NPS Form 10-900 (Oct.1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration 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 classifications, 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 U.S. Forest Service Building	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number <u>507 25TH Street</u>	not for publication
city or town Odgen	vicinity
state <u>Utah</u> code <u>UT</u> county <u>Weber</u> code <u>057</u>	zip code <u>84401</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation stan the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional re Part 60. In my opinion, the property <u>X</u> meets does not meet the National Re this property be considered significant nationally statewide <u>X</u> locally. <u>Signature of certifying official/Title</u> <u>Date</u> <u>Ufall</u> <u>Division of Effect History</u> , Office of State or Federal agency and bureau	dards for registering properties in quirements set forth in 36 CFR gister criteria. I recommend that
In my opinion, the property $\underline{\times}$ meets <u>does</u> not meet the National Register criteria.	
Sector 4/13/0	
Signature of commenting or other official Date Date Date Date Date Date State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the 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 removed from the National Register other (explain):	Ball Date of Action 5-24:06

Weber County, UT County and State

U.S. Forest Service Building Name of Property

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many as apply)

private
public - local
public - state
X public - Federal

Category of Property (check only one box)

> X building(s) district site structure object

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

Ogden Art Deco Buildings Thematic Nomination

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

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

0	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
0	objects Total
	0

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

founda	tion: <u>STONE/Granite</u>
walls:	BRICK
	TERRA COTTA
roof:	ASPHALT
Other:	

Narrative Description

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

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Architectural Narrative

The U.S. Forest Service Building, constructed 1933-34, is a four story with basement, 52,625 square foot, Art Deco style federal government office building. It is a modified rectangular plan with an open-ended light well to the back/south of the building on the second through fourth floors. The walls are composed of brick and terra cotta detailing, and has a built-up flat roof. The building is located outside of the central business district on the east side of Ogden City, Utah, in a substantially residential area. The Art Deco influence is strong on the exterior as well as the interior of the building, maintaining its integrity in place, material and plan. The building is in good condition and has had very little alteration since its construction.

Туре

In design and use of materials the U.S. Forest Service Building is a model example of Art Deco, a style popularized in Utah by the architectural firm of Hodgson and McClenahan. Brick, cast stone, and glazed terra cotta contrast in texture more than in color in this four story structure, with a raised basement level, enhancing the "tightness" of the undulating façade. The Art Deco style is experienced throughout the building, including motifs such as chevrons, circles, and zigzags with strong vertical accents. Of particular note is a distinctive stepped, linear pattern that reoccurs in many of the building's elements. Terra cotta spandrels and decorative trim begin this theme on the exterior, followed by an etched diamond design on the entry doors. The theme is repeated throughout the interior in floor patterns, door hardware, wood moldings and ceiling cornices.

Setting

The building is set back from the street with a lawn that sits a few feet above the sidewalk, requiring retaining walls on the north, west and south sides. Several large trees survive on the site, and shrubbery is planted along the foundation of the building. A concrete driveway extends from 25th Street at the front, to the rear of the building along the east side. This driveway delineates the boundary between the Forest Service Building and the adjacent site. A small parking area is located at the end of the drive, on top of the roof deck of the basement boiler room. A driveway from Adams Avenue on the west runs along the south side of the building, where the sloping site allows access to the basement level. The building resides in a residential area, and has consequently served as a local landmark for many decades.

General Characteristics

The structure is rectangular in plan at the basement and first floor levels, and U-shaped from the second through the fourth floors. There were skylights in the first floor roof into the first floor, center of the building. These have since been covered, but the mounting hardware is still intact. The elevations are symmetrical with ends recessed slightly. The entrance is centered and indented on the main facade. Between the first and second stories is a terra cotta stringcourse with a repeated geometric and floral motif. Brick pilasters divide windows of the second to fourth story façade into vertical bays. Utilizing a popular Art Deco scheme, the primary walls are of brick that gradually changes color from light-brown at the base to tan at the top of the building, using eight different shades of buff. The terra cotta and mortar shades vary to match the masonry, growing progressively lighter in color as they ascend the walls. Each elevation is composed of regularly spaced vertical bays consisting of alternating rows of windows and decorative terra cotta spandrel panels. Terra cotta spandrels at these levels display sharply modeled geometrical designs emphasizing vertical and diagonal movement. Spandrels above the fourth story have combined geometrical and floral motifs also reflecting verticals and diagonals. Side elevations repeat that of the main facade. The terra cotta spandrels are replaced with a brick interpretation on the south side of the structure. The roof is flat, built up composition, with a surrounding parapet. The U.S. Forest Service Building was built using a reinforced concrete frame system with a brick and terra cotta curtain wall. It has four whole floors, basement, and three additional floors found in a tower centered on the front facade. Offices are located along both sides of the corridors, on the first through forth floors, as well as office suites at the south end of

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the east and west wings on the second and third floors. As in other Art Deco examples, the result of the interaction of design elements gives the effect of self-containment, of a box wrapped in a tight skin, however with active and undulating surface treatment and an accent of verticality.

