USU HISTORICAL BUILDINGS
USU FACILITIES PLANNING

Compiled by: Rob Bouwhuis
## HISTORICAL BUILDINGS

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OLD MAIN - 001
“THE COLLEGE BUILDING”

Built: 1889
Architect: C. L. Thompson
Architectural Style: 
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 165,328
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations:
1892-93 – East central section & north wing
   Architect: Carl C. Schaub
1901-02 – West central section & tower
   Architect: H. H. Mahler
1988-90 – East entrance & rehabilitation
   Architect: Design West, - Logan, UT

History:

Old Main is the landmark of Utah State University and remains the oldest academic building still in use in the state of Utah. In 1889, plans for “The College Building” by C. L. Thompson were selected by the Board of Trustees just two weeks after the land for the Logan campus was secured. The site was chosen the next day so that the main tower would be due east of the end of Logan’s Seventh Street—Today’s Fifth North. Construction began immediately on the south wing of the three-part building and was completed in 1890.

With more money appropriated in 1892 than anticipated, the Trustees hired Carl C. Schaub to redesign an enlarged structure and the construction began for the east part of the central section and the north wing. It wasn’t until 1901 that the money was assured for the completion of the building. The front portion along with the tower was completed in 1902 with the design of H. H. Mahler.

Upon completion Old Main was one of the largest academic buildings in the country. Originally, it housed all departments for the college. It has housed a 1500-seat auditorium, a museum, offices, laboratories, a gymnasium, a library, a chapel and a military drill hall. It

Old Main from the South – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis

Old Main upon completion of the west tower – circa 1902. Photo: USU Special Collections, cyanotypes
also has included a woodworking shop, an iron working shop, a dairy room, a cafeteria, and up to 60 classrooms.

In 1909 the senior class placed an “A” on the west side of the tower as a gift to the college. An “A” was later placed on the other three sides.

Since its completion, Old Main has undergone numerous remodels as the college grew and changed. Most of these remodels were limited to the interior and did not affect the structure. The exceptions were a significant remodel following a fire on the third floor of the north wing in 1983, and the addition of a formalized entrance facing the Quad to the east in 1988-1990.

On June 3, 1970 Old Main was listed on the National Register of Historical Sites.

References:
PUBLIC RELATIONS - 003
“INFORMATION NEWS SERVICES,” “AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION”

Built: 1890
Architect: J.W. Sanborn
Contractor: Charles L. Crane & Co.
Architectural Style: 
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 4,565
Primary Use: Institutional Support
Additions / Renovations:
circa 1960 – Entrance replaced
Architect: Campbell-Rees Architect

History:

The Territorial Assembly of Utah in 1890 appropriated the funds to build a “Model Farm House” and a “Laboratory” (Experiment Station Building).

The Experiment Station was established for agricultural experimentation and research for the state of Utah as a result of the Hatch Act of 1887 in which the US government authorized an agricultural experiment station in each state in order to improve the productivity and stability of agricultural practices in the United States. The Experiment Station directed agricultural experiments that were conducted throughout the state.

While used as the Experiment Station, significant advancements in dry-land farming were developed in this building. In 1902-1912 it was the headquarters of the State Dry-Farm Experiments, sponsored by the State...
Legislature and the US Department of Agriculture. Standards in dry farming were developed from the station’s own experiments and knowledge from the experience of area farmers. The standardized techniques developed here for dry-farming were published in *Dry-Farming, a System of Agriculture for Countries under a low Rainfall* by John A. Widstoe (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1911), recognized by many to be the standard in dry-farming. Many other books and articles have been written as a result of the experiments and research accomplished under the direction of the Experiment Station.

The building housed the Experiment Station from 1890-1956. It has since been used by the Information News Services and Public Relations departments of the University.

The appearance of the two story brick building is still much as it was upon completion in 1890. Around 1960 the ornamental porch structure on the main entrance was removed and another entrance was created. In 2000-2001 a remodel was completed in which the ornamental porch was recreated, the roof replaced, interior refurbished and seismic upgrades made to the structure.

**References:**

David B. Haight Alumni Center - 004

"Model Farm House," "President's Home"

Built: 1891
Architect: J.W. Sanborn
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 10,507
Primary Use: Institutional Support
Additions / Renovations:
1983-1986 – Renovation
1991 – Eastward expansion of the Alumni Center to include a reception area.
   Architect: Jensen, Haslem, Campbell & Hardcastle, - Logan, UT

History:

Along with the Agricultural Experiment Station (Public Relations – 003), the Alumni Center received its funding through an appropriation from the Utah Territorial Assembly of 1890. It was built as a “Model Farm House” for the new Utah Agricultural College.

