

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: Utah State University
Logan, Cache County, Utah UTM: 12 432540 4621030

Name of Structure: Home Economics/Commons Building T. R. S.

Present Owner: Trustees of Utah State University
Utah System of Higher Education

Owner Address: 807 E. South Temple Suite #204
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #:
Legal Description Kind of Building:

This building is located on the campus of Utah State University along the south side of the Quad, the central quadrangle around which the original campus was constructed. It is located approximately 100 ft. E of the Education Building, which is also on the S side of the Quad, and approximately 650 ft. S of the Plant Science Building, which on the N side of the Quad. The nominated property is a parcel measuring 100 feet (N/S) by 200 feet ((E/W) centered around the building. Less than one acre.

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: State of Utah--USU Construction Date: 1935 Demolition Date:

Original Use: education Present Use: education

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input 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 checked="" 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

3 DOCUMENTATION

Photography: Date of Slides: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 Photo No.:

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

Research Sources:

<input type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/> U of U Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Plat Records/Map	<input type="checkbox"/> City Directories	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utah State Historical Society	<input type="checkbox"/> BYU Library
<input 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 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.):

- Cache American (Logan, Utah). 1935
- Fourth Report of the Utah State Building Commission for the Biennium from July 1, 1934 to June 30, 1936. n.p., 1936.
- Third Report of the Utah State Building Commission for the Period from January 1, 1933 to June 30, 1934. n.p., 1934.
- Twenty-first Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Utah for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1936. n.p., n.d.

"Leslie Hodgson," Architects File, Preservation Research Office, Utah State Historical Society

"Myrl McClenahan," Architects File, Preservation Research Office, Utah State Historical Society.

Researcher: John McCormick

Date: 1984

Architect/Builder: Hodgson & McClenahan/Soren Jacobsen

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: Art Deco

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Home Economics/Commons Building at Utah State University is one of the best examples of the Art Deco architectural style in Utah.* This large 2-story flat-roofed building has a rectangular plan with the main entrance located off center on a slightly projecting bay. The design is distinguished by the rhythmic interaction of narrow, recessed window panels and the crenelated parapet. The brick mullions have corbelled corners and are capped with stylized geometric capitals. The dominant feature of the building is the front entrance. The doors themselves are stainless steel and have decorative geometric window panels. The tall transoms contain zig-zag tracery, a design motif that is continued on the spandrel linking the two flanking columns. The columns are corbelled and stepped-back and have sharp, geometric caps. The building remains in excellent original condition though there has been a large greenhouse-type addition attached to one end.

*For other Art Deco buildings in Utah, see the Ogden/Weber Municipal Building, the Ogden High School, and U.S. Forest Service Building in Ogden. All of these structures are contained in the Ogden Art Deco Thematic Nomination to the National Register.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1935

Built in 1935, the Home Economics/Commons Building 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 Home Economics/Commons Building at Utah State University is one of 233 public works buildings identified in Utah that were built during the 1930s and early 1940s. Only 130 of the 233 buildings are known to remain today and retain their historic integrity. Of the 233 buildings, 19 were constructed on college and university campuses, and 12 of them remain. In Cache County a total of 18 buildings were built, 13 of which remain. Of the 18 originally built, 5 were built on the campus of the Utah State Agricultural College, now Utah State University. Four of the 5 are known to remain.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Home Economics/Commons Building
History continued:

This building was constructed in 1935 as a PWA project at a cost of \$325,226.99. Upon its completion it was described as "easily the most excellent building on campus," while R. A. Hart, Utah State PWA Director, described it as "the second most important item" in the state's building program after the George Thomas Library at the University of Utah.¹ The architects were Leslie Hodgson and Myrl McClenahan of Ogden, and the general contractor was Soren Jacobsen of Logan.

The building was constructed to house the college's Home Economics Department and all student union activities. It provided offices, classrooms, and laboratories for the Home Economics Department, and a cafeteria, dining rooms, lounges, kitchens, offices for students and student officers, and a book store. According to the Utah State Building Commission, under whose supervision the project proceeded, "present facilities are inadequate or poorly located."² Locating home economics activities in the same building as student union activities, in particular the cafeteria and kitchen, would be of much benefit to home economics students, it was felt, by providing them on the job training and "a better insight into the practical working of that branch of instruction" involving food and nutrition.³

Upon its completion, the building was 3 stories high, 165 feet wide at the east end and 122 feet wide at the west end. The building was dedicated September 27, 1935.

Leslie Hodgson was a well-known Utah architect from the late 1890s until his death in 1947. He was born in Salt Lake City in 1879. His father, Oliver, was a builder. He apprenticed as an architect under Richard Kletting and then Samuel S. Dallas, both of whom were prominent Utah architects. In 1906 he established a partnership in Ogden with J. A. Smith. The partnership lasted until 1910. He worked alone for several years and in 1919 established a partnership with Myrl A. McClenahan, who had worked for Hodgson since 1912. The partnership lasted until McClenahan's death in 1940. He had been born at Scotsbluff, Nebraska, January 15, 1891, and moved to Salt Lake City with his family in 1906. Following his graduation from the Salt Lake High School in 1908 he went to work as a draftsman for Hodgson.

As partners, Hodgson generally provided the design concept sketches, and McClenahan produced finished drawings. The firm produced some of Ogden's most important and most diverse architecture, including Peery's Egyptian Theatre, the Eccles Building, the U. S. Forest Service Building, the Ogden High School, and the Ogden Municipal Building.

¹Twenty-First Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Utah for the Biennial Period Ending June 10, 1936 (n.p., 1936), p. 136.

²Third Report of the Utah State Building Commission for the Period from January 1, 1933, to June 30, 1934 (n.p., 1934), p. 8.

³Fourth Report of the Utah State Building Commission for the Biennium from July 1, 1934, to June 30, 1936 (n.p., 1936), p. 5.