The east façade exhibits the same masonry details and repetitive window bays that the front façade contains. At the south third of the elevation, a single door at the side stair provides employee access to the building. The original door has been replaced with an aluminum entrance door. The west façade is the mirror image of the east elevation. Two exceptions are a transom window above the aluminum entrance door, and a row of horizontal hopper windows at the basement level. The door is a recent addition and replaces an original steel casement window.

Specific features

A strong Art Deco tendency is seen in the three story penthouse square tower centered above the entrance of the main façade, but recessed from the wall plane. The stylistic treatment of the tower parallels that of the central mass. The south elevation of the light court extends upward to become the rear façade of the penthouse tower. The three-story tower is 29' x29' at the 5th floor, containing the penthouse, machine room (6th floor) and the glass and steel greenhouse (7th floor). The penthouse level is accessible from the central stair; and an additional concrete stair connects the succeeding levels. An exterior door at the penthouse level leads to the 4th floor roof. The 6th floor is cross-shaped in plan; the projecting corners of the story below form parapets with terra cotta coping. At each elevation are three narrow casement windows flanked by heavy brick piers with terra cotta ornament. The core of the tower extends up one-half story to form the base of the greenhouse; this is topped by a continuous series of awning windows and topped by a glass hip roof with copper-clad steel frame. At the peak of the roof is a copper mount that once held a flag pole. A small hatchway at the south side leads to an exterior platform that was used for hoisting this flag.

The windows are single glazed and painted; those on the first floor are wood double-hung, while those above are three-section steel casement.

A brick chimney is located at the southeast corner of the building. It is octagonal in plan; and the 76' 0" high stack repeats the gradation in brick color.

Interior Features

The main entry is centered at the 1st floor, arrived at by a granite approach walk, rising at grade with steps flanked by granite cheek walls. The terra cotta-framed entry portal consists of sculptured pilasters and a decorative lintel. The entry doors are glass with etched nickel-bronze metal stiles, and pulls in a stepped, rectilinear arrangement. Two original nickel-bronze light standards sit atop the cheek walls at the front entrance. The vestibule doors to the main lobby mirror the main entry doors. Both doors have identical pulls in the thematic stepped design; however, the vestibule doors have wood stiles rather than metal. Above both doors is a fixed window with a fluted transom bar. Over the vestibule transom is a lintel clad in offset layers of varying shades of brown marble, creating a stepped arch.

The vestibule and main lobby are identically detailed. The walls are veneered in floor-to-ceiling brown colored Utah Golden Travise marble, with a dark-green Verde Antique marble base. At the top of the walls is an elaborate cast plaster crown molding, in an Art Deco interpretation of the classic egg and dart design, and is detailed with a metallic silver glaze. At the center of each ceiling is a field of silver foil appliqué.

The central stair extends from the basement to the fifth-floor penthouse. The stair walls are faced with a Golden Travise marble wainscot between the intermediate basement landing and the second-floor lobby. This wainscot includes a marble cap and Verde Antique base that continue up the balustrade at successive floors. Wood handrails with octagonal cross sections are mounted above stair runs. Stair treads are green and black marbled rubber, with scored metal nosings. The

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intermediate stair landings retain the original rubber tile; a three color scheme laid in a diamond pattern. Original lights are simple acorn globes and are pendant mounted at each landing.

A pair of original toilet rooms is located on each floor; they contain a large amount of historic detailing and remain in good condition. The original porcelain plumbing fixtures and chrome hardware survive in most locations. Toilet rooms on the first through forth floors feature a pink Tennessee marble wainscot with a matching marble cap. Stalls are constructed of matching marble partitions with chrome fittings and wood panel doors. The upper walls are painted plaster, as are the ceilings. Floors have a white hexagonal, ceramic tile field framed by a polychrome band of ceramic tile laid in a zigzag pattern. These spaces are significant because they retain substantial amounts of the original design, and the materials and ornamentation are of high quality.

The offices are simple spaces with limited ornamentation. Most of the original plaster finished partitions remain. A molded wood base board, with the signature stepped profile occurs at the perimeter. The original wood flooring is concealed by carpet tiles. Some offices are linked by intervening wood two-pane doors, many with the original hardware. Ceilings are plaster on suspended metal lath.

