

Historic Preservation Research Office

Structure/Site Information Form

IDENTIFICATION 1

Street Address: 160 N. Main Street  
Manti, Sanpete County, Utah

UTM: 12 445160 4346500

Name of Structure: Sanpete County Courthouse

T. R. S.

Present Owner: Sanpete County  
160 N. Main Street

Owner Address: Manti, Utah 84642

Year Built (Tax Record):  
Legal Description

Effective Age:  
Kind of Building:

Tax #:

Lot 4, Block 77, Plat A, Manti City Survey.  
Less than one acre.

STATUS/USE 2

Original Owner: Sanpete County

Construction Date: 1935-37

Demolition Date:

Original Use: government

Present Use: government

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: 1984    Slide No.:    Date of Photographs: 1984    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.):

Manti Messenger (Manti, Utah), 1935-37.

Song of a Century: A Centennial History and Memory Book of Manti, 1849-1949. n.p., n.d.

Architect/Builder: unknown

Building Materials: stone

Building Type/Style: PWA Moderne

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

Successfully blending the formal symmetry of the classical tradition with the abstract starkness of the moderne, the Sanpete County Courthouse in Manti remains one of the best examples of the distinctive PWA Moderne architectural style in Utah. The design is tripartite and consists of a large two-story central block flanked by smaller two-story side wings. The roof is flat throughout and all corners are crisply squared. The locally quarried oolite limestone walls are smooth and the building has a monochromatic appearance. The expanse of the cream-colored walls is broken by contrasting window panels; narrow, vertical window panels are found on the central block while the horizontal is stressed on the openings of the side wings. The window muntins are arranged in decorative geometric patterns, and there is floral carving around the tops of the window panels on the central block. Large lanterns hang on either side of the entrance and are supported by iron rods that are secured to the wall above the level of the tops of the windows. The building remains in good original condition and there have been no significant alterations.

## Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: 1935-37

Built in 1935-37, the Sanpete County Courthouse 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 Sanpete County Courthouse is one of 233 public works buildings identified in Utah that were built during the 1930s and early 1940s. Only 130 of those 233 buildings are known to remain today and retain their historic integrity. This is one of 7 county courthouses that were built, 6 of which remain. In Sanpete County 18 buildings were built. This is one of 11 that remain.

The Sanpete County Courthouse was built between 1935 and 1937 as a Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) project at a cost of about \$90,000.  
(See Continuation Sheet)

## Sanpete County Courthouse History continued:

Excavation for the building began in March 1935. The cornerstone was laid on October 18, 1935. The building was completed in December 1937 and county officials moved into it during the week of December 13, 1937. Following its completion the sheriff's office, the county jail, and a kitchen were in the basement; offices for county officials and vaults were on the first floor; and more offices and the county courtroom on the second floor.

The architect of the courthouse is unclear. The Manti Messenger of March 8, 1935, page 1, says the architects were Young and Christensen of Salt Lake City, but no such firm existed.