

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**  
RECEIVED JUL 12 1977  
DATE ENTERED APR 20 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\*\*

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH CIRCLE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

University of Utah *Common*

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

02

STATE

Utah

CODE

049

COUNTY

Salt Lake

CODE

035

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Utah (State Building Board)

STREET & NUMBER

Room 124 State Capitol

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office, Salt Lake City and County Building

STREET & NUMBER

451 Washington Square

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

March 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TYPES, STYLES OR PERIODS OF ARCHITECTURE REPRESENTED IN THE DISTRICT

Two major styles are present in the University District. The early buildings done between 1899 and 1905 were done in a simplified version of the Second Renaissance Revival. They all have the rusticated sandstone foundations with pressed hard brick for the rest of the exteriors. The symmetrical arrangement of the windows with the square bays at the bottom and the Roman bays at the top is a characteristic feature of the style as is the horizontal quality and the hip roof. The window treatment and the cross hatching pattern in the brick below the roof line is carried through all these buildings. Richard Kletting designed the first three and conceived the overall plan for the grouping of the buildings. S. C. Dallas did the fourth building in the same mode after Kletting and the University had a disagreement over money.

The Park building, completed in 1914, departed from the simplicity of the earlier buildings. It was done in the Neo-Classical Revival. The common features are the broad expanses of plain wall surface, the quiet roof line, the square window bays, the dental molding, the ionic columns, and the pedimented portico at the main entrance. S. C. Dallas and William Hedges were the architects for the building. The style and color of the Park Building established a precedent for the next buildings completed in 1930 and 1931. They were commissioned to conform to the architecture of the Park building. They too have the classical orders, columns, pilasters and pediments done with a little more eclecticism. The final building in the district, completed in 1935, came after the Neo-Classical Revival was passe' but in its expanses of flat wall surface and decorative cornice it relates to the Neo-Classical buildings. Its rusticated stone entrance recalls the Renaissance Revival buildings on campus. The building is an eclectic combination of the two styles.

### GENERAL PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIPS OF BUILDINGS TO EACH OTHER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

All the buildings are located around the "U", a horseshoe drive coming eastward off University Street. The original concept of Richard Kletting was a circular commons, but the 1905 Board of Regents expanded the plan into the present horseshoe arrangement. One of the first landscaping endeavors was to plant a border of trees on either side of the drive. Later walks were put in to connect the buildings and crisscross the center lawn area. Shrubs were planted in the center area. A 16 foot gateway of two massive red sandstone pillars and heavy wrought iron gates, a gift from the class of 1907, is located at the west open end of the horseshoe.

The three buildings around the east end of the U face the drive. The next two buildings, one on the north and one on the south, are facing streets running off the U to the north and south respectively. The northwest end of the U has two buildings facing the commons and the southwest end has one longer buildings facing the commons. With the borders of trees and the connecting walkways, it is one unified whole which slopes dramatically to its pinnacle. This is in contrast to the rest of the University which has no strong patterns or united plan in its building arrangements.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

PRESENT AND ORIGINAL USES OF BUILDINGS

From the first these buildings were designed and used as University classrooms and administrative buildings. The particular functions have changed over the last 76 years, but they are still being used daily in these general capacities.

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF BUILDINGS

Being continually in use these buildings have always been maintained. The interiors have been renovated to accommodate their changing functions but this has usually not interfered with the lobbies or significant interior features except in the case of the Physical Science Building which was almost gutted. Exterior additions such as fire escapes are in the rear of the buildings and the facades have been maintained without significant renovations. The Physical Science Building had an addition made in 1911 but it was in keeping with the original exterior, coming only ten years after the original building was completed. When the original wood doors in the buildings were replaced with metal doors care was taken to copy the original doors as closely as possible.

INTRUSIONS

There have been no intrusions around the U itself although there are plants and foundries around the periphery toward the rear.

QUALITIES WHICH MAKE THE DISTRICT DISTINCT

Besides its educational character which makes it distinct from the commercial and residential buildings across from University street, it is unique on the campus. These are the original buildings built on the first sixty acres grant. Although several laboratories, plants and temporary buildings were also built in the period between 1900 and 1930 these buildings around the U were the major architectural statements chronicling the development of the University into an important educational institution. Further these buildings, situated in a closed grouping around the U shaped commons, necessarily are more distinctive in their unity than the construction which came in later years and followed no such strong landscaping concept.

DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS (see attached map)

(1) UNION/MUSIC BUILDING--This building was begun in 1930 to serve as a student union; and it was paid for by the students with fees added to their tuition. Raymond J. Ashton and Raymond L. Evans were the architects. Its style was supposed to conform to that of the Neo-Classical Administration Building. The building is more eclectic but it still has the columns, pilasters and pediments associated with the Neo-Classical style. It is done in white stone. When a bigger union was built in

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	1/78

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

the fifties, David C. Haines and Arne R. Pulhoven were selected to remodel the interior for a music building. This remodeling was extensive. On March 11, 1957, it was officially renamed the Music Hall. The building has a lovely foyer with recessed niches and a marble floor. In the east wing there is a room with the original pilasters and crown molding.

(2) KINGSBURY HALL--It was built in 1930 to satisfy a critical need for an auditorium. An architectural competition was held to select a designer and the main requirements were that it was to be simple and conform to the architecture of the administration building. Edward O. Anderson and Lorenzo S. Young won. The style is Neo-Classical with an Egyptian Revival influence, as shown in the composite columns. The pediments over the doors are a very Neo-Classical feature. The building fits in nicely in scale and style with the others in the U-shaped commons. There has been no significant renovations or work on the building since it was built and the usage has remained the same. It has a lovely foyer and lobby that continues the classical motif of the outside with its niches, pilasters and crown molding. On either side of the stage are large murals painted by Florence E. Ware in 1946 as a government project. The theatre is nicely detailed in gold paint on the ceiling, walls and balconies. Other interesting details are the curved corners in the stairways and the vaulted upper lobby ceiling. The building was named for Joseph Kingsbury, the President of the University between 1897 and 1916. He moved the University to its present site.

(3) PHYSICAL SCIENCE BUILDING/JOHN A. WIDTSOE MATHEMATICAL BUILDING--This building was one of the original three built in 1899-1901 with the initial \$200,000 appropriated to establish the University on its present site. The architect was Richard K. A. Kletting, a prominent Salt Lake architect. Like the other two buildings done at the time it is done in a simplified version of the Second Renaissance Revival. It has rusticated sandstone foundations with pressed hard brick for the rest of the exterior. The symmetrical arrangement of the windows, with the square bays at the bottom and Roman bays at the top is characteristic of the style as well as the horizontal quality and the hip roof. The building was nearly destroyed by fire on the night of December 19, 1901. The foundations and walls were left in good condition up to the arches of the third floor windows. It was rebuilt by 1902. In 1911 an extension was added to the north side which gives it the uneven massing that the other original buildings don't have. The interior of the building was extensively remodeled during the last part of 1975. The bearing walls and floors were kept but the rest of the building was redesigned and mechanical and air conditional systems were revamped. On March 8, 1976, the building was officially renamed the John A. Widtsoe Mathematical Building in honor of Widtsoe, who had served as President of the University between 1916 and 1921. He was the author of the laws and by-laws of the first University constitution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

(4) LIBRARY/COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING--One of the original buildings designed by Richard Kletting and completed in 1901. It too is Second Renaissance Revival, with rusticated sandstone foundations and pressed hard brick walls. It is very similar to the Physical Science Building with the hip roof, window treatment and horizontal quality but is distinguished by its entrance which has two ionic columns supporting a portico in front of the double arched doorway. It was originally named the Library because a library occupied an L-shaped room on the west and north sides of the first floor. The library contained 12,950 volumes and there were seats for 100 students. In 1913 the library was moved to the newly completed Park building and the structure was renamed the Liberal Arts Building. In November 1957 the Mathematics department took over the building and it was renamed the Mathematics Building. The Math department moved out in December of 1975 and it was temporarily named the Communications Building on February 12, 1976. The building has had very little interior renovation despite the many changes in functions. The wooden joists are still exposed. The exterior has been unaltered except for the replacement of the wooden front doors with metal ones made as closely to the original as possible.

