

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. \_\_\_\_\_

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 300 S. Main Street  
 Spanish Fork, Utah County, Utah UTM: 12 444220 4439470

Name of Structure: Spanish Fork High School Gymnasium T. R. S.

Present Owner: Nebo School District

Owner Address: 350 South Main Street  
 Spanish Fork, Utah 84660

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:  
 Legal Description Kind of Building:  
 This building is located on a 200'x200' parcel of land in the extreme NE corner of Block 9 Plat A Spanish Fork City Survey. Less than one acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Nebo School District Construction Date: 1935 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: educational--school Present Use: educational--school

Building Condition: Integrity: Preliminary Evaluation: Final Register Status:

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not of the	<input type="checkbox"/> National Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/> District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor Alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributory	Historic Period	<input type="checkbox"/> National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Resource
<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		<input type="checkbox"/> Major Alterations	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Contributory		<input type="checkbox"/> State Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Thematic

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: Slide No.: Date of Photographs: Photo No.:

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/> U of U Library
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plat Records/Map	<input type="checkbox"/> City Directories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utah State Historical Society	<input type="checkbox"/> BYU Library
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax Card & Photo	<input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Encyclopedias	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Interviews	<input type="checkbox"/> USU Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Permit	<input type="checkbox"/> Obituary Index	<input type="checkbox"/> LDS Church Archives	<input type="checkbox"/> SLC Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County & City Histories	<input type="checkbox"/> LDS Genealogical Society	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Bibliographical References (books, articles, records, interviews, old photographs and maps, etc.):

Twenty-first Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Utah for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1936. n.p., 1936.

Architect/Builder: unknown

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: Art Deco

## Description of physical appearance &amp; significant architectural features:

(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

This building, constructed in the Art Deco style, is typical of the many high school gymnasiums built by the PWA during the 1930s. Like the gymnasiums at the Logan (Cache County) and Millard (Millard County) High Schools, this building has a two-part arrangement. The main section of the building consists of a large, 3-story gabled block that houses the gymnasium itself. In front of this block, there is a smaller 1 or 2-story entrance/office section that has a flat roof and which establishes the stylistic appearance of the whole structure. In the case of the Spanish Fork gym, the front section is 2-stories high and is formally composed with the entrance in the center. Four large pilasters are used to break the facade into three symmetrical bays, while smaller pilasters divide the entire wall surface into narrow, vertical panels. The large pilasters project up through the molded coping at the edge of the roof and have stylized capitals low-relief, plant-like carvings. This same motif is found on the smaller pilasters, which rise only to the level of the second story windows. This pattern of alternating large and small pilasters is carried over onto the expanses of the side walls of the main block, giving the entire building an appearance of visual complexity and verticality. Several windows have been closed in on the main gymnasium section, but in general the building retains its original appearance and is in good historic condition.

## Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1935

Built in 1935, the Spanish Fork High School Gymnasium is part of the Public Works Buildings Thematic Resources nomination and is significant because it helps document the impact of New Deal programs in Utah, which was one of the states that the Great Depression of the 1930s most severely affected. In 1933 Utah had an unemployment rate of 36 percent, the fourth highest in the country, and for the period 1932-1940 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 9th among the 48 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, including county courthouses, city halls, fire stations, national guard armories, public school buildings, and a variety of others, were built under federal programs by one of several agencies, including the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), or the Public Works Administration (PWA), and almost without exception none of the buildings would have been built when they were without the assistance of the federal government.

The Spanish Fork High School Gymnasium is one of 233 public works buildings identified in Utah that were built during the 1930s and early 1940s. Only 130 of those 233 buildings are known to remain today and retain their historic integrity. Of the 233, 107 were public school buildings, 55 of which remain. This is one of 43 elementary schools built, of which 19 are left. In Utah County 33 buildings were constructed, 23 of which remain.

This school was built in 1935 as a Public Works Administration (PWA) project.