Utah Agricultural College President Jeremiah Sanborn helped in the design of the house and upon completion decided that it would be the perfect place for the president of the college to live. It was thereafter the official residence of the president and became known as the “President’s Home.” It served this purpose until President Stanford Cazier and his wife built a home off campus in 1983 following encouragement of from the State Board of Regents.

President and Mrs. Cazier thought that the Alumni Association would be the appropriate occupant for the “President’s Home.” The Alumni Council enthusiastically agreed to the arrangement and Utah State University’s Development office began a campaign in the spring of 1984 to raise money for the remodel of the president’s Home for the new Alumni...
Center. Nearly $300,000 was raised and the remodel was completed in October 1986.

Work was completed on the David B. Haight Alumni Center and it was dedicated in July 1991. The 110 year old home with its history, setting and beauty is a wonderful home for the Alumni Center and its reception center is one of the finest venues for meetings, dinners and receptions in northern Utah.

References:
Dedication Program, USU Special Collections 6.4 Box 1.

The Alumni Center served well as an office for the Alumni Association but many dreamed of a larger facility that would facilitate larger groups for receptions, programs, and dinners. Jon and Karen Huntsman donated a generous incentive gift and over 1000 other friends and alumni followed with contributions in excess of $1,000,000.
Built: 1950
Architect: 
Architectural Style: 
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 5,455
Primary Use: Public Service
Additions / Renovations: 

History:
FAMILY LIFE CENTER - 008

Built: 1926
Architect:
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 5,248
Primary Use: Public Service
Additions / Renovations:

History:
W.W. LUNDBURG - 012C

Built: 1950
Architect:
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 5,180
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations:

History:
RAY B. WEST - 013
“ENGINEERING BUILDING”

Built: 1918
Architect:
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 29,013
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations:

History:

Named after Dean Ray B. West of the engineering department. (1930's)

References:
Placing Corner Stones Feature of “A” Homecoming,
Herald-Journal, Nov 8, 1934 Vol 25 No. 262

Front entrance to Ray B. West building. It is named in honor of the dean of the school of engineering in the 1920's and 30's – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis
FAMILY LIFE - 016
“HOME ECONOMICS,” “COMMONS BUILDING”

**Built:** 1935  
**Architect:** Leslie Hodgson & Myrl McClenahan  
**Contractor:** Jacobson Construction, Salt Lake City (excavation)  
**Architectural Style:** Art Deco  
**Source of Funds:** Federal & State Government  
**Square Feet:** 46,745  
**Primary Use:** Instruction  
**Additions / Renovations:** 1960 – Cafeteria remodeled for labs, classes

**History:**

As the college entered into the thirties, one of the most pressing needs of the institution was proper housing for the Home Economics department, which was a fundamental field of the institution since the college began. The construction of the building was part of the college building program at the time. As such, the architectural plans for the building, drawn by Hodgson and McClenahan of Ogden, were completed for some time prior to its construction.

On October 18, 1933 the federal Public Works Administrator announced allotments in excess of ten million dollars for non-federal projects. As part of the allotment given to the state of Utah, was the sum of $325,000 to build the home economics and union building.

The building was to house the college’s school of Home Economics, art department, a cafeteria, part of the physiology and public health departments, and all student union activities. This project was also important because of the serious fire hazards that were present with the location of the cafeteria and art department in Old Main at the time.

It was one of over 230 public works buildings constructed in Utah under New Deal programs during the Depression years of the 30’s and 40’s. Of these buildings only around 130 are well preserved.

The building was constructed east of the engineering building (Ray B. West,) balancing
out the buildings on the Quad. A new entrance to the college was also built near the site of the building shortly prior to construction. A terrace opened from the second floor and overlooked the southern part of Cache Valley.

The Family Life Building is one of the best examples in Utah of the Art Deco style. It is three stories high and features bricks in decorative patterns along with custom cut stones as capstones and trim.

Interiors and furnishings in the building were of many different styles. Among the styles incorporated were early American, English, and Chippendale. The design of the lounges was inspired by the American wing of the Metropolitan Art Museum.

It quickly became the social center of the college with the location of the cafeteria, recreation rooms and student activities. It remained such until the construction of the student center building in 1953.

In 1960, a $70,000 remodeling job of converting the cafeteria/dining area into a research laboratory, nursery, and classrooms was completed.

It is listed on the National History Register.

References:
Commons, Herald Journal, Oct 27, 1960
Student Life, Jan 18, 1934, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 24
Logan Work Project is Endorsed, The Herald Journal, August 21, 1933
USAC Bulletin, 1939-1940, p.26
Pour Cement for College Building, The Herald Journal, Sep 7, 1934
GEOLOGY - 018
“Plant Industry”

Built: 1918
Architect:
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 59,851
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations:

History:

Geology building as seen from the Quad – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.

