

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 5 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 23 1976

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 **

Oregon Shortline Railroad Company Building / Salt Lake High School

AND/OR COMMON

Armory Building / Western Newspaper Union Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

126-140 Pierpont Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

CODE
49

COUNTY
Salt Lake

CODE
035

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

— DISTRICT

— PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

— UNOCCUPIED

X COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— STRUCTURE

— BOTH

— WORK IN PROGRESS

— EDUCATIONAL

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— OBJECT

— IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— BEING CONSIDERED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— NO

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Howard and Herald Gerber

STREET & NUMBER

126-140 Pierpont Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Salt Lake City and County Building

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE

August 20, 1975

— FEDERAL X 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

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

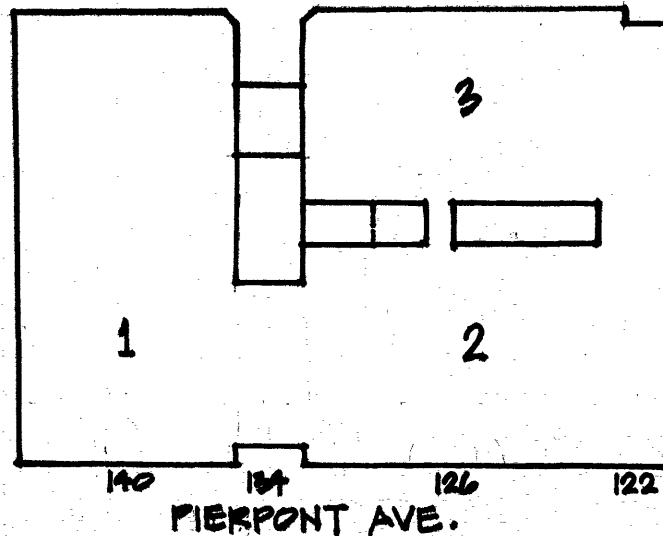
UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Architectural Description:

The complex of buildings constructed by the Oregon Shortline Railroad Company at 122-140 Pierpont Avenue has not experienced major changes in appearance since its initial construction in 1897-98. Maintenance having been largely neglected, the complex has been left unchanged over the years. Interior remodeling of the offices at 126 Pierpont constitutes the most significant change in appearance.

The railroad buildings are all connected but consist of three parts: 1) at the extreme west The Salt Lake High School Building (134-140 Pierpont), the tall, two story building with decorative facade and north-south orientation; 2) the lower two story building (at 122-126 Pierpont) with less decorative facade and east-west orientation; 3) to the north of the aforementioned building, an identical building separated from the other structures by open light wells but connected by brick-walled passageways. (See sketch below).



PLAN TAKEN FROM
SANBORN MAP

The entire complex is built of brick and has two stories, though height varies from 32 to 38 feet. Construction is of a simple wooden post and beam type, while the roofs are still trussed and gabled. The interior spaces are large and open with a minimum of partitioning. There are two distinct facade designs on the exterior.

The eastern section of the facade is the least decorative. The fenestration pattern consists of three sets of three Roman-arched bays. The elevation is divided vertically into three parts by thin pilasters. A stone belt course serves as the sill for the second story windows which come in three sets of four each, also being Roman-arched but much smaller than the windows below. The upper windows have double-hung sashes and transoms. The parapet wall has no cornice decoration. The pilasters, belt courses and corbeled brick arches are the only decorative elements of the building, which originally functioned as a warehouse.

The most interesting building architecturally is the one built to house the first Salt Lake High School. The facade is symmetrical and is slightly greater in width than in height. All window bays are square, tall and have double-hung sash windows. The upper windows come in sets of three, each of the three sets separated by large pilasters. The central window in each set has a classical pediment, either a Greek

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pyramid or a Roman arch, and a decorative frieze beneath each sill. Foliated scrolls fill the inset panels within each fancy pediment.

