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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name SNOW ACADEMY BUILDING
other names/site number (Noyes Building)

2. Location

street & number 150 College Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Ephraim N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Sanpete code 037 zip code 84627

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register -0-

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Max J. Evans, State Historic Preservation Officer Date Sept. 21, 1987
Utah State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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:)

Shelley Byers Shelley Byers 11-20-87
National Register

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

EDUCATION/college

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/college

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

walls Brick

Limestone

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Snow Academy Building, constructed between 1899 and 1908, is a rectangular two-story brick and stone building designed primarily in the Neo-Classical Revival style. Though the interior has been altered substantially over the years, the exterior retains its original integrity.

The general feeling of the two-story brick and stone structure is Neoclassical, an effect achieved largely through the distinctive Palladian treatment of the principal elevation. The main facade is located on the north and is divided into three sections. A projecting pedimented pavilion stands at the center and has a balconied entrance portico supported by stylized Ionic columns. The main entrance, located behind the portico, has a round-arch opening of stone that contrasts with the brick of the main building and serves to introduce the Romanesque Revival style into the design. This stylistic motif is continued in the raised basement level of rusticated stone that circles the entire structure and the round-arched stone openings found over the two side entrances.

The pediment on the projecting front pavilion is enriched with low-relief statues, and along the cornice there are both dentils and modillion blocks. The sections to each side are identical and have hipped roofs that extend several feet out over the eaves. Corbelled brick-work is used below the cornice on these sections to simulate a decorative frieze. Stone round-arch windows are found on the upper floor, while flat rusticated stone lintels are found over the bottom string of windows.

The side elevations, one facing east and the other west, are identical. There is a balconied entrance portico that contains a round-arch entrance of stone beneath a dentiled cornice. The balcony is recessed and divides each elevation into two separate pedimented pavilions. Round-arch windows are found on the second floor, flat on the bottom. The same basic design is carried over on the rear, although on this elevation there is no portico.

The Snow Academy Building remains in very good condition, though some changes have been made to it over the years. Exterior alterations include the replacement of many windows with more modern ones of the same size, the installation of metal frame doors in place of the original wood ones, and the enclosure of the round-arch opening at the front entrance with glass. The building has been internally modernized over the years and retains little of its original fabric. On the outside, however, the Snow Academy Building exhibits much of its original historical integrity.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

10/11/2014
10/11/2014

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1899-1933

Significant Dates

1904

1908

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Richard C. Watkins/Madsen & Anderson

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed between 1899 and 1908, this building is historically significant as the first permanent home of Snow Academy, one of eleven academies established in Utah by the Mormon Church during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The purpose of the church's academy system was to provide improved secondary schooling and religious instruction for Mormon children, who comprised the vast majority of students in Utah. The public school system was very weak at that time, and the missionary-minded Protestant schools, though academically sound, were viewed with concern by Mormon parents. Academies functioned as an important element in Utah's educational system until the strengthened public school system absorbed them in the 1920s. Seven of the Utah academies were closed or transferred into the state secondary school system by 1923, one was retained by the LDS Church and expanded into a university, and three, including Snow Academy, were converted into junior colleges and taken over by the state between 1931 and 1934. Only four of the Utah academies are extant and well preserved; three of those are already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.¹

This large brick and stone building was the first permanent home of Snow Academy. The school was founded in 1888 as the Sanpete Stake Academy by local LDS Church officials in an effort to provide better secondary school education in the Sanpete Valley. Original classes were held in the United Order Cooperative Mercantile Building (National Register 1972) and the Social Hall (Relief Society Hall). Later, several rooms were leased in the North Ward Meetinghouse.²

In 1897, the Sanpete Stake Academy had been in operation for nine years and had outgrown its present accommodations. With approval from LDS Church headquarters, a site was selected for a permanent structure and "home" for the academy, and arrangements were made to secure the land. Early the next year, a building committee and about 200 students gathered at the building site to drive the center stake. It appeared, however, that their enthusiasm was premature, because within a few months the LDS Church First Presidency sent word not to build yet, in order that the church might pay off some of its indebtedness.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ephraim Enterprise. January 25, 1899; February 22, 1899; March 15, 1899; May 3, 1899; May 20, 1899; July 14, 1904; November 11, 1909; November 25, 1909.

Ephraim's First One Hundred Years. Ephraim, Utah: Centennial Book Committee, 1954.

Bennion, Milton Lynn. Mormonism and Education. Salt Lake City: Dept. of Education of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1939.

Sutton, Wain, editor. Utah--A Centennial History. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1949.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	2
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4	4	9	8	4	0
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4	3	5	6	8	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing 150 feet E of the NW corner of Block 22, Plat A, Ephraim City Survey; thence E 300 feet, S 210 feet, W 300 feet, N 210 feet to beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property immediately surrounding the building, specifically excluding more recent buildings located to the south and southwest on the same block. The included property is a portion of that which has been historically associated with the building. The remainder of that property has been used for expansion of the college over the years.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Soderborg/Public Relations Specialist; Roger Roper/Historian

organization Snow College; Utah State Hist. Society date August 1987

street & number 150 College Avenue; 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Ephraim; Salt Lake City state Utah zip code 84627; 84101

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Snow Academy Building

Sanpete County, Utah

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Principal Newton E. Noyes and other school leaders, while disappointed, were patient, and in January of 1899 word came to begin construction of the new academy. In March, a ceremony to locate the position of the new building was held, and in May, prior to graduation exercises, the cornerstone was laid. A Provo, Utah, architect, Richard C. Watkins, was hired to draw up plans for the building.³ Watkins is credited with designing over 95 school buildings in Utah during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 1911 he was appointed architect for the state schools.⁴

By the time construction had started on the academy, Ephraim families had pledged \$7,500 toward an estimated cost of \$25,000. Volunteer laborers with teams and wagons had brought piles of native oolite stone and sand to the construction site. But in spite of the pledges and the enthusiasm, there was still no money in the Stake Board treasury, and the masons, whose work would eventually take years, needed pay for provisions for their families.