Rear of the geology building with the addition of the greenhouses – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.
ANIMAL SCIENCE - 019
“ANIMAL INDUSTRY,” “ANIMAL HUSBANDRY,” “DAIRY BUILDING”

Built: 1918
Architect: Cannon & Fetzer
Architectural Style: 
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 29,259
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations:
1940-41 – Remodel to include laboratories for nutrition and wood grading

History:

The Animal Husbandry building began construction in 1917 to fill the need for space for the animal husbandry, veterinary science, and poultry departments. With the completion of the building the college was able to further emphasize its work in dairying and animal husbandry.

The building was made of light brick and included a basement and three stories. The architectural scheme was made to match the other buildings on campus and the large building was a model in its class. It is located on the north side of the Quad near Old Main and the chemistry building. The exterior of the building has changed very little since completion.

Included on the first level of the building was the dairy, part of the animal husbandry department. The dairy was said to be one of the most modern and well equipped facilities of its kind in the entire West. The well equipped model farm dairy was designed for demonstrations to farmers of what kind of dairy they should have. The dairy manufacturing plant included rooms for making butter, cheese, cottage cheese, and ice cream.

*Photo: Rob Bouwhuis*

This photo taken from the tower of Old Main looking northeast onto the Quad. The Animal science building is shown on the left with the Geology building to the right – Unknown date.  
*Photo: USU Special Collections*
The rest of the building was devoted to an auditorium, classrooms, offices, and student and research laboratories. Later the horticulture department was located in the building. The Dairy has since been relocated as well as the veterinary science department when newer buildings were built to house them. From 1940-1941, new laboratories for research in nutrition and wood grading were installed.

References:
Student Life, Agricultural College of Utah, Oct 18, 1917, Jan 31, 1918, & May 9, 1918, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 9
Utah State Agricultural College Bulletin, 1940-1941, p 29, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 9
**GEORGE NELSON RECREATION CENTER - 023**

"FIELDHOUSE"

**Built:** 1937  
**Architect:** Ashton & Evans  
**Architectural Style:**  
**Source of Funds:** Pledged student building fees  
**Square Feet:** 56,365  
**Primary Use:** Student Services  
**Additions / Renovations:**

**History:**

North entrance of the fieldhouse as seen from the play fields across the street – 2002. *Photo: Rob Bouwhuis*

Old entrance on the southwest side of the fieldhouse. This entrance is no longer used to access the building – 2002. *Photo: Rob Bouwhuis*

The upstairs of the north end of the fieldhouse was recently remodeled to house plenty of exercise equipment for student use – 2002. *Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.*
**USU HISTORICAL BUILDINGS**

**MILITARY SCIENCE AND TACTICS - 025**

**Built:** 1940  
**Architect:**  
**Contractor:** Louis D. Young, Salt Lake City  
**Architectural Style:**  
**Source of Funds:** State Government  
**Square Feet:** 26,687  
**Primary Use:** Instruction  
**Additions / Renovations:**

**History:**

In order to strengthen the military program at the college, which is integral to the institution as a land grant college, the college built the Military Science building. It also allowed the college to free up a lot of space in Old Main and other buildings on the campus.

The new building was to house all the staff and equipment for the Military Science and Tactics department. The building contains class rooms, small arms and clothing storage, rifle range, fire proof storage for artillery and anti-aircraft equipment along with new expensive equipment the war department placed at the college. Its location directly east of the newly constructed fieldhouse, with an adjoining corridor, allowed the department to have field practices year round. It was one of the most complete, well equipped facilities of its kind in the West.

The building is two stories tall constructed of brick and concrete and was built at a cost of nearly $49,000. The style and brick for the building was made to match the fieldhouse.

Between 1946 and 1948 a remodel and addition was made to the building. The interior was altered to facilitate the growing ROTC units that used the buildings. The program grew from 4 instructors and 500 cadets in 1940 to 28 instructors and 1200
cadets in 1948. The alterations accommodated this growth as well as an increase in the equipment stored in the building. A small corrugated iron war surplus building was also constructed between the Military Science building and the fieldhouse. The equipment stored at the building increased over ten times in value.

