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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Approx. 845 E. 700 N. N/A not for publication
city or town American Fork N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Utah code 049 zip code 84003

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 8/18/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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:)

for
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson K. Beall 10/7/94

Entered in the
National Register

Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall
Name of Property

American Fork, Utah County, Utah
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public Works Buildings Thematic Resources

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor amphitheater

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor amphitheater

LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE

roof _____

other Stage: CONCRETE

Bench seating: STONE

Narrative Description

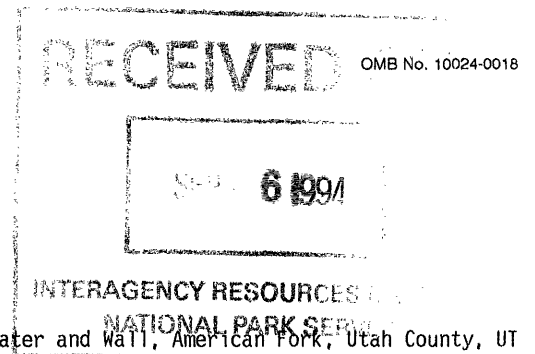
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 7 Page 1 Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT



Narrative Description

The amphitheater and stone wall were constructed as Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) projects during the 1930s providing recreational and landscaping amenities for both the Utah State Training School, an institution for the mentally retarded, and the community. The wall demarcates the southern property line along 700 North through which the south entrance to the campus leads to the amphitheater and complex. The amphitheater is approximately 100 yards north of the wall and is banked into a hillside landscaped with evergreens and shrubs. Between the amphitheater and the wall is an open lawn space bordered with trees and shrubs. The Training School is located on a bench at the northeast corner of the city, with farmland to the north and east, a golf course and river bottom to the west, and residences to the south.

Wall

The wall is constructed of sandstone, quartzite, and shale. The wall is 1,235' long and ends 50' south of 900 East Street. From this point a wooden rail fence¹ extends to the street. The rock wall ranges in height at various points from 7'9" to 3'3" and is 1'6" thick. Concrete has been used for reinforcement at the base of the wall between 233' and 375' (using the western end as a beginning). Heavy square stone pillars with pyramidal caps are located at approximately 33' intervals. The top of this wall is steeply sloped and forms a peak. The wall opens to a driveway that is 59' wide 749' from the west end. The driveway walls curve symmetrically to the inside for a distance of 16'5" and end with concrete posts approximately 2' square. The driveway curves northwest past the amphitheater where one can turn east to encircle the amphitheater and surrounding grounds, returning to the entrance, or continue north to the main campus.

The wall begins about 5' below grade and changes after several hundred feet as it follows the grade up the hill. In a few places the stone is spalling and needs to be repaired. Other than this it is in very good condition and has maintained a high degree of integrity.

Amphitheater

The amphitheater is approached from a curvilinear drive accessed from 700 North. It is banked into a steep slope and is surrounded by mature pine trees. At the back of the stage the conifers gradually end, the lawn is terraced, and the grass is bordered by deciduous shrubs and bushes. When seated one has a view of Utah Lake and the Lake Mountains beyond.

¹ Apparently this section of wood railing was built to replace an original stone section that was removed to allow for better visibility and safety.

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Like the Recreation Center at the State Hospital in Provo (also listed on the National Register), the Training School amphitheater is constructed entirely of stone, including the aisles and seats. The Training School seats are 1'6" high with a depth of 2'6", rising up the slope at a 30 degree angle in 12 tiers. There are four aisles between the seats--two at the end and two equidistant from the center. An aisle at the top of the amphitheater separates the seating from a 3'10" stone wall; openings in the wall correspond to the aisles between the seats.

At either end of the amphitheater, flanking a concrete stage that is elevated 2', are one-story buildings measuring 14'9" by 21'3". These appear to have served as dressing rooms or ticket sales. Three window openings (now boarded) with stone sills face the stage. The tops of the rooms serve as terraces and can be accessed by a short flight of stairs from both the upper aisle of the amphitheater and the walk surrounding it. The metal handrails and terrace railings are probably not of the historic period.

No major alterations have been made to the amphitheater. It is in need of some repair, but it is still very much in keeping with its original appearance.

