

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

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

Structure/Site Information Form

1 IDENTIFICATION

Street Address: 1300 Valley Drive  
Ogden, Weber County, Utah UTM: 12 420840 4564920

Name of Structure: El Monte Golf Course Clubhouse T. 6 N R. 1 W S. 27

Present Owner: City of Ogden

Owner Address: Municipal Building  
Ogden, Utah 84401

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: 13-114-0001

Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Beginning at a point 190 feet E from the NW corner of the NW<sup>4</sup> of Sec 27 T6N R1W Salt Lake Meridian, thence E 1130 feet, S 920 feet, S 87° 3' W 127 feet, N 40° 57' W 900 feet, S 75° 3' W 64 feet, N 49° 39' W 459 feet to point of beginning. Approximately 11.93 acres. The building is located within a 200'x200' parcel of land in the SW corner of the above-described property. Only the clubhouse building is intended for inclusion in the nomination. The acreage of the property upon which the buildings sits is less than one acre.

2 STATUS/USE

Original Owner: City of Ogden Construction Date: 1934-35 Demolition Date:

Original Use: recreational Present Use: recreational

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

Excellent  Site  Unaltered  Significant  Not of the  National Landmark  District  
 Good  Ruins  Minor Alterations  Contributory Historic Period  National Register  Multi-Resource  
 Deteriorated  Major Alterations  Not Contributory  State Register  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:

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

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

"Eber F. Piers." Architects File, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society.

Works Progress Administration. A Report of the Works Division: Utah Emergency Relief Administration, April 15, 1934-October 31, 1935. Salt Lake City: Works Progress Administration, 1936.

Architect/Builder: Eber F. Piers/unknown

Building Materials: stonework

Building Type/Style: Craftsman

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

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

This picturesque bungalow-type building is a good example of the variety found in public works architecture in Utah from the 1930s. The building has a basic rectangular plan and a low pitched gable roof. The long side of the building serves as the principal elevation. A gabled entrance porch extends out over the main entrance which is placed slightly off-center. The building is framed and it has been faced with multi-colored rock in a random pattern. This stonework, also present on the main chimney, accentuates the rustic appearance of the building. The decorative features are purely bungalow. The gables contain exposed purlins and false half timbering, there are exposed rafters under the roof eaves, and the front porch rests on massive stone piers. Located on the brow of a hill, the basement level of the building is exposed at the rear. The building remains in good original condition and there have been no significant alterations.

## Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1934-35

Built in 1934-35, the El Monte Golf Course Clubhouse 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 El Monte (Ogden Municipal) Golf Course Clubhouse 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. In Weber County 15 buildings were constructed. This is one of 7 that remain.

The clubhouse was built between 1934 and 1935 as a Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) project. Shortly after its construction it was described as follows: "This building is beautifully situated at the mouth of Ogden Canyon and offers an imposing panorama of the valley below. The stone,  
(See Continuation Sheet)

El Monte Golf Course Clubhouse  
History continued:

carefully chosen and placed for color harmony, was quarried nearby."<sup>1</sup>

The architect was Eber F. Piers. He was born in Denver in 1889. He studied architecture briefly at the University of Colorado and in 1908 moved to Ogden, Utah, and began working as an architectural draftsman for the firm of Smith and Hodgson. Two years later he opened his own offices. He practiced alone until 1952 when he went into partnership with his son, John F. Piers. He died in 1959. During his career he designed more than 300 buildings, most of them in the Ogden area. They include the Edmund O. Wattis residence (1914), the Ruth Wattis Gwilliam residence (1917), the Ezekial Dumke residence (1917), the Virginia Houtz Green residence (1914), the Royal Eccles residence (1920), the Marriner Adams Browning Residence (1914), the South Ogden High School, Ogden's Central Junior High School, the First National Bank Building in Ogden, and a number of WPA buildings during the 1930s, including the Boys' Dormitory at the Utah School for the Deaf and Blind, the Industrial and Trades Building at the Utah State Industrial School, the Utah State Tuberculosis Sanitarium, the North Ogden Elementary School, and the El Monte (Ogden Municipal) Golf Course Clubhouse.

<sup>1</sup>Works Progress Administration. A Report of the Works Division: Utah Emergency Relief Administration, April 15, 1935 - October 13, 1935 (Salt Lake City: Works Progress Administration, 1936), p. 295.