

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

APR 9 1986

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 90 W. Main Salina, Sevier County, Utah

UTM: 12 425430 4312240  
Quad: Salina, Utah  
T. 21 S R. 1 W S. 25

Name of Structure: Salina Municipal Building and Library

Present Owner: Salina City  
P.O. Box R  
Owner Address: 90 W. Main  
Salina, Utah 84654-1353

Year Built (Tax Record): \_\_\_\_\_ Effective Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax #: 1-S30-30  
Legal Description Kind of Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Commencing at the SW corner of Lot 2 Block 14 J.F. Mortensens Entry Salina City, thence N 132 feet, E 139.5 feet, S 132 feet, W 139.5 feet to beginning. 0.42 acres

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Salina City Construction Date: 1936-37 Demolition Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Use: Government/Educational Present Use: Government/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: 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.):

The Salina Sun (Salina, Utah), 1936-37.

Warnock, Irvin L. Through the Years: A Centennial History of Sevier County.  
Sevier County Centennial Committee, 1947.

Architect/Builder: unknown/M.W. Breinholt

Building Materials: masonry

Building Type/Style: Prairie School and Art Deco influences

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Salina Municipal Building and Library is a one-story brick building displaying features of the Prairie School and Art Deco styles. It is a good example of the design eclecticism found in Utah's public works architecture from the 1930s. The building remains in good original condition and there are no significant alterations.

Consisting of a basic rectangular box, the building has a flat roof and full basement. The design is symmetrical and decoration includes an abundance of abstract geometric stick-work at the corners, above the main entrance, and below the edge of the roof. Such ornamentation is indicative of the Prairie School, but the abstract geometry of the stick-work itself is strongly suggestive of Art Deco influences. Such features serve to visually break up the rigid formality of the design. The foundation and the curved stairway leading to the round arched front entrance are stone and have been plastered. The building is distinctively polychromatic, with the deep brown of the brick contrasted with a panel of cream-colored plaster covered with white stick-work.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1

Total number of noncontributing buildings: 0

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1936-37

Built in 1936-37, the Salina Municipal Building and Library 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 Salina Municipal Building and Library 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 those 232, 22 buildings were city and town halls. This is one of 19 that are left. In Sevier County, 9 buildings were constructed. This is one of 5 that remain.

This building was constructed as a WPA project between 1936 and 1937 at a cost of about \$18,400. Prior to its construction the old city hall, which had been built in 1897, was razed to make way for this one. According to the

Salina Municipal Building and Library  
History continued:

local newspaper, the old city hall "lacks modernized equipment and style," while the new building would be "modern in every particular."<sup>1</sup> Shortly after construction began in the spring of 1936 the paper said that it would be a one and one-half story brick building with library rooms, council chambers and city offices on the upper floor. The lower floor would have a room for public meetings and a city jail "in an obscure corner."<sup>2</sup> The contractor for the building was M.W. Brienholt of Venice, Utah. The bid for the work was \$18,407.34, of which almost half was to be contributed in cash, materials and labor by the WPA.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to serving as a library and town hall, the building was used for a time as administrative offices of the WPA's "zone five," a six-county region in south/central Utah. The offices were located in the large basement, which provided "ample space" for administering the federal programs underway at that time.<sup>4</sup>

The design of this building is virtually the same as that of the library building in Kanab, located on the southern border of Utah. After the completion of the Salina building, Kanab city officials asked for, and were granted, permission to use the architectural drawings at no cost for the construction of their WPA library. That building was completed in 1940.

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<sup>1</sup>The Salina Sun, January 17, 1936, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., April 10, 1936, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., August 20, 1937, p. 1.