(5) PARK BUILDING--The administration building was built in 1912 with \$300,000 raised by the Legislature. The architects were Samuel C. Dallas and William S. Hedges. It was to be an imposing and beautiful structure to compensate for the plainness of the original three buildings. It was the first building on campus done in the Neo-Classical Revival style. It has the common features of the style, the broad expanses of plain wall surface, the quiet roof line, the square window bays, the dental molding and the pedimented portico with ionic columns at the main entrance. On June 9, 1919, the building was dedicated and named the John R. Park Building after the first president (1869-1992) and driving force behind the growth of the University. It has undergone several reworkings to accommodate various departments but has always remained the Administration Building for the University. Originally it housed the library, but when the library was removed in 1935 to a new building the upper floor of the Park building was remodeled with P.W.A. funds to accommodate the Psychology, Anthropology and Law departments. In 1949 the upper floor was again remodeled to house the Hudnut and Hatch Art Collection and an extension was added to the east. In 1953 the basement was reworked to handle student traffic, and in 1966 the second and third floors were remodeled for the offices of the presidents and deans. In 1971 more administrative offices were made on the fourth floor when the art collection was moved to the Fine Arts Museum. The building has several significant features. A statue of John Park, done by Mahonri Young, a Utah sculptor, occupies a niche in the front of the building. The lobby, stairway and foyer are lavishly trimmed in marble. On the walls of the stairway are five large panels of the Great Men of Knowledge done by Lee Greene Richards, another Utah artist.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED APR 20 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

(6) DINING HALL/GEOLOGY BUILDING--This building was built in 1919 to accommodate 600 and relieve the Gym which had been serving as a dining hall. It was built with state funds for emergency war work. Although it reflects no particular style, it fits in nicely with the other buildings; the hip roof and horizontal line relate it to the original buildings while the classical traces in the dental molding and the columns at the front entrance relate it to the Neo-Classical buildings. In 1932 it became the Geology Building after the cafeteria was transferred to the Student Union. An annex to the building was financed with W.P.A. funds paying four-fifths of the cost.

(7) MUSEUM/JAMES E. TALMADGE BIOLOGY BUILDING--Although part of the original plans, this building was not completed until 1902 because the initial appropriations did not allow for construction of all four buildings. Samuel C. Dallas was the architect. Its style is Second Renaissance Revival and follows the plan of the first three buildings using pressed hard brick and the rusticated sandstone foundation with the same window arrangements, hip roof and horizontal quality. The only deviation is at the entrance. Here Dallas used double Corinthian columns in sandstone to frame a fan-shaped transom over the doorway. The entablature and sandstone railings above the pillars add to the elaborate impression of this entrance. There have been no exterior changes and little interior modification. Metal doors replaced the older wooden one but an effort was made to follow the style of the old doors as closely as possible. Originally the building held all the science departments and their museums so it was named the Museum. On September 29, 1931, it became the Biology Building; and on March 8, 1976, it was officially named the James E. Talmadge Biology Building. James Talmadge was the president of the University from 1894-1897 and head of the Geology Department until 1907.

(8) NORMAL/HOME ECONOMICS BUILDING--Completed in 1909, it was one of the original buildings done by Kletting in the Second Renaissance Revival Style. It also has the hard pressed brick, rusticated sandstone foundation, symmetrical arrangement of windows, hip roof and horizontal lines of the other two with no distinguishing features. It has had no significant renovations. Originally it housed the Normal or Teachers Education Department of the University. On December 17, 1918, it became the location for industrial work and in 1948 was named the Home Economics Building.

(9) GEORGE THOMAS LIBRARY/UTAH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY--Completed in 1935, this building was financed with W.P.A. funds. Raymond Ashton and Raymond Evans were the architects. The building is eclectic; obviously designed to blend with the rest of the buildings. The rusticated front entrance is reminiscent of the Second Renaissance Revival. The Neo-Classical cornices over the entrance and around the top of the buildings reflect the Park Building. It was done in concrete and this made it unique at the time. Originally the library was named for George Thomas who was president of the University for twenty years from 1921-1941. In 1968 it was remodeled to become the Utah Museum of Natural History. This was accomplished without destroying the original character of the building. A concrete stair tower added to the rear is the only exterior modification. The building has several significant

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	JUL 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

features. The art deco metal work around the entrance and in the interior, especially the stair rail, is quite nice. The foyer and two and a half feet up the lobby wall is done in birdseye marble found only in Utah County. The original dark oak woodwork remains and some rooms have oak walls. One room has a serpentine cornice of oak indicative of the art deco period. Several other rooms have 1930s style cornices in plaster. The building is nicely detailed.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899-1935

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Richard K.A.Kletting, R.C.Dallas

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The University of Utah was the first land grant college established west of the Mississippi. Under John Park's leadership it grew into a strong non-sectarian state school. In this role it served the entire state as it grew from a close Mormon community into a diverse state. Dr. Park's insistence on independent thinking and conclusions based on evidence produced a high quality of students who went on to positions of leadership in the state, nation and Mormon church.

At the present the University of Utah has an excellent medical school serving the entire intermountain area. It has gained national recognition for its research on cancer and organ transplants. It also gives a high quality professional education in pharmacy, business, engineering, and social and behavioral sciences. Its law school is one of the two largest in the intermountain west. The University of Utah, placed at the center of Nevada, Colorado, Idaho and Wyoming, provides the entire area with superior state-supported professional education.

The University of Utah Circle includes the early buildings constructed after the present campus site was designated in 1899. The Circle is still the heart of an institution which has greatly expanded beyond the original physical boundaries established in 1899.

The architectural significance of the buildings in this district are twofold. The library, Normal and Physical Science buildings are noteworthy because they were done by Richard K. A. Kletting, the architect of the Utah State Capitol and the other major buildings in Salt Lake City. S. C. Dallas, who designed the Alfred W. McCune Mansion, a National Register property, did the Museum and Park Buildings. Both architects were prominent turn-of-the-Century Salt Lake City architects. The Park Building is also a good example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture.

The interiors of several of these buildings also contain significant architectural features. The Park Building is lavishly trimmed with marble in its lobby, foyer and stairway in a manner indicative of its period. Also on the stairway are five large panels of the Great Men of Knowledge unveiled on June 24, 1941. They were done by Lee Greene Richards (1878-1950), a Utah artist of some fame. A statue of John Park, done by Mahonri Young, was erected in 1921 in a niche in front of the building.

Kingsbury Hall has a lovely foyer and lobby that continues the classical motif of the outside with its niches and pilasters and crown molding. On either side of the stage are large murals and the theatre is nicely detailed in paint on the ceiling, walls and balconies. Other interesting details are the curved corners in the stairways and the vaulted upper lobby ceiling.

The Union/Music Building has a lovely foyer with recessed niches and a marble floor. In the east wing there is a room with the original pilasters and crown molding.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Ralph Y. Chamberlain, The University of Utah: A History of its First Hundred Years, 1850 to 1950, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah: 1960.
- Utah University, The University of Utah in 1976: A Report to the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah: 1976.
- Joseph Horne Jeppson, "The Secularization of the University of Utah, to 1920," Ph.D. Dissertation, University of California, 1973.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 28 acres.

*See Adoptions Co. Location 2/11/78*

UTM REFERENCES

D	1,2	4,2,8	1,3,0	4,5	1,2	9,8,0	A	1,2	4,2,8	2,9,0	4,5	1,2	9,7,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
B	1,2	4,2,8	5,1,0	4,5	1,2	6,7,0	C	1,2	4,2,8	1,4,0	4,5	1,2	6,9,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sharon Meecham, Volunteer

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

DATE

June 1977

STREET & NUMBER

603 East South Temple

TELEPHONE

(801) 533-5755

CITY OR TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Michael T. Miller*

TITLE Michael T. Miller, State Historic Preservation Officer DATE June 28, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. H. ...*

DATE

*4/20/78*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST *W. H. ...*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*4.12.78*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The interior of the George Thomas Library is a fine example of 1930s decorating. The foyer and the lobby are done in birdseye marble which is only found in Utah County. Some of the rooms have the original oak walls and one room has a serpentine cornice of oak indicative of the art deco period. The original wood work was dark oak and it is still quite evident despite the renovation of the 1960s which was handled very nicely. Several rooms were done with a prominent 1930s style moldings and they were also left as is. There is extensive metal work around the entrance doors and on the stairway done in an art deco motif.

HISTORY

"The University of Deseret," later to become the University of Utah in 1892, was established on February 28, 1850, two and one half years after the first group of Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. In 1850 the Mormons applied for admittance into the Union as the state of Deseret. When a General Assembly of the proposed state of Deseret met, it adopted in its eleventh ordinance of official business a resolution establishing the University of Deseret.

The seeds for this University sprang from a university organization begun in Nauvoo in 1841 by Dr. John Bennett, the Mayor of the city. Departments were established, professors chosen and plans were drawn; however no buildings were constructed. Financial stringency and the social conflict that led the Mormons to abandon Nauvoo ended the University development. However the idea did not die, and shortly after the Mormons arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley it was reintroduced. Education was valued highly in Mormon society, and the University was seen as a "parent school" for an entire school system. Under the parent school plan, the University was supposed to train the teachers for the public schools in the state.

When the ordinance was passed by the General Assembly, Orson Spencer was appointed Chancellor and a Board of Regents was established. They held their first meeting on March 13, 1850. The records show that the primary business of that meeting was to appoint a committee of three regents to act in connection with the Governor to select a site for the University. They selected 561 acres east of the city which the U. S. government later absorbed into the military reservation of Fort Douglas.

The actual building of the school on the east bench site was put aside until a later date. Instead a stone wall was built around this property and a building was put up in the Thirteenth Ward as a temporary home for the school. This was located east of State Street on Second South. Work did not progress, and it was decided to hold the first session of the University in the State or Council House, at the time nearing completion on the southwest corner of Main and South Temple Street. This was delayed also, so the University rented a parlor and adjacent room in the home of Mrs. John Pack, which was near the corner of West Temple and First North Streets. Orson Spencer was the director, and Dr. Cyrus Collins was the first teacher. They were to instruct in all branches taught in high school. These were arithmetic, elucidation, geography, grammar and declamation.

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DATE ENTERED APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

It was opened for young men, and the first class held on Monday, November 11, 1850, had 25 students. In February of 1852 the school was transferred to the State House with Chancellor Spencer teaching and W. W. Phelps his assistant. Beginning with this quarter registration was opened to young ladies. On November 29 a new session opened in the school house of the Thirteenth Ward.

In 1852, because of financial problems, the legislature rescinded the section of the act providing \$5,000 annually for support of the University. The school was not able to become self-sufficient, so it remained closed for 13 years until 1867.

In November of 1867 the Board of Regents, at the instigation of Chancellor A. Carrington, decided to reestablish the University of Deseret. Classes were soon in operation in the Council House. It was a commercial college at this point. In 1869 the Regents voted to expand this department into fields more appropriate for a University, and in March they hired John R. Park as principal. He reorganized the school into two branches of study: the Normal or Teachers course which included English, mathematics, commercial business, and natural sciences; and the Collegiate Course which included all of the above plus German, French, higher mathematics, Latin and Greek with the classics. At this point it became a true University. The first session had 223 students and was taught in the Council House. The entire building was rented and remodeled.

On September 4, 1869, Dr. Park recommended starting a Model School, and the Board of Regents selected an old store next to the Tabernacle to house it. It began with 37 pupils in October but by spring of the next school year enrollment had risen to 250. It was moved to larger quarters in the Social Hall in 1871. The Model School was essentially a preparatory school for the University.

By 1870 the University began experiencing considerable difficulties. Because the valley was settled by Mormons, the governmental and social structure had always been interwoven with the L.D.S. Church. President Young, the leader of the church, was also the leader of the territory. All activities, even educational ones, were strongly connected with the church. The Deseret Alphabet, a phonetic alphabet invented by President Brigham Young, was being implemented in the school system. This had the affect of further isolating the educational system of the valley from the rest of the country. Since Dr. Park refused to allow the University to become sectarian and would not offer classes on church doctrine for separation of church and state. This feeling was not in keeping with the climate of the times and was viewed with suspicion by the leaders of the community, most of whom were Mormon. They considered this disassociation from the church as a threat to their beliefs and withdrew their support. The Board of Regents, influenced by this lack of support, voted to decrease the size and expenses of the University. When in 1871 President Young requested they cease the instruction of Latin and Greek because he considered this useless, the Board of Regents followed his instructions without consulting Dr. Park. By 1871 the Model School was the only part operating. President Young sent Dr. Park on a mission to the Eastern states and Europe to study education.

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RECEIVED	JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

In 1872 Dr. Park returned from Europe and the Board of Regents decided to reopen the University. However Dr. Park was the only teacher. By 1873 the faculty was increased to four, among whom were Joseph Kingsbury, who later became President. It remained at this number for several years. During the 1876 term Park was informed that the Council House would be needed by the Church and the University moved to a two-story building standing at the corner of Second West and First North. It was known as the Union Academy Building.

By 1880 the University had begun to flourish again, and it desperately needed more adequate buildings. A committee appointed to recommend changes chose Union Square in the 16th Ward as a site for the University. This was located on the northwest corner of First North and Second West. The city accepted the choice and gave the ground to the school. Plans were adopted for the building by the Board on April 15, 1881, and the legislature appropriated the \$40,000. Governor Eli H. Murray vetoed it. However enough money was raised by subscriptions and borrowing to begin construction. In 1884 the legislature appropriated \$50,000, but Governor Murray again vetoed it. His rationale was that the school was Mormon dominated. As a result construction work was halted. In 1886, the legislature appropriated \$60,000 for completing the building; but, for the third time, Governor Murray nullified it. In 1888 a fourth bill was passed with a \$25,451 appropriation. Because Governor Murray had been removed by the President of the United States this bill was signed and the university allowed to finish its buildings. By the time it was completed it was already inadequate.

By 1890 the Union Square property was totally inadequate so President Park introduced a bill in the legislature of 1892 petitioning the United States Congress to grant to the University for its campus a strip not less than 60 acres from Fort Douglas.

1892 was a momentous year for the University. Governor Arthur L. Thomas approved an act to change the name of the University of Deseret to the University of Utah. Also in this year President Park resigned after increased tension with his faculty over his arbitrary assumption of power.

In 1894 the prosperity that had affected the valley from 1880 to 1894 reversed and again the University was without funds. The legislature decreased the appropriations and the Board voted to run the school within this smaller budget. Dr. James E. Talmadge was president between 1894 and 1897. In 1897 Dr. Joseph T. Kingsbury was chosen as his successor and was the President who moved the University to its new location.

In 1894 Congress passed the bill granting sixty acres from Ft. Douglas military reservation to the University of Utah. The grant included the ground between First and Fourth South, the west boundary running 400 feet east of 1300 East and parallel east boundary running 1,200 feet from the west one. In 1899 the legislature passed and the governor approved a bill to remove the University from its old location and construct buildings at the new site.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED JUL 12 1977

DATE ENTERED APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

\$200,000 was granted for this purpose. Joseph Kingsbury, president of the University, and Richard Kletting, the school architect, visited institutions in the East in preparation for designing the new campus. \$180,000 was appropriated for the buildings and \$20,000 for improving grounds, water and sewer connections and furniture.

Because of the small appropriation only three buildings were initially planned, the Library, the Normal Building, the Physical Science Building, and a modern heating plant. A fourth building of matching style was to be added soon after. W. H. Rovey, a Chicago contractor, got the bid for the buildings on September 15, 1899. (School opened for registration on October 1, 1900.)

The Library, one of the original buildings, was completed in 1901. It was named this because the Library occupied an L-shaped room on the west and north sides of the first floor. This library contained 12,950 volumes and there were seats for 100 students. In 1913 the library was moved to the newly completed Park Building and the structure was renamed the Liberal Arts Building and housed the liberal arts classes of the University. In November 1957 the Mathematics Department took over the building and it was renamed the Mathematics Building. The Math Department moved out of the building in December 1975 and it was temporarily renamed the Communications Building on February 12, 1976. Except for name and class changes the building has had very little done to it except some necessary modernization such as lavatories. Nothing has been done to the exterior.

The Normal Building, completed in 1901, was originally used by the Normal Department of the University. On December 17, 1918, it became the location for industrial work, and then it became the Home Economics Building in 1948. The only change to the building is a ceramic mural plaque which was put on the west wall of the entrance.

The Physical Science Building, also completed in 1901, was nearly destroyed by fire on the night of December 19, 1901. Foundations and walls were left in good condition up to the arches of the windows of the third floor. By September 1902 the building and its contents were restored under the direction of George Michel. In 1911 an extension was added to the north side of the Physical Science Building. This extension gives the building the uneven massing which distinguishes it from the other two original buildings. The interior of the building had extensive remodeling during the last part of 1975 in preparation for the Mathematical Department taking it over. The bearing walls and floors were kept but the rest of the building was redesigned and mechanical and air conditioning systems were revamped. An elevator was added at the north end. On March 8, 1976, the building was officially renamed the John A. Widtsoe Mathematical Building.

The Museum Building, part of the original plan, was not completed until 1902 because the initial appropriations did not allow for four buildings. Samuel C. Dallas, another prominent Salt Lake architect, designed this building. Richard Kletting and the University had parted ways over money. The first floor contained the Geology and Minerology Departments and the Geological Museum across the west end. The second floor contained the Biological Department with the Biological

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

Museum across the west end. The third floor has the assembly room with the roon on the west serving as the Gym. The building became the biology building on September 29, 1931. It was named the James E. Talmadge Biology Building on March 8, 1976. Like the others this building had had no exterior changes and only those interior modifications necessary to keep the building functioning.

The Park Building began a new phase of construction on campus. In 1911 a proposal finally passed the legislature for \$300,000 raised through bonds to build an administration building. Construction began on July 8, 1912. Samuel C. Dallas and William S. Hedges were the architects. A report of the Regents to the legislature of 1907 had specified that, "the main building should be an imposing and beautiful structure costing not less than \$250,000 on account of the plainness of the present buildings." Their imposing building was ready for use in March 1914. On June 9, 1919, the building was dedicated and renamed the John R. Park Building. By 1921 a statue of John Park was commissioned by the University of Utah alumni at the cost of \$20,000 to be placed on a pedestal in front of the building. The sculptor was Mahonri Young, a noted Salt Lake Sculptor. It was erected during the June commencement exercises of that year.

Since its initial construction the building has undergone several reworkings to accommodate its changing functions. When the George Thomas Library was completed December 4, 1935, the library facilities which had been there since it was built were removed and the upper floors of the Park Building were remodeled for use by the Departments of Psychology and Anthropology and the School of Law. Funds were provided by the P.W.A. On April 11, 1949 \$200,000 was allocated to remodel the upper floor of the Park Building to house the Hudnut and Hatch art collection. During this year the basement and the first floor were remodeled and an extension was added to the east for additional floor space. This cost \$185,000. In 1953 additional minor remodeling was done by Olson Construction Company with Paul Evans the architect. This time they reworked the basement floor to handle student traffic. On May 9, 1966, Culp Construction's bid of \$368,000 was approved and work began on the second and third floors to house the offices of the President and Deans. In 1971 more administrative offices were made on the fourth floor of the building in the space vacated by the art collection when it moved to its own area by the Art and Architecture Building.

A dining hall was built in 1919. It accommodated 600 people at once and relieved the Gym which had been serving as a dining hall. The \$40,000 needed to build it was received from State appropriations for War Emergency Work. Later, in 1932, it became the Geology Building after the cafeteria was transferred to the newly completed Student Union. The annex to this building was financed with W.P.A. funds paying for four fifths of it.

By 1927 the need for an auditorium on campus was critical. Originally an auditorium was supposed to be part of the plan of the Park Building but it was not built because

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED	3 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

of lack of money. An architectural competition was held. This was the first time one of the University buildings was designed this way. The requirements were that the building was supposed to conform to the architecture of the Park Building. The regents wanted "something simple, in harmony with the other buildings." Edward O. Anderson and Lorenzo S. Young won first prize. W. J. Dean was the general contractor. Kingsbury Hall was completed May 22, 1930, and cost \$275,000. The murals were done in the auditorium of the Hall in 1946 as a government project. They were designed and painted by Florence E. Ware, and were entitled "Evolution of Drama Through the Ages." Florence Ware, a native of Salt Lake City, was a graduate of the University of Utah and the Chicago Art Institute.