The pilasters have stylized capitals and give the impression of supporting an entablature which is really the parapet wall or false front concealing the gabled roof. A deep cornice with brackets and dentils crosses the front of the building, turns the corner and dies. The copper parapet wall emphasizes the centrality of the composition through its higher and more decorative facade wall which is situated directly over the pilasters and main entry below. The main entry is slightly recessed from the main plane of the facade. A set of double doors is surrounded by sidelights and two transoms overhead. This unlikely configuration is probably not original. A Roman arched panel with plaster foliated scrolls insets is situated at the top of the main entry bay giving depth and shadow to the design. A corbeled belt course serves as a continuous lintel for the windows of the main level. The various design elements have modest Renaissance Revival overtones and reflect Neuhausen's recent contact with styles in his native Germany.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1897-1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Carl M. Neuhausen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The complex of buildings found at 126-140 Pierpont Avenue was originally constructed by the Oregon Shortline Railroad Company during 1897-98. The earliest section of building, situated to the east of the existing structure, contained offices and has been razed. The OSLRR was organized in 1878 and gained control of Union Pacific Railroad interests in Utah in May, 1897, as the later railroad was forced into receivership in 1893. Anxious to quickly develop their enterprise, partners John E. Dooley, R. Mackintosh and R.C. Chambers commissioned local architect Carl M. Neuhausen, to draw up plans for a large office building, for which a building permit was taken out in June, 1897.

C.M. Neuhausen, born and trained in Germany, came to Salt Lake City in 1892 at the age of thirty-four and worked for three years under Utah's most prominent architect of that period, Richard K.A. Kletting. Neuhausen established his own office in 1895. The offices for OSLRR were his first major commission and represent his first independent design accomplishments. His success with this project propelled him into a long and prominent career, which produced the Thomas Kearns Mansion (NR), J.D. Wood Mansion, Cathedral of the Madeleine (NR), St. Ann's Orphanage, F.D. Clift Building, Orpheum Theatre, and a multitude of other impressive buildings.

Even before completion of the eastern section of the offices, Neuhausen was retained to design a large addition to the west of the original building. Apparently an agreement was made with the Salt Lake School Board which permitted the use of this annex for a high school. In addition, another building was to be constructed due west of the annex to be used specifically as a high school. The annex and new high school building were sufficiently completed by September, 1898, to be opened for school.

Originally nameless, Salt Lake High School was Utah's first high school and came into existence in 1890 following the passage of Utah's public school law. In its early days the school led a vagabond existence. First it was housed in the second floor of the Fremont School, then known as the Fourteenth Ward School. A few years later it was transferred to the Clayton Block at 214-218 South State. The next move was to the OSLRR annex and new high school building, the first structure specifically built to house a Utah high school.

The high school rented its new facility from the railroad but soon found that continued use of the building was contingent upon economic factors that influenced the OSLRR management. Despite its enthusiastic beginning, the OSLRR relinquished part of its interests to the Union Pacific Railroad in 1898, and by 1899 the UPR held nearly all OSLRR stock. Shortly thereafter, OSLRR again became a part of the UP.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Wain Sutton, ed. Utah A Centennial History, Vol. II, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., New York, 1949.
- Richard Campbell Roberts, "History of the Utah National Guard 1894-1954," Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Utah, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than One

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 2	4 2 4 5 4 0	4 5 1 2 7 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

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

Allen D. Roberts/Architectural Historian A. Kent Powell/Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

Utah State Historical Society

DATE

January 22, 1976

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

Melvin T. Smith

TITLE Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 22, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Melvin T. Smith

DATE

6/28/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Charles H. ...

DATE

6.18.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Consequently, because of changes in ownership of the building, and because the school had no recreational area and was made uncomfortable by the noisy boiler factory located next door, the school decided to seek other facilities. A fire in 1901 or 1902 forced the school out immediately. The old University buildings located on 200 West had recently been vacated and provided a new home for the school.

Beginning July 1, 1905, the complex of buildings on Pierpont Avenue was leased by the National Guard for use as an armory. The Salt Lake companies of the National Guard found the large assembly rooms to their liking and leased the buildings until 1924. During the twenty-year period during which the Pierpont Street Armory was occupied by the National Guard, it played an important role in military affairs in Utah. The National Guard was mobilized on three occasions: to guard the Mexican border in 1916; as part of the general mobilization during World War I; and in 1922 during a strike of Utah coal miners. In about 1940, the buildings were occupied by the Western Newspaper Union. Howard and Harold Gerber, brothers, presently own the buildings and run a small printing shop there while leasing the larger portions to the Restaurant and Store Equipment Company for use as a warehouse and workshop. The Gerbers plan to restore the buildings and have been approached by a professional theatrical group which may want to establish their theatre there.

In summary, the significance of this site derives from its being the early home of the Oregon Short Line Railroad, the first "permanent" home of Salt Lake City's first high school, the early home of the Salt Lake companies of the Utah National Guard, and the first major architectural work of Carl M. Neuhausen, prominent Utah architect.