A unique design feature is seen in the many original sinks located within the offices. Two offices contain cast-in-place concrete vaults, with custom steel door assemblies. This structure retains much of its original fabric and details.

OMB No. 10024-0018

Weber County, UT

County and State

U. S. Forest Service Building Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing).

- X 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.
- X_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" in all the boxes 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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) 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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance 1933 - 1955

Significant Dates 1933

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder Leslie S. Hodgson Myrl A. McClenahan/ Murch Brothers Construction

Primary location of additional data:

- X_State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- X Federal agency X Local government
- <u>Local governmer</u>
- ____ Other

Name of repository: Utah State Historical Society

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Significance Narrative

The U.S. Forest Service Building, constructed 1933-34 in Ogden, Utah, is significant under criteria A and C. Under Criterion A it is significant as a representative of an important stage in national history; it was one of the first buildings in the nation to be funded by the Works Projects Administration (WPA), a project sponsored by the government to stimulate the nation's economy during the Great Depression. Locally, the building is significant in Ogden's development as a Federal government colony. The U. S. Forest Service was the first federal agency to locate in a city where the Federal government is currently the largest employer. Built by one of the premier architectural firms in Utah, Hogdson and McClenahan, it is an excellent example of Art Deco style, for which the firm was known, and is therefore significant under Criterion C. The U.S. Forest Service Building is one of the most fully realized art Deco buildings in Ogden and the state, and is being nominated under the Ogden Art Deco Buildings Thematic Nomination. This form is an update to the previous nomination where the U.S. Forest Service Building was determined eligible, but was not nominated due to owner objection. This nomination includes additional information from the original thematic nomination, as well as a request to remove owner objection.

Background

The U.S. Forest Service Building, built in 1933-1934, together with the Ogden High School (1936) and the Ogden/Weber Municipal Building (1939) are exceptionally significant because they represent the most significant Art Deco structures in Ogden and the state of Utah. Additionally, they represent important works of the architectural firm of Hodgson and McClenahan, and are excellent examples of federal work projects initiated during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Forest Service Building is of special importance as it was numbered among the initial projects funded by congressional appropriations in the early years of the depression, prior to the formal organization of federal relief programs.

In 1908 the U.S. Forest Service established District 4 regional headquarters at Ogden, Utah, the state's second largest city and important railroad regional center. Historical analysis reveals that Ogden was selected over Salt Lake City because of three main factors: 1) more favorable railroad rates; 2) available facilities; and 3) greater aggressiveness of Ogden's business community.¹ Prior to the construction of a new building in 1933, the agency was housed at 203 24th Street.² With the onslaught of depression in the United States, beginning in 1929, the federal government eventually sought to create work and construction projects designed to help the nation's rising unemployed. In the early 1930s, congress appropriated \$250,000,000 for construction projects, one of which was a new building in Ogden, Utah, for the Forest Service.³

Design

Under Clement J. Gerber, federal construction engineer, and James A. Whitmore, federal acting architect, the Ogden architectural firm of Hodgson and McClenahan were commissioned to design the structure.⁴ On December 20, 1932, a contract for \$229,000 was let to the Murch Brothers Construction Company of St. Louis, and work commenced in January, 1933.⁵ Local labor was to be employed, "when available," and lumber, brick, and cement was supplied by local businesses. Granite blocks were imported from the Raymond Granite Quarries of California.⁶

Hodgson and McClenahan designed the Forest Service District 4 headquarters in the Art Deco Style, characterized "by a linear, hard edge or angular composition often with a vertical emphasis and highlighted with stylized decoration.⁷ In discussing the relationship of the architects Leslie S. Hodgson and Myrl A. McClenahan, a biographer of Hodgson stated:

The partners shared a perfectionism and concern with detail, as evidenced by their beautiful Forest Services Regional Office Building. Hodgson and McClenahan personally selected the placement of every single brick in the building, in order to achieve a basement-to-cornice, dark-to-light ombre shading, so subtle as to be perceptible only when pointed out from a block away vantage point and re-examined close up.⁸

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Hodgson, considered as the most important architect of the Ogden-Weber County area from the late 19th to the mid 20th century, provided the design concept sketches and McClenahan then produced the working drawings.

The U.S. Forest Service Building was originally built to provide offices for the U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region, the Experimental Station, and the Supply Depot. The building, as described in a contemporary account, occupies a ground space of 11,300 square feet, consisting of a basement, four floors, and a three story tower. The first floor of the tower is considered the penthouse, second floor of the tower housed the elevator machinery, with the third floor maintaining an experimental hothouse. The basement was utilized as space for automobiles and other heavy equipment. Storerooms and offices of central purchasing, the maintenance agent, auditor, fiscal agent, and operations department were located on the first floor. The second floor consisted of the library, assembly rooms, public waiting rooms, and the offices of the regional forester, law, grazing, public relations, and land forest management divisions. Offices of the government engineer, the greenhouse, and intermountain forest and range experimental station occupied the third and fourth floors.⁹

The Forest Service Building contrasts strongly with its residential context, and has consequently served as a local landmark for many decades. The structure was completed in 1934 and still serves the needs of the Forest Service, remaining basically unchanged, maintaining a high degree of architectural integrity.

¹ Thomas G. Alexander, "Ogden, a Federal Colony in Utah," <u>Utah Historical Quarterly</u> 47 (Summer 1979): pp. 295-298.

² R. L. Polk & Company, <u>Ogden City Directory 1933</u>, p. 544.

³ <u>The Ogden Standard Examiner</u>, July 16, 1933, p. 3. In the "Inventory of Federal Archives in the States," Series IX, The Department of Agriculture, No. 43, Utah, WPA, 1939, plans, specifications, and estimates for the Regional Forest Service Building were listed as existing between the period of November 14, 1930 to August 15, 1933. This inventory is housed in the Utah State Historical Society library.

- ⁴ Desert News, June 19, 1933, p.1.
- ⁵ <u>The Ogden Standard Examiner</u>, July 16, 1933, p. 3.
- ⁶ Ibid.: <u>Deseret News</u>, June 19, 1933, p.1.

⁷ John J.G. Blumenson, I<u>dentifying American Architecture</u>, (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), p. 77.

⁸ Teddy Fullmer, "The Hodgsons: Two Generations of Utah Building," unpublished manuscript, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society, 1980, p. 1.

⁹ The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 16, 1933, p.3.

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Bibliography

Alexander, Thomas G. "Ogden, a Federal Colony in Utah," <u>Utah Historical Quarterly</u> 47 (Summer 1979): pp. 295-298.

Blumenson, John J.G. Identifying American Architecture, (Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977), p. 77.

Deseret News, June 19, 1933, p.1.

- Fullmer, Teddy. "The Hodgsons: Two Generations of Utah Building," unpublished manuscript, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society, 1980, p. 1.
- The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 16, 1933, p. 3. In the "Inventory of Federal Archives in the States," Series IX, The Department of Agriculture, No. 43, Utah, WPA, 1939, plans, specifications, and estimates for the Regional Forest Service Building were listed as existing between the period of November 14, 1930 to August 15, 1933. This inventory is housed in the Utah State Historical Society library.

R. L. Polk & Company, Ogden City Directory 1933, p. 544.

U.S. Forest Service Building

Weber County,	UT
County and State	

10. Geographical Data Acreage of Property Less than one acre **UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) 1 12 418980 4563450 Northing Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting 2 Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet) **Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet) 11. Form Prepared By name/title _ Andrea Kramer/Historic Preservation Specialist and Utah SHPO Staff organization General Services Administration _____ date <u>May 10, 2005</u> street & number <u>Denver Federal Center, Building 41, Room 240</u> telephone <u>303-236-8000</u> city or town Lakewood _______ state CO _____ zip code 80225 **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. Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items) **Property Owner** name U.S. General Services Administration street & number 1800 F Street, NW telephone 202-501-1100 city or town Washington state DC zip code 20405

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.460 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Site area is 27,225 square feet, ground area of building is 11,300 square feet. The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by 25th Street on the north, Porter Avenue on the east, and Adams Avenue on the west. This property is located on the Northwest section of Lots 6 & 7, Block 16, Plat A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is bounded by city streets and a property line on the south. This property retains its original property lines.

Photographs

All photographs were taken September 2003 by Elaine Gallagher Adams, GSA GSA Region 8 retains original negatives

Photograph #1 - exterior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; north façade

Photograph #2 - exterior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; west façade

Photograph #3 - exterior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; south façade

Photograph #4 - exterior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; east façade

Photograph #5 - exterior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; front entrance

Photograph #6 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; interior doors of front entrance

Photograph #7 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; main lobby

Photograph #8 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; main lobby detail of ceiling molding

Photograph #9 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; typical corridor off of lobby

Photograph #10 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; typical interior, secondary corridor

Photograph #11 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; sculpted opening to corridor

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Photograph #12 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; door hardware

Photograph #13 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; stairway landing

Photograph #14 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; stair railing and molding detail

Photograph #15 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; stair lobby

Photograph #16 -interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; typical restroom

Photograph #17 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; greenhouse

Photograph #18 - interior of the U.S. Forest Service Building; rooftop room