

Structure/Site Information Form

APR 26 1986
APR 9 1986

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 50 E. 100 North
Manti, Sanpete County, Utah

UTM: 12 445180 4346340
Quad: Manti, Utah
T. 18 S R. 2 E S. 12

Name of Structure: Manti National Guard Armory

Present Owner: Cox Enterprises Inc.
50 E. 100 North

Owner Address: Manti, Utah 84642

Year Built (Tax Record):
Legal Description

Effective Age:
Kind of Building:

Tax #: S 1476 X

Commencing 82.5 feet E of NW corner Block 64 Plat A Manti City Survey, thence E 148.5 feet, S 161.75 feet, W 148.5 feet, N 161.75 feet to beginning. 0.55 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Utah National Guard

Construction Date: 1936-38

Demolition Date:

Original Use: Military

Present Use: Commercial

Building Condition:

Integrity:

Preliminary Evaluation:

Final Register Status:

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

DOCUMENTATION 3

Photography: Date of Slides: 1985 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1985 Photo No.:

Views: Front Side Rear Other

Views: Front Side Rear Other

Research Sources:

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

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

Antrei, Albert C. T., editor. The Other Forty-niners; A Topical History of Sanpete County, Utah, 1849-1983. Salt Lake City, Utah: Western Epics, 1983.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Sanpete County. These...Our Fathers; A Centennial History of Sanpete County 1849-1947. Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Sanpete County, 1947.

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah), 1952.

"Manti National Guard Armory," Utah National Guard Files, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Architect/Builder: Niels P. Larsen/WPA

Building Materials: stone

Building Type/Style: PWA Moderne

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Manti National Guard Armory is a two-story, flat-roofed building designed in the PWA Moderne style. Only minor alterations have been made to the building, therefore it retains its original integrity.

The armory consists of a long rectangular block containing the principal entrance and flanking side wings. The front of the main block is broken up into three sections by low-relief pilasters. The center section has three recessed door panels and a slightly raised parapet which announces its importance. The side wings have taller, stepped parapets and the ends are symmetrically pierced by vertical window panels. The building is constructed of stone, which was finished with cement plaster at the time of its initial construction.

Minor changes made to the exterior of the building include the installation of a new aluminum frame door in the front, covering over the transom area above the front doors, and the replacement of some window sections with air conditioners.

A large one-story brick building was attached to the rear of the armory in the 1940s to enlarge its capacity as a factory. In the 1960s that addition began to be used independently of the armory and the connecting doorway was closed in. The buildings are now separately owned and are located on separate parcels of land. In light of those facts, and since the buildings do not

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1936-38

Built in 1936-38, the Manti National Guard Armory 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 Manti National Guard Armory 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 one of 9 armories built, 6 of which are still standing. In Sanpete County 17 buildings were constructed, 13 of which remain.

The architect of this building was Niels P. Larsen of Salt Lake City. Larsen designed several other National Guard armories in Utah, all of which are virtually the same in appearance.¹ They include the armories in Nephi,

Manti National Guard Armory

Description continued:

share a common wall, the armory and the "addition" are each considered to be a separate building.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1

Total number of noncontributing buildings: 0

History continued:

Fillmore, Mt. Pleasant and Spanish Fork, which are still standing, and the demolished armories that were in Logan and Cedar City. The supervisor of construction of the Manti armory was Bernard Parry and the foreman was Marvin Anderson.²

Although built to serve as a National Guard armory, this building was used for many years as a factory. In the early 1940s, in an effort to aid the war effort and to provide jobs in the community, the building was turned over to the Parachute Company of Utah for use as a parachute factory. The building was significantly expanded in the mid-1940s by a \$100,000 addition on the south, which was financed by the state.³ Reliance Manufacturing Company took over the facility in July 1944 and continued producing parachutes until September 1945, when it began manufacturing men's jackets. The company employed approximately 200 men and women. In 1949 the building was leased to the Carlisle Manufacturing Company, which contracted with the federal government to produce military uniforms. By the early 1950s the factory, which employed over 300 workers, was claimed to be one of the largest, most modernly equipped plants west of the Mississippi.⁴ Carlisle was bought out by Pacific Trail Sportswear in 1961, about which time the armory and the addition were separated, both in terms of ownership and use. Pyke Manufacturing Company currently has its operations in the large addition, and the original armory building serves as general offices of Cox Construction Company and Cox Enterprises.

Notes

¹National Guard Armory Files, Utah National Guard Headquarters, Salt Lake City, Utah.

²Manti Messenger, September 23, 1938, p. 1.

³Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Sanpete County, These...Our Fathers, pp. 36-37,

⁴Deseret News, November 6, 1952.