

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

FEB 26 1985

20 N. 100 East

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: Morgan, Morgan County, Utah

UTM: 12 443240 4542860
Quad: Morgan, Utah

Name of Structure: Morgan High School Mechanical Arts Building T. 4 N R. 2 E S. 36

Present Owner: Morgan County School District
230 E. Young

Owner Address: Morgan, Utah 84050

Year Built (Tax Record):
Legal Description

Effective Age:
Kind of Building:

Tax #:

This building is located on a large parcel of school property, but only the following portion of that property is included in this nomination: Commencing at the Eastern corner of Lot 1 Block 30 Morgan City Survey, thence NW'ly on said lot line 200 feet, SW'ly 250 feet, SE'ly 200 feet, NE'ly on said lot line 250 feet to beginning. Approximately 1 acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Morgan County School District Construction Date: 1936 Demolition Date:

Original Use: Educational Present Use: Educational

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

DOCUMENTATION 3

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

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.):

The Morgan County News (Morgan, Utah), 1935-36.

The Fine Arts Study Group, compilers. Mountains Conquered: The Story of Morgan.
The Fine Arts Study Group, 1959.

Twenty-first Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Utah for the Biennial Period Ending June 30, 1936. n.p., 1936.

Architect/Builder: probably Scott & Welch/unknown

Building Materials: masonry

Building Type/Style: Art Deco

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Morgan High School Mechanical Arts Building is a one-story brick building that is constructed in the Art Deco style. It has a gable roof with a surrounding parapet wall. The building has a rectangular plan and there are no major extensions or additions. A projecting entrance vestibule is located on the narrow east end of the building. There are two doors along the north side of the building, and a doorway and garage entrance at the rear or west end. The walls have been broken up into vertical panels by low relief pilasters. The stylized geometric capitals on these pilasters are made of concrete and project upward through the coping at the edge of the roof, giving the building a crenelated appearance. The building remains in good original condition and there have been no major alterations on the exterior.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1

Total number of noncontributing buildings: 0

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1936

Built in 1936, the Morgan High School Mechanical Arts Building 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 Morgan High School Mechanical Arts Building 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. Of the 232, 104 of them were public school buildings; 51 of them remain. In Morgan County 4 buildings were constructed, 2 of them are left.

This building was constructed in 1936 as part of a \$155,000 Public Works Administration (PWA) building program in the Morgan County School District. Also included in the program was the construction of the Morgan Elementary

Morgan High School Mechanical Arts Building
History continued:

School and extensive remodeling at Morgan High School. Though a new high school was built one block east of this site, this building is still in use by the Morgan Middle School.

The architects of the building are not known for certain, but it is likely that they were Scott & Welch of Salt Lake City, who are known to have designed the nearby elementary school, which was constructed at the same time in virtually the same style.