#### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# 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 Smithfield Public Library
and/or common

2. Loca	ation						
street & number	25 N <del>ort</del> h Main	25 North Main St.				not for publication	
city, town	Smithfield	V	icinity of	congressional district	01 、		
state	Utah co	ode 049	county	Cache	code	<b>e</b> 005	
3. Clas	sification						
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership X public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Accessib X_ yes: r	cupied in progress <b>le</b>	Present Use agriculture commercial X educational entertainment government industrial military	museu park private religio scient transp other:	e residence us ific portation	
	<b>/</b>	-					

## 4. Owner of Property

name	Smithfield City Corr	poration		
street & number	69 South Main			
city, town	Smithfield	vicinity of	state	Utah
5. Loca	tion of Legal	Description		
courthouse, regist	ry of deeds, etc. Cache Co	unty Courthouse		
street & number	179 North Main			
city, town	Logan		state	Utah
6. Repr	esentation in	<b>Existing Surv</b>	eys	
title Utah Hist	coric Sites Survey	has this property bee	n determined ele	egible? yes _X no
date Summer 19	980	fi	ederal 🔀 stat	e county local
depository for surv	<b>vey records</b> Utah State H	istorical Society		
city, town Sal	Lt Lake City		state	Utah

# 7. Description

Condition		Check one
$\underline{X}$ excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
good	ruins	$\_X\_$ altered
fair	unexposed	

Check one \_\_X\_ original site \_\_\_\_ moved date \_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Smithfield Public Library is a one story brick building with a raised basement and flat roof. It was designed in the Prairie Style. Elements of the library that typify the application of the Prairie Style to small public buildings include the projecting central bay; the raised basement; the coping at the roof edge and on the walls of the stairs; the projecting sills over the windows that simulate the overhang found on residential examples of the Prairie Style; the vertical piers between the windows that balance the horizontal effect of the low massing and projecting sills, and the leaded glass windows which, though separated by piers, are arranged so that they resemble bands of windows.

The facade of the building is symmetrical and has an interlocking arrangement of elements. Horizontal elements include the coping at the roof edge, the projecting concrete sills over the windows and adjoining stripcourse, and the sills of the windows. Vertical elements include the massive piers that frame the projecting entrance, and the smaller piers that are on each side of the front door and those that divide the windows. That same geometric arrangement has been continued on a smaller scale in the lead stripping of the windows. This symmetrical, geometric treatment has been consistently employed on all the walls of the building with the exception of the windows on the basement well of the northwest corner of the rear of the building. There, instead of the four rectangular windows found on the other half of the wall, only one, half size window has been included. A single chimney stack at the rear of the building also breaks the symmetry.

The facade is divided by a central bay that projects over the roof edge as well as out from the primary wall. The roof edge has coping that has occasional indentations similar to widely spaced crenellation. Four long, narrow windows on each half of the main floor and four<sup>11</sup> half size basement windows alternate with brick piers capped with simple cornice blocks. A smaller concrete block divides each pier at the break in the window molding of the large windows.

The sidewalls have five, half size leaded glass windows set high on the wall alternating with short brick piers. A projecting lentil and sill frame the openings.

The rear of the building is also divided by a central bay. It has a picture window framed by two half size windows on the main floor, and three, half size basement windows. As on the facade, four windows on each half of the main floor alternate with brick piers. The windows on the rear of the building are all half size and have a simpler type of lead stripping than was used for the long windows on the facade.

There have been no major alterations made on the exterior of the building.

The interior of the building was remodeled in 1962-63 and again in 1977. These changes, however, are not reflected on the exterior.

# 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	community planning          conservation          economics          education          engineering          exploration/settlement	<ul> <li>landscape architecture</li> <li>law</li> <li>literature</li> <li>military</li> <li>music</li> <li>philosophy</li> <li>politics/government</li> </ul>	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1921	Builder/Architect Fred V	W. Hodgson	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1921 at a cost of \$20,000, the Smithfield Public Library is significant as the first public library in Smithfield and as a fine example of Prairie style architecture in Utah adapted to a small public building. It is also significant as an example of the work of architect Fred W. Hodgson, who designed a number of other buildings in Cache Valley, including the Cache Valley Bank, the Utah State Agricultural College Library, and the Smithfield Junior High School. The Smithfield Public Library was one of more than 1400 public libraries established throughout the U.S. between 1898 and 1920 primarily through grants from Andrew Carnegie, a multi-millionaire and steel magnate who felt that the rich had an obligation to use their excess wealth for the betterment of mankind. Twenty-three Carnegie libraries were established in Utah. He was particularly impressed with the value of public libraries, seeing them as a means of "moral elevation" and an agency for alleviating social ills. He hoped to stimulate a community's committment to establishing a free public library program by giving it much, but not all, of the money required to build a library, with the understanding that the community would be responsible for furnishing and maintaining it. That was the case in Smithfield.

In February 1915, the Smithfield City Council appointed two of its members to investigate the possibility of establishing a public library. Since the 1860s, Mormon Church wards had maintained small libraries to meet the needs of their members, but Smithfield had no public library. In a special election in 1917, Smithfield citizens approved a one mill levy to fund a public library. Following the election, city officials named a library commission to carry out the establishment of the library. Mayors in their time of office, would act as chairman of the board. In the fall of 1917, a temporary reading room was opened in the Second L.D.S. Ward Tithing Office. It was stocked with books donated by townspeople. While these preliminary efforts were being made, the library commission applied for a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. Local architect Fred W. Hodgson estimated the cost of a suitable building at \$20,000. The foundation granted \$12,000, with the city pledging the balance. Soon afterward, it became apparent that the one mill levy approved in 1917 was not enough to adequately finance the project. At a second bond election held on July 2, 1921, citizens approved an additional one mill levy for the library.

The architect of the building was Fred W. Hodgson, Cache Valley's most prominent architect of that time, and brother of well-known Ogden architect, Leslie S. Hodgson. Fred Hodgson was born in Salt Lake City March 17, 1886, son of Mary E. and Oliver Hodgson. After marrying Mary Eleanor Bingham, they moved to San Diego, California, where he completed the architectural training he had begun in Ogden under his brother. He practiced for several years in Ogden, and then moved to Logan, where he practiced architecture for the rest of his life.

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Smithfield Public Li Hovey, M.R., compile Ricks, Joel E. ed.,	ibrary" Logan Herald er, <u>An Early History</u> The History of a Va	Journal, March 18, of Cache Valley, Lo lley, SLC: Deseret Chicago: American I	
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#### **National Register of Historic Places Inventory**—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page

Verbal boundary description continued:

thence southwesterly down the center of said creek 147.5 ft. thence north 225 ft. thence east 197 ft. thence south 184 ft. more or less to the center of above said creek, thence northeasterly up the center of said creek, thence south 108 ft. thence east 237 ft. thence south 160 ft. to the place of beginning.