

Structure/Site Information Form

APR 26 1986  
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IDENTIFICATION 1

126 E. 400 South  
Street Address: Springville, Utah County, Utah

UTM: 12 448250 4445560  
Quad: Springville, Utah  
T. 7 S R. 3 E S.33

Name of Structure: Springville High School Art Gallery

Present Owner: Springville City Corporation  
50 S. Main

Owner Address: Springville, Utah

Year Built (Tax Record):  
Legal Description

Effective Age:  
Kind of Building:

Tax #:

Commencing N 10°37'27" W 331 feet from SW corner of Section 33 T7S R3E, thence  
N 89°45'27" W 198.24 feet, N 0°14'33" E 227.40 feet, S 89°45'27" E 198.24 feet,  
S 0°14'33" W 227.40 feet. 1.035 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Springville City Corporation Construction Date: 1936-37 Demolition Date:

Original Use: Museum/Educational Present Use: Art Museum

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

- |   |                                |   |   |                                     |  |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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 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       |

DOCUMENTATION 3

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

Views:  Front  Side  Rear  Other

Research Sources:

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstract of Title | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers                    | <input checked="" 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.):

- "Claude Ashworth," Architects File, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society.
- Braithwaite, Bruce. "Art Center of the Rockies," Utah Educational Review, 61 (March-April 1968), 8-10.
- Deseret News, April 2, 1953.
- Huntington, Mae. "An Investment in Culture," n.p., n.d. (1940?).
- Salt Lake Tribune, January 29, 1939.
- The Springville Herald, 1935-37.

Architect/Builder: Claude S. Ashworth/WPA

Building Materials: concrete

Building Type/Style: Spanish Colonial Revival

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Springville High School Art Gallery is a two-story stucco building constructed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. A well-matched two-story addition was built on the west side in 1964, but it does not significantly affect the building's original integrity.

The plan of the building is irregular and there are several different projecting wings. The visual complexity of the design is further emphasized by the use of varying component heights and roof planes. Generally, the building is distinguished by its gunite (concrete applied by a pressure hose) finished walls, red-tiled roof, round arch openings, and decorative tower. In the center there is an open courtyard that is surveyed by surrounding second story balconies. The second story galleries have skylights for natural daylight illumination. The building remains in good original condition, the major significant change in the fabric is the addition in 1964 of a wing to the west of the original building.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1

Total number of noncontributing buildings: 0

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1936-37

Built in 1936-37, the Springville High School Art Gallery is part of the Public Works Buildings Thematic Resource 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 Springville Art Center is the only art museum constructed in the Utah under federal public works programs. The building is also architecturally significant as one of the best examples of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Utah.

The Springville High School Art Gallery is one of 232 buildings constructed in Utah during the 1930s and early 1940s under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and other New Deal programs. Of those 232 buildings, 133 are still standing and are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This is the only building built specifically as an art center. In Utah County 37 buildings were constructed. This is one of 27 that remain.

Springville High School Art Gallery  
History continued:

It was built at a cost of about \$100,000 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. Construction began in 1936 and was finished in the summer of 1937. Made completely of reinforced concrete, the building was constructed on Nebo School District-owned property next to the Springville High School, then located in the 200 East block of 400 South Street. Building supervisor was Mack Whitney, and the architect was Claude Ashworth.

The Art Center was built to house Springville High School's permanent art collection and as a place to hold the annual exhibit that the school sponsored. The school's permanent collection had begun in 1903 when John Hafen gave to the high school one of his paintings entitled "Mountain Stream." By the 1930s the collection had grown to more than 150 paintings. In 1921 the high school began to sponsor an annual art exhibit that each year attracted 200 to 300 paintings by artists from Utah, the United States, and foreign countries. By the 1930s, existing high school facilities were no longer adequate for either of these two purposes, and construction of this building was undertaken.

The museum's interior is beautiful as well as functional. Hand-troweled stucco walls, arched windows and clay tile roof give the charming Spanish ambience envisioned by architect Claude S. Ashworth. The red tile floors were fired and finished right on the building site under the supervision of Virgil Hafen, son of the art movement's founder, John Hafen. The clay came from Diamond Fork in nearby Spanish Fork Canyon and Marysvale Canyon in Piute County. The heavy red oak doors and woodwork were milled by Wright Planing Mill, Springville. Later cabinet work donated by skilled local craftsmen was kept to the original design concept.

The original building, in addition to the exhibition galleries, contained a music room where the band, orchestra and choral groups met in regular class work, an art classroom, a little theater for the teaching and participation of students of the dramatic arts, a kitchen and an office with a fireplace.

The art center was dedicated on July 4, 1937, as part of Springville's Fourth of July celebration. According to The Springville Herald, at the dedication Mayor George A. Anderson, "gave a comprehensive account of the history of the project and told of incidents in connection with its beginning, naming prominent people who assisted with initial plans . . . ." During a respectful interlude of recounting incidents in connection with the building project, David O. McKay of the LDS Church Presidency offered the dedicatory prayer, characterizing the structure as "a sanctuary of beauty, the temple of contemplation." Cyrus E. Dallin, representing the early art enthusiasts of the community, came from Boston, Massachusetts, to attend the dedication exercises and presented Mayor Anderson with a substantial check as a personal contribution to the art movement. Mr. Dallin, whose renown as a sculptor has spread over the entire country, made regular trips to his native city of Springville to renew friendships and meet old acquaintances. In his talk at the dedication exercises, he characterized the art movement here as "a divine thing. There is no other community in the United States which has done more per capita for art." N. K. Nielson, former principal of the high school, recounted the four periods through which the art movement had passed recalling the first unveiling 30 years ago in the LDS Second Ward Chapel. He paid tribute to John Hafen, around whose works the art project is centered, and also to L. E. Eggersten, Mr. Dallin, and Dr. George Smart. R. L. Done, also a former high school principal to whom credit is given for reviving art interest

Springville High School Art Gallery  
History continued:

here in 1921, told of incidents in connection with the part played by the school in fostering the art. It was under the direction of Principal Done that the annual national exhibits were initiated.<sup>1</sup> Wayne Johnson served as the first curator of the new building. He had long been a proponent of the new gallery and had previously taught art and served as the art supervisor for the school district.

The architect of the building was Claude S. Ashworth. Among the buildings he designed were the Provo LDS Fourth Ward Chapel, a number of school buildings in the Nebo School District including ones in Payson and Spanish Fork, the Paramount Theatre in Utah County, the Springville LDS Fourth Ward Chapel, the Springville LDS Second Ward Chapel, Farrer Junior High School, the remodeling of buildings at the Utah State Mental Hospital at Provo, and a number of fine homes in that part of the state.

In 1964, a the art gallery was expanded by a two-story addition on the west, a gift from the Clyde Foundation, W.W. Clyde, president. Containing two large well-lighted galleries and a basement preparator's room, vault, additional storage, and a freight elevator, the new wing increases the exhibition wall space to some 15,000 square feet making it the largest in the state (1978).

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<sup>1</sup>Springville Herald, July 4, 1937.