References:
Utah Agricultural College Biennial Report, 1946-48, p.93, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 16
New Military Home To Be Built At USAC, Sep 6, 1939, Newspaper clipping from unknown source, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 16
Utah State Agricultural College Bulletin, 1940-41, p.29, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 16
New Military Science Structure To Be Built, Oct 25, 1939, Newspaper clipping from unknown paper, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 16
Ground Breaking For Building Set, Oct 27, 1939, Newspaper clipping from unknown paper, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 16
The Utah State Alumni Quarterly, Dec 1939, p.7, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 16
**AMPHITHEATRE - 026**

**Built:** 1935  
**Architect:** Grix, Mueller & Plowgian, Inc.  
**Architectural Style:**  
**Source of Funds:** Federal Government, Student Gift funds  
**Square Feet:** 2,003  
**Primary Use:** Student Services  
**Additions / Renovations:**

**History:**

In 1924 the Agricultural College of Utah dedicated an amphitheatre on a natural site on “College Hill” that would seat around eight hundred. The architects and many others involved with the project pronounced that its location was one of the most attractive sites in America. The picturesque views from the amphitheater include an overlook of the beautiful Cache Valley with the steep Wellsville Mountain Range rising above its western reaches. Behind the amphitheatre, to the east, is the Wasatch mountain range above the college campus.

For many years following, the College wanted to rebuild the amphitheatre in order for it to better accommodate many of the official events for the college such as commencement. In 1932 the Federal Emergency Relief Administration confirmed that it would construct the new amphitheatre. While the FERA, along with some student employment, provided most of the labor, the materials for the structure were mostly donated through gifts from various classes from as early as 1925.

The new amphitheatre was patterned after ancient Greek amphitheatres and could seat 1,500 people. The concrete structure took about two months to build and required slightly over $3,000 in materials and nearly $4,900 in labor to build.

As well as being used for commencement exercises, the amphitheatre was used for music festivals, summer festivals, and evening lectures during summer school. It was used many years for a variety of events as the weather permitted. The use of the facility declined, however, due to an increase in the student population and noise from the expanded Highway 89 nearby. The amphitheatre is still used on occasion for various activities held on campus.

**References:**

*The Journal*, Vol. XLVII No. 150, June 23, 1924, USU Special Collections  
Utah State Agricultural College Biennial Report, 1932-34, Pg 5, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 34  
*Student Life*, Utah Agricultural College, Friday, Oct. 5 1934, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 34  
*Placing Corner Stones Feature of “A” Homecoming*, The Herald Journal Vo. 25 No. 262, Nov 8, 1934
THE BARN - 031
“ART BARN”

Built: 1896
Architect:
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 10,562
Primary Use: Research
Additions / Renovations:

History:

The Art Barn was remodeled to house the ceramics and other art departments in 1955 after years of vacancy – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.

The Barn as seen from the southwest – 2002. It remains as icon to the agricultural past of the university. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.
**Built:** 1930  
**Architect:** Karl C. Schaub & Son  
**Contractor:** Earnest Stettler  
**Architectural Style:**  
**Source of Funds:** State Government, Public Health Services  
**Square Feet:** 49,778  
**Primary Use:** Research  
**Additions / Renovations:**

**History:**

The rarely seen back entrance to the Veterinary Science building – 2002. This section of the building is the only section of the exterior of the building that remains from the original. *Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.*
RAY L. & ELOISE H. LILLYWHITE - 037
“COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS BUILDING”

Built: 1946
Architect: Karl Schaub
Contractor: Raymond Construction
Architectural Style: 
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 19,852
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations: 

History:
TECHNOLOGY - 045

**Built:** 1948  
**Architect:** Karl C. Schaub & Son, Logan  
**Contractor:** Champion Company, Ogden  
**Architectural Style:**  
**Source of Funds:** State Government  
**Square Feet:** 38,513  
**Primary Use:** Instruction  
**Additions / Renovations:**

**History:**

With the largest post WWII registration of all the schools at Utah State Agricultural College, the school of Engineering and Technology was severely overcrowded. Many students had to be turned away while classes were being held in many different buildings on campus as well as some off campus. A new building became especially imperative when two downtown garages that were being used became unavailable. The 1947 State Legislature appropriated $215,000 to the college for the new building.

Local architects, Karl C. Schaub and son, designed the single story building out of brick and steel. The building plan is an H-shape with the wings on both sides being large open space shops. The central section of the building had offices and classrooms. The new building had more floor space with 34,000 square feet than any other building on campus except for the fieldhouse. It was the thirty-eighth major building for USAC.

The east wing was designed for use by the aeronautics department and the west wing for the automotive department. Each of the wings was equipped with the latest technologies for its respective field. The facilities were boasted to be the best of their kind in the Rocky Mountain region.

**References:**  
*Construction of New Technology Building at College Planned*, Jan 27, 1948, Newspaper clipping from unknown source, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 23  
*Utah State Agricultural College Biennial Report, 1946-48*, p.135, USU Special Collections 10.2 Box 1 Fd 23
COMPUTER CENTER - 057

Built: 1934
Architect: Lorenzo S. Young
Contractor: National Youth Administration
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 18,629
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations:

History:
UNIVERSITY RESERVE - 061

Built: 1951
Architect:
Architectural Style:
Square Feet: 17,581
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations:

History:
MITCHELL HOