

Utah State Historical Society

Property Type:

Historic Preservation Research Office

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

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 1450 S. Main Street UTM: 12 403360 4619780  
 Garland, Box Elder County, Utah  
 Name of Structure: Bear River High School Science Building T. 11 N R. 3 W S. 3  
 Present Owner: Box Elder School District  
 230 W. 200 South  
 Owner Address: Brigham City, Utah 84302

Year Built (Tax Record): Effective Age: Tax #: 05-169-0001  
 Legal Description: Kind of Building:

Located in Plat G Garland Townsite Survey; Beginning at a point 33 feet W and 33 feet S of NE corner of Section 3, T11N R3W Salt Lake Base and Meridian; thence S 1098 feet, W1111.2 feet, N 1098 feet, E 1108.9 feet, more or less, to beginning. Although other school buildings are located on this property, the only building intended for inclusion in this nomination is the Science Building. It is located in the NE corner (see cont. sheet)

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Box Elder School District Construction Date: 1935-36 Demolition Date:  
 Original Use: educational--school Present Use: educational--school  
 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 Box Elder News (Brigham City), 1935-36.  
 Forsgren, Lydia Walker. History of Box Elder County, n.p., n.d.

Architect/Builder: unknown

Building Materials: brick

Building Type/Style: PWA Moderne

Description of physical appearance & significant architectural features:  
(Include additions, alterations, ancillary structures, and landscaping if applicable)

The Science Building at Bear River High School is a 2-story structure indicative of WPA-sponsored buildings in Utah. It is basically designed in the PWA Moderne style and consists of a rectangular box with a pronounced central bay on the principal facade. The walls are red brick and there are decorative belt courses above both rows of windows. A belt course is found just above the tops of the upper windows and there is a low parapet wall with a contrasting concrete cap. The parapet is broken at wide intervals by castellations. There is an ogee arch over the recessed front entrance, a type of arch that is matched by the transom over the double front doors. A plaque is placed above the opening that is flanked by hard edge low relief geometric ornamentation. A heating plant was connected to the side of the building during the 1940s and a large addition was placed to the rear in the 1960s. These alterations, however, do not impinge upon the historic integrity of the original structure.

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date:1935-36

Built in 1935-36, the Bear River High School Science Building is part of the Public Works Buildings Thematic Resources 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 Bear River High School Science Building is one of 233 public works buildings identified in Utah that were built during the 1930s and early 1940s. Only 130 of the 233 buildings are known to remain today and retain their historic integrity. Of the 233 buildings, 107 of them were public school buildings; 55 of them remain. This was the only high school science building constructed. In Box Elder County a total of 7 buildings were constructed, 5 of which are known to be extant. Of the 7 originally built, 4 were public school buildings and 3 of the 4 remain.

(See Continuation Sheet)

Bear River High School Science Building  
History continued:

Construction of the Bear River High School Science Building was started in November of 1935 and completed in August 1936 in time for the opening of school. It originally housed the Bear River High School home economics department, the agricultural department, the biology department, the library, and a cafeteria.

Legal Description continued:

of the above-described property on a 200'x200' parcel, the northern and eastern boundaries of which are portions of the property lines previously described. Less than one acre.