The sacrifice, the donated means, and the volunteer labor that went into the construction of the academy are, perhaps as much as anything else, what distinguish and set this building apart. Sanpete County residents who had just recently finished building an LDS temple in Manti revived the "Sunday Eggs" and "Nickel Sunday" programs wherein families who had chickens would donate all the eggs laid by their hens on Sunday to the building project, and those who did not have chickens would give a nickel each Sunday. Quilts, cloth, carpet, socks, soap, sugar, and so forth were donated as partial payment to the workers for their labor. Parties, banquets and bazaars were all held to help raise funds for the new academy building.

In the fall of 1904, although the building was only partially completed, a grateful faculty and excited students moved in to start classes. A newspaper article from the time reports that "The building is 154 feet long, 84 feet wide, and walls 55 feet high. the foundation is made of fine, white oolite stone, and walls of red pressed brick, 750,000 being used. The entrances are arch-shaped. There are 33 large classrooms and an assembly hall on the third floor that will seat 600 people." The building was completed in 1908 and dedicated on Founder's Day, November 5, 1909.⁵ The total cost of construction was over \$56,000, \$15,000 of which came from the church and the balance from local donations.⁶

The growth and development of the school as an educational institution prompted various changes during the early twentieth century. The name was changed in 1902 to the Snow Academy, in honor of Erastus and Lorenzo Snow, early leaders of the LDS Church. One year of college courses was added to the curriculum in 1913 and a second year in 1916. The school was renamed Snow Normal College in 1917, then in 1922 became Snow Junior College. At that time all high school courses and manual training classes were dropped. The school was officially accredited as a junior college in 1932, and in 1933 it was transferred to the state system of higher education.⁷

As the studentbody and the campus grew, the academy building became known as the Administration Building and then the Noyes Building. As needs changed, the Noyes Building underwent some improvements and remodeling to meet those

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needs. In the mid-thirties, improvements to the building included covering the stairways and lower hallways with a cement-type surface, additional landscaping around the building, and pouring cement walks from the building north and west to the surrounding streets. In 1957, additional renovation of the Noyes Building was authorized to include new windows in the bottom floor and painting of offices and classrooms. The ballroom and library areas, once part of the Noyes Building, have long since been relocated in other buildings on campus and replaced with classrooms and faculty and administrative offices.

Today the Noyes Building houses the offices of the president, the Vice President for Instruction, the Dean of Administrative Services, the Dean of Students, the Dean of Development, the Registrar, and Business Services and their staffs. It also houses offices and classrooms for the Division of Humanities and Arts and the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The academy system of LDS Church, of which the Snow Academy was a part, marked a significant phase in the educational history of Utah. Between 1875 and 1911, the church established twenty-two academies in Mormon communities ranging from Raymond, Canada, on the north to Colonia Juarez, Mexico, on the south. Eleven of them were located in Utah, four in Idaho, three in Arizona, and one each in Wyoming and Colorado. The purpose of the academies was to provide secondary schooling and religious instruction for Mormon children. They also combated the influence of the numerous Protestant schools established as missionary tools among the Mormons between the 1870s and 1890s by the Presbyterians, Methodists, and others.

The development of a viable public school system in Utah during the early 1900s eliminated the need for separate systems run by either the LDS Church or Protestant sects. With passage of the "free school" law of 1890 the public schools began to improve and draw increasing numbers of students. The percentage of the state secondary school enrollment in public schools rose from 5 percent in 1890 to 50 percent in 1911 and to 90 percent by 1924.⁸ That dramatic shift in enrollment coupled with the additional financial burden that the church system placed on its members influenced the Church Board of Education to discontinue the academies in the 1920s. Several of the academies were transferred into the state high school system in 1923. Brigham Young University, which had become a college-level institution, was the only academy in Utah retained by the LDS Church. Three academies were converted into junior colleges and taken over by the state: Snow Academy in Ephraim, Dixie Academy in St. George, and Weber Academy in Ogden.⁹ These have continued to the present to function as viable institutions in the state system of higher education.

¹Academy buildings already listed in the National Register include Brigham Young Academy (1976), Millard Academy (1982), and Dixie College Main Building (1980). These and the Snow Academy are the only academy buildings that are still standing and retain their original integrity.

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²Ephraim's First One Hundred Years (Ephraim, Utah: Centennial Book Committee, 1954), pp. 45, 47.

³Ephraim Enterprise, January 25, 1899, p. 1.

⁴"Richard C. Watkins," Architects File, Historic Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society.

⁵Ephraim's First One Hundred Years (Ephraim, Utah: Centennial Book Committee, 1954), p. 49.

⁶Ephraim Enterprise, January 25, 1899, p. 1.

⁷Ephraim's First One Hundred Years (Ephraim, Utah: Centennial Book Committee, 1954), p. 49.

⁸Wain Sutton, ed., Utah - A Centennial History (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1949) vol. II p. 608.

⁹Ibid.