

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

Site No. _____

Structure/Site Information Form

FEB 26 1985

APR 9 1986

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 6 West Main
Richmond, Cache County, Utah

UTM: 12 432970 4641330
Quad: Richmond, Utah-Idaho
T. 14 N R. 1 E S. 26

Name of Structure: Richmond Community Building

Present Owner: Richmond City Corporation
6 West Main

Owner Address: Richmond, Utah 84333

Year Built (Tax Record):
Legal Description

Effective Age:
Kind of Building:

Tax #: 09-053-0001

Commencing at the SE corner of Lot 1 Block 23 Plat A Richmond City Survey, thence
W 160.5 feet, N 140.5 feet, E 160.5 feet, S 140.5 feet to beginning.
Less than one acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Richmond City Corporation

Construction Date: 1936-37

Demolition Date:

Original Use: Government/Entertainment/
Commercial

Present Use: Government/Entertainment/Commercial

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.):

Logan Herald-Journal (Logan, Utah), 1937.

Architect/Builder: Carl W. Scott and George W. Welch/Groneman and Company (general contractor)

Building Materials: masonry

Building Type/Style: PWA Moderne

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:

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

The Richmond Community Building, built in 1936-37, is a good example of the eclectic nature of the PWA Moderne architectural style in rural Utah. Here a basic red brick Colonial Revival design has been accented by features associated with the Art Moderne style. The building is in excellent condition and is little altered from its original configuration.

The front section of the building is one story high and consists of two projecting wings connected by a narrow hyphen. The roof is flat and the walls are capped in grey concrete coping. The two wings are identical in appearance; they are symmetrically pierced and are each distinguished by a cast concrete architrave around a centrally placed entrance. The corners are rounded in the moderne fashion and three brick belt courses below the eaves accentuate the smooth curves of the corners. The entrance in the hyphen is shielded by a small porch which is fronted by a band of cast concrete and has a stylized classical doorway complete with transom and side lights. To the rear (north) are several large extensions. On the west half is a large rectangular-shaped gymnasium that has a parapeted gable roof. The parapet is capped in contrasting concrete, and, at the roof apex facing the street, there is a finial of applied stylized sculpture. Concrete capped piers are found at wide intervals along the sides and serve to break these walls up into vertical sections. On the east half of the rear section is a lower section that has a

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1936-37

Built in 1936-37, the Richmond Community 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 Richmond Community Building is one of 232 public works buildings identified in Utah that were built during the 1930s and early 1940s. Only 133 of the 232 buildings are known to remain today and retain their historic integrity. Of the 232, 12 were recreation buildings; 4 of them remain. In Cache County, a total of 18 buildings were constructed; 13 remain.

Construction of the Richmond Community Building began April 1, 1936, and was completed and open for public use on October 6, 1937. Cost of the building was \$45,000, of which \$18,000 was furnished by a PWA grant. Five thousand dollars was raised through city taxes, and the balance was bonded for by the city. A newspaper article written at the time of the building's completion described it as follows.

Richmond Community Building
Description continued:

flat roof with a capped wall. There is a small c. 1950 brick addition on the rear of this section that in materials and design conforms to the historic character of the main building. The only other alteration of note is the removal (n.d.) of the neon sign bearing the city's name which originally spanned the indented entrance between the two front wings.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1
 Total number of noncontributing buildings: 0

History continued:

"The building is of the single-story type, presenting a frontage decorated by a neon light display featuring the name of the city, 'Richmond,' in large letters. A marquis, indenting the center of the facade with building wings on either side, forms the entrance to the main lobby. A ticket box-office is situated on the west side of the marquis.

"In luxury and refinement is the interior of the building fitted.

"The front door opens into a spacious lobby, furnished, carpeted and beautifully decorated. To the east of the lobby are the dressing rooms and a check room well fitted and complete. Straight through from the entrance is the dance and recreation hall, with walls and ceiling finished in California stucco. Complete air-conditioning, drapes at the windows, plentiful exits and cushioned benches surrounding the dance floor are some of the accommodations found in the large recreation hall. Also, a room, later to be outfitted as a kitchen, adjoins this section.

"To the west of the lobby is the door to the theatre. With a seating capacity of about 325, this theatre represents the latest and best in comfort and advantages. The seats are full-sprung leather cushions with upholstered backs. Attractive interior decorating graces the walls and ceilings. The stage is entirely adequate, with a 20-foot frontage, ample lighting facilities including dimmer switches, and a dressing room backstage. The motion picture screen is installed at the rear of the stage.

"A noticeable feature of this hall is the ease with which the listener can hear the speaker, no matter what position he may take in the auditorium. The acoustics are excellent. Of course, the auditorium is air-conditioned and the movie projection room completely fireproofed. The latest projector and sound equipment will be used in cinema presentation.

"Two suites of offices, each with separate entrances, occupy the two wings of the building situated to the east and west of the entrance marquis.

"Dr. Godfrey has contracted for the west suite which includes a reception room, a ladies' dressing room, and X-ray laboratory, the main operating room, a chemical and supply laboratory, and a private office room. The east suite, not as yet occupied, will, if present plans can be effected, house the Richmond post office.

"The picture shows will be city-operated as a city enterprise. The business will not be sub-leased, according to Mayor Godfrey. Only the best of movies will be shown, recent releases, with two changes of pictures per week. "Show days" have been selected as Saturday and Sunday, and Wednesday and Thursday.

"The beautiful structure, designed by Scott and Welch, Salt lake architects, was constructed under the direction of Groneman & Company, well

Richmond Community Building
History continued:

known Provo contracting firm, which has erected many prominent buildings in various parts of the intermountain country. The red brick came from the Smithfield Brick company. The interior painting has been done by J.W. Ellison, well known Provo painter. The electric wiring was done by Waterloo Electric company. The plumbing was installed by P.L. Larsen Plumbing and Heating company of Provo. The brick work was laid by P.S. Dixon of Provo, and most of the lumber for the building came from the Tri-State Lumber company of Provo. All the equipment for the moving picture projection room came from the Service Theater Supply company and the Intermountain Theater Supply company, both of Salt Lake City.¹

The building's architects, Carl W. Scott and George W. Welch, were both prominent Utah architects. Scott was born October 17, 1887, in Minneapolis, Kansas, and graduated in 1907 from the University of Utah with a degree in mining. Following graduation he began a career in architecture as a draftsman for Richard Kletting in Salt Lake City. In 1914 he became partners with George W. Welch. Welch was born in Denver, Colorado, on May 15, 1886, graduated from Colorado College, and came to Salt Lake City to begin work as an architect. Active in political affairs while here, he was a member of the Utah House of Representatives from 1919 until 1921. Among the buildings that Scott and Welch designed were Salt Lake City's Elks' Club Building, South High School, the Masonic Temple, and many public school buildings throughout Utah, including Hawthorne Elementary School and Bryant Junior High School in Salt Lake, Marsac Elementary and the High School Building in Park City, Tooele High School, Blanding High School, and Cedar City Elementary School. They also designed a number of commercial buildings including the N.O. Nelson Manufacturing Company Warehouse, the Nelson-Ricks Creamery Building, and the Firestone Tire Company Building, all in Salt Lake City.

The Richmond Community Center is still being used for much the same purposes as it was initially.

Notes

¹Logan Herald-Journal, October 6, 1937, p. 4.