketch of the new city hall that would cost approximately \$115,000. It is interesting to note that at this time the County Library Board had made inquiries to Midvale about a new library for the city. The initial plans of the city hall included this new library. To meet available resources, it was soon decided that the new city hall would need to be smaller, therefore, building of the library was postponed. (In 1940-41 a separate building was built a block to the east to house the county library. This building is listed in the National Register.) Final plans for the new city hall included the clerk's office, city council chambers, city fire and police departments, a public auditorium and recreation rooms.

It was decided that the city could not bond \$64,000, the amount needed to fund the city's share of the total expense, without raising the property tax mill levy. The city council decided to apply for a PWA grant for a less expensive building.² In August, 1938, the city received word that the PWA had approved their grant for \$31,500.³ The city council approved, during a special election on September 20, 1938, to bond for the additional \$38,500, with the bond election passing by a vote of 268 for and 151 against. Continental National Bank and Trust Company of Salt Lake City was the low bidder for Midvale's bond issue.⁴ The bonds were issued at 2

¹ Midvale City Council Minutes, June 14, 1938, Midvale, Utah.

² The Ute Sentinel, August 26, 1938.

³ Ibid, September 23, 1938.

⁴ Ibid, November 4, 1938.

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Midvale City Hall, Midvale, Salt Lake County, UT

1/2%, considered to be a very low rate, especially when compared to the 5 1/2% Midvale had paid for water bonds.

Paul Paulsen & Company of Salt Lake City was awarded the contract to build the new city hall and work began in December 1938. The building was completed and dedicated on July 4, 1939. The final construction cost was approximately \$53,000.⁵ The city officially moved in to the new facility by the middle of October 1939. Midvale used the building as its city hall until 1976. At that time the offices moved to the former county library building, built 1940-41, because they had out-grown the space.

The PWA and other New Deal programs had a significance influence in Utah during the 1930s and early 1940s. Utah was one of the states most severely affected by the Great Depression. In 1933 Utah had an unemployment rate of 36 percent, the fourth highest in the country, and for the period 1932-40 Utah's unemployment rate averaged 25 percent. Because the depression hit Utah so hard, Federal programs were extensive in the state. Overall, per capita Federal spending in Utah during the 1930s was ninth among the forty-eight states, and the percentage of workers on Federal work projects was far above the national average. Building programs were of great importance. During the 1930s virtually every public building constructed in Utah was built under Federal programs. Almost without exception these buildings would not have been constructed without the assistance of the Federal Government.

The Midvale City Hall was one of over 240 buildings constructed in Utah during the 1930s and early 1940s under the Public Works Administration and other new deal programs. Approximately half of those buildings meet National Register eligibility requirements outlined in the 1985 thematic nomination of Public Works Buildings in Utah. In Salt Lake County, the Midvale City Hall is one of approximately 20 buildings constructed with public works funds, of which only about half continue to meet National Register eligibility requirements. In Midvale, one other PWA building was constructed, the Salt Lake County Library, built in 1940-41. It was listed in the National Register in 1982. That building became the new city hall in 1976 when the old city hall was vacated.

While the Art Moderne style was popular in other areas of the United States, particularly the larger cities, during the 1930s, it is represented in Utah only by a limited number of somewhat isolated examples. Most of the larger and more notable examples were, like the Midvale City Hall, built during the depression years with funds provided by one of the New Deal programs. Examples include the Helper Civic Auditorium and the Richmond Community Center.

The building is also noteworthy as a design of architects Carl W. Scott and George W. Welch, prominent in Utah as designers of schools and public buildings in the Art

⁵ Ibid, December 16, 1938.

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Midvale City Hall, Midvale, Salt Lake County, UT

Moderne style. Scott and Welch were particularly active as architects for public works buildings throughout Utah and surrounding states. Their work includes the San Juan County High School (constructed 1938), the Moab Public School (c.1938), Cedar City Elementary School and Auditorium (1937), Evanston, Wyoming High School (1936), Richmond Community Center (1937), in addition to a number of other buildings.⁶ Several similar stylistic features on the old Midvale City Hall are found on other Scott & Welch PWA buildings, such as the streamlined piers repeated on the Helper Civic Auditorium and Library in Carbon County.

___ See continuation sheet

⁶ Egleston, Elizabeth, "For Commerce, Copper, and Children: The Architecture of Scott & Welch, 1914-38", Utah Historical Quarterly (Spring 1991), p. 118.

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Midvale City Hall, Midvale, Salt Lake County, UT

Bibliography

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Nash, Gerald D. The American West Transformed: The Impact of the Second World War. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1985.

Phillips, Steven J. Old House Dictionary: An Illustrated Guide to American Domestic Architecture 1600 to 1940. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1992.

Poll, Richard, et al. Utah's History. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1978.

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Deseret News, Salt Lake City, Utah, various issues.

The Ute Sentinel, Midvale, Utah, various issues.

___ See continuation sheet

Common Photo Label Information

1. Midvale City Hall
2. Midvale, Salt Lake County, Utah
3. Photographer: Charles E. Hughes
4. Date: September 27, 1993
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1

6. Front (north) and east elevations of building. Camera facing south-southwest.

Photo No. 2

6. Rear and side (west) elevations of building. Camera facing northeast.

___ See continuation sheet