At the time Kingsbury Hall was being planned, the students expressed an urgent need for a Union Building. The students paid for the building from fees added to their tuition. In 1930 Raymond J. Ashton and Raymond L. Evans were selected as the architects and it too was supposed to conform to the architecture of the Park Building. Thomas Child was the general contractor. The building was opened November 25, 1931. When a bigger Union was built in the fifties, David C. Haines and Arne R. Purhonen were selected to remodel the Union Building interior for a music building. On March 11, 1957, it was officially renamed the Music Hall. It was completed January 1958.

The last building built around the U was the George Thomas Library. W.P.A. funds were provided under the National Recovery Act to finance its construction. Ashton and Evans were the architects. Raymond Ashton accompanied President George Thomas to California to consider buildings of concrete construction. \$550,000 was granted for construction and George Whitney and Sons of Ogden was the general contractor. On June 25, 1934, the cornerstone was placed, and the building was dedicated December, 1935. In the sixties the library outgrew this building and it was decided to remodel it to become the Utah Museum of Natural History. Plans were made late in 1966, but it was not until 1968 that they were approved and the remodeling work begun.

Obviously W.P.A. monies played a significant role in the development of the University. The depression of the thirties affected Utah as severely as it did the rest of the nation and the Public Works Program, applied through the University, supplied jobs, built up the campus and brought students back to the school. Historically it was the first support of state education with federal funds. Implementation of the Public Works Program began with the granting of \$30,000 to be used for employment of students on projects to improve the campus. The state legislature, in a special session in 1933, set up agencies to administer the funds. From 1933 through the rest of the decade there was a frequent allotment of federal money for projects in which the University was required to pay a portion of the total cost. In the autumn of 1935, 700 students were able to attend the University as a result of these funds. By September 1, 1941, the expenses on these projects totaled \$726,988 with the W.P.A. paying \$450,320 for labor and the University paying \$276,668 for materials. These funds were used for improvements on grounds and buildings chiefly by way of renovations and additions.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	APR 20 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 8

The University has continued to expand its boundaries beyond the 1894 grant. It acquired an additional 32 acres in 1904 and 61 acres from Fort Douglas in 1934. Three hundred additional acres were given in 1948, extending the campus eastward. Significantly the administrative facilities have remained in the Park Building, and this has kept the "U" as the gates of the University. Visitors, necessarily coming to the Park Building, approach the University through the giant horseshoe passing the main gates at the west end. Therefore the old portion of the campus remains the entrance to the rest of the area. Since Kingsbury Hall and the Museum serve the residents of Salt Lake, the old "U" is still the part of campus most often seen by visitors.

During the past 75 years the campus has grown to 1,500 acres with over 149 permanent buildings. There are 1,500 day classes offered each quarter through 15 colleges and professional schools. The enrollment has reached 23,000 students representing all 50 states and more than 50 foreign countries. The University has a staff of 6,677 and faculty of 3,153.



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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED FEB 10 1978

DATE ENTERED

APR 20 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The University of Utah Circle Historic District begins on University Street at a point approximately 310 feet north of the intersection of 200 South Street and University Street; then runs east approximately 430 feet behind buildings 1 and 2 (Union/Music Building and Kingsbury Hall) where it turns to the southeast at approximately a 45 degree angle for a distance of approximately 940 feet behind buildings 3, 4, and 5 (Physical Science Building/ John A. Widstoe Mathematical Building, Library/Communications Building, and Park Building) to the northeast corner of building 6 (Dining Hall/Geology Building) then south along the east side of the building to its southeast corner, a distance of approximately 125 feet, then west along the south side of building 6 and behind or on the south side of buildings 7, 8 and 9 (Museum/ James E. Talmadge Biology Building, Normal/Home Economics Building, and the George Thomas Library/Utah Museum of Natural History) a distance of approximately 1180 feet to University Street, then north along the east side of University Street, approximately 690 feet to the point of beginning.

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GREENHOUSE

PARK ANNEX

6  
GEOLOGY

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RESEARCH  
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PARK  
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RESEARCH  
PARK OFF.

BIOLOGY  
ANNEX

GEOPHYSICS  
RESEARCH

MATH 4

NORTH  
BIOLOGY

ANNEX

PHYSICAL  
SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY

CIRCLE

HOME 8  
ECON.

KINGS  
BURY  
HALL 2

MUSIC  
HALL 1

MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL  
HISTORY 9

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