___ See continuation sheet

Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall
Name of Property

American Fork, Utah County, Utah
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1936-37

Significant Dates

1936-37

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Utah State Archives

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section No. 8 Page 3 Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

Constructed between 1936-37, the Utah State Training School amphitheater and the rock wall are significant because they help 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 1932-40 Utah's unemployment rate averaged 25 percent. Because the depression hit Utah so hard, Federal programs were extensive in the state. Overall, per capital Federal spending in Utah during the 1930s was ninth among the forty-eight 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 was built under Federal programs. Almost without exception none of the buildings would have been constructed when they were without the assistance of the Federal Government. More than 240 buildings were constructed in Utah during the 1930s and early 1940s under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and other New Deal programs. Approximately half of those buildings meet National Register eligibility requirements outlined in the 1985 thematic nomination of Public Works Buildings in Utah. The amphitheater is being nominated as a part of the Public Works Buildings Thematic Resources nomination. The amphitheater and rock wall meet National Register Criterion A in the area of social history as examples of the impact of the W.P.A. in American Fork in providing community amenities for landscape beautification and recreation, and in Utah as part of a state facility.

American Fork is located in the northern half of Utah County. Its advantageous location near two of the state's population centers, Provo and Salt Lake City, made it a strong contender for consideration as the location for the State Training School. In 1929 officials of the State Building Committee visited several communities, including Spanish Fork and West Jordan, and despite concerns about the availability of enough water for culinary purposes, chose a site in the northeast quadrant of the town known as "Featherstone Hill". Once the city reached an agreement with the American Fork Irrigation Board and Utah Power and Light to exchange water rights and rebuild the water system, the location of the new institution was assured.

Scott and Welch, a prominent Salt Lake City architectural firm that received many commissions throughout Utah for educational structures, was chosen to design the buildings. The \$180,000 contract for construction was awarded to Jacobson Construction of Provo in 1930. The initial building campaign designed by Scott & Welch consisted of a service building, two brick dormitories, facilities for laundry and a boiler, and one farm dormitory. The purpose of the school, as stated in the first biennium report was to:

X See continuation sheet

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Section No. 8 Page 4 Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

...detect or discover the mentally deficient while young and adaptable, to take and train them in accordance with their mental abilities, and when so trained and socialized, and then sterilized, to return them to their respective communities, where, under proper supervision, they may function as normally as possible and be assets rather than liabilities. Under this plan they will not be permitted to reproduce their kind, as further public charges.²

The school opened on October 5, 1931. Every biennial report states that the population grew rapidly, from 158 in 1932 to 248 in 1934, and from 443 in 1936 to 594 in 1937. The school ran an extensive outpatient program to "identify the mentally deficient" and to guide parents in finding appropriate treatment outside the school. In 1936, 37 percent of those examined on an outpatient basis were admitted to the institution. This, coupled with the fact that many parents of the students were struggling financially and may have welcomed the chance to reduce their household size, created overcrowded conditions. W.P.A. money was used to construct a new girls' dormitory and an employee's building. In 1937 an application for \$200,000 to erect additional structures, including a school building, a boys' dormitory, a farm dormitory, two socializing cottages, and a dairy barn was approved.

The complex and many of these buildings were designed by the prominent Salt Lake City-based architectural firm of Scott & Welch. In general, the characteristics of this designed landscape, the layout of concrete paths, rows of trees, and the rock wall are significant character-defining features. Even though alterations and additions have compromised the integrity of the original layout, it is a unique and distinct grouping of buildings and features. The amphitheater and rock wall are two of thirteen structures (plus fifteen farm structures) on the site that are considered eligible for National Register designation.³ Their proximity to one another, stone construction, and geographic separation from the upper part of the campus provide a cohesiveness and distinctive quality, constituting an appropriate setting for being nominated together, apart from the entire campus.

The first mention of the amphitheater in the local newspaper occurred on September 27, 1935. The article states that two proposals totalling \$50,000 were submitted to the W.P.A. board for landscaping the grounds and building the amphitheater. The funding was reduced to \$18,000 when the request was approved in January 1936. Bids for the amphitheater and the wall were included as part of a project to install a powerful new boiler. Six months later the newspaper reported that:

² Second Biennial Report to the Board of Trustees, Utah State Training School, American Fork, Utah, June 30, 1934, p.1.

³ Roper, Roger. Historic Building Assessment, May 12, 1993. On file at Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

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Section No. 8 Page 5 Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

The boiler will be installed in conjunction with a \$8,000 W.P.A. project now under way at the school. The project calls for the building of a rock fence around the south part of the grounds, landscaping the south hill, lawns, shrubbery and trees and the building of an amphitheater in the cove to the east⁴ of the school grounds and the boiler.⁵

By December 1937 the amphitheater was almost finished, but no mention was made in the newspaper concerning the completion of either the amphitheater or the wall.⁶

Federally-funded public works construction at the Training School was substantial, but American Fork benefitted from many other W.P.A. projects as well. These included extensive sidewalk and road repair, park improvements, an addition to the junior high school, a new kitchen for the elementary school, and the construction of several buildings including a similar wall and an amphitheater at the American Fork cemetery. In Utah County alone thirty-seven buildings were erected through the W.P.A. and other New Deal programs. Six of those are listed on the National Register and the Training School amphitheater is being added to this list of Public Works Buildings Thematic Resource nomination.

The wall is similar to the one constructed around the American Fork cemetery by the W.P.A. They are both of stone construction, however, the cemetery wall has concrete caps along the top of the wall, and pyramidal concrete caps on top of the heavy stone pillars. It is an identifying characteristic of the Training School and provides a distinct visual boundary for the facility.

The amphitheater is one of several constructed throughout the state during the 1930s. Other amphitheaters were built in Utah through New Deal funding, including those at the University of Utah and Utah State University campuses, the State Hospital in Provo, Theater-in-the-Pines at Aspen Grove (Provo Canyon), Mutual Dell in American Fork Canyon, and several smaller amphitheaters at campgrounds and recreational areas on Forest Service and National Park Service land.⁷ Four were constructed in Utah County, including two by the Civilian Conservation Corps (Theater-in-the-Pines and Mutual Dell) and two by the W.P.A. (the State Hospital and the Training School). The Training School amphitheater is a bit smaller in scale

⁴ Note: There is considerable school property to the west, but it has never been developed; the school campus is actually due north.

⁵ "Bids Asked on School Improvement", American Fork Citizen, July 31, 1936, p.1.

⁶ "Growth Marks Year at the Utah State Training School", American Fork Citizen, December 24, 1937, p.1.

⁷ These include Maple Grove and the Great Basin Experimental Station (Ephraim Canyon), Sanpete County; Oak Creek Campground and Adelaide Campground, Millard County; Zions National Park (listed on the National Register). Site forms and nominations on file at the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Section No. 8 Page 6 Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

than the other three, but it nevertheless a substantial structure, due in part to its being constructed entirely of stone.

Both the amphitheater and rock wall provide physical evidence of federal efforts and local participation to alleviate the social problems created by the financial devastation of the Depression. The wall continues to contribute to the park-like setting of the campus and is an attractive landscape feature for the community. The amphitheater remains an important feature in Utah and continues in use for both Training School and community-wide programs.

___ See continuation sheet

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Section No. 9 Page 7 Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Bibliography

American Fork Citizen. July 20, 1929, July 19, 1935, March 11, 1938, November 18, 1938.

Carter, Kate. Heart Throbs of the West. Salt Lake City, Utah: Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, 1939.

Shelley, George. Early History of American Fork.

Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall
Name of Property

American Fork, Utah County, Utah
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 4/3/4/4/2/0 4/4/7/1/3/7/0
Zone Easting Northing

B 1/2 4/3/4/2/6/0 4/4/7/1/3/7/0
Zone Easting Northing

C 1/2 4/3/3/8/0/0 4/4/7/1/3/7/0

D / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Wall: Beginning 60' west of the southeast corner of Section 12 T4S R1E and proceeding west 1,235'. The property with this structure includes the ground on either side for a distance of 10'.

Amphitheater: Beginning 450' west from 4800 West (also known as 900 E.) and 425' north from 700 N. and also 450' west and 425' north of the southeast corner of Section 12 T5S R1E.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries for the amphitheater and wall include the measurements indicated in the sketch maps which are historically associated with the them. The inclusion of the 10' strip on either side provides this property with its physical context.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Egleston, Consultant

organization _____

date July 1994

street & number 157 First Avenue #16

telephone (801) 359-6818

city or town Salt Lake City

state UT zip code 84103

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name State Developmental Center

street & number 895 N. 900 E.

telephone (801) 763-4000

city or town American Fork

state UT zip code 84003

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section No. PHOTOS Page 8 Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall, American Fork, Utah County, UT

Common Label Information:

1. Utah State Training School Amphitheater and Wall
2. American Fork, Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Elizabeth Egleston
4. Date: May 1994
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

6. Amphitheater: Southwest elevation. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 2

6. Amphitheater: West elevation. Camera facing east.

Photo No. 3:

6. Wall: Southeast elevation. Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 4:

6. Wall: West end, south elevation. Camera facing north.