

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

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

Structure/Site Information Form

FEB 26 APR 9 1986

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 135 S. Main  
Plymouth, Box Elder County, Utah

UTM: 12 404920 4636350  
Quad: Portage, Utah-Idaho  
T. 13 N R. 3 W S. 12

Name of Structure: Plymouth School

Present Owner: Town of Plymouth  
135 S. Main

Owner Address: Plymouth, Utah 84330

Year Built (Tax Record):

Effective Age:

Tax #: 07-84-0053

Legal Description

Kind of Building:

Beginning at a point 33 feet E and 907 feet N of SW corner of Sec 12 T13N R3W, thence N 250 feet, E 200 feet, S 250 feet, W 200 feet to point of beginning: 1.15 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Box Elder County School Dist. Construction Date: 1934-35 Demolition Date:

Original Use: Educational

Present Use: Government

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: 1983 Slide No.: Date of Photographs: 1983 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.):

Bear River Valley Leader (Tremonton, Utah), 1934-35.

Box Elder County News (Brigham City, Utah), 1934-35.

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.

Works Progress Administration. Statistical Summary of Expenditures and Accomplishments: Utah Emergency Relief Program. Salt Lake City: Works Progress Administration, 1936.

Architect/Builder: unknown/Elijah Thompson

Building Materials: masonry

Building Type/Style: English Tudor

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Plymouth School, built in 1934-35, is a one-story brick school building designed in the English Tudor style. Despite a few alterations on the rear, the building retains its original integrity.

This building is unusual for a public works project in Utah because it was designed in the English Tudor style rather than in the more common PWA Moderne style. The building is red brick, one story high, and has a steeply pitched hipped roof that covers its basic rectangular plan. Small gabled extensions project at the corners and serve to give the building the asymmetrical appearance associated with this Period Revival architectural style. Simulated half-timbering and paired (sash) windows are found in the two decorative gables on the principal facade. The building is dominated by its off center front entrance--a parapeted gable porch with stepped shoulders and heavy concrete quoins. The entrance itself has an ogee arch topped by a panel containing the name of the building. The building is virtually unaltered on all sides except the rear elevation. Two fire engine bays set into the rear of the original building were probably added in the 1960s, and a garage-like cinder block addition built to serve the local fire department has been added in recent years. Despite those alterations, the building retains its historical integrity.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1; non-contributing buildings: 0

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1934-35

Built in 1934-35, the Plymouth School 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 Plymouth School was one of 232 buildings constructed in Utah during the 1930s and early 1940s under New Deal programs. Of those 232 buildings, 133 remain today and are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Of the 232 buildings, 104 were school buildings; 51 of them remain today. In Box Elder County a total of 7 buildings were constructed, 4 of which remain standing.

Construction of the building began in September or October of 1934 and was completed by March 1, 1935, at which time an open house was held.<sup>1</sup> The contractor was Elijah Thompson of Salt Lake City, who submitted the low bid of \$17,790.<sup>2</sup> Other improvements made to the school grounds at that time

Plymouth School  
History continued:

included the digging of a well to provide water for the school and the fencing of the school property. The school closed its doors in the mid-1950s, but the building has since been converted into the city hall and firestation.

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<sup>1</sup>Bear River Valley Leader, March 7, 1935, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup>Box Elder County News, September 11, 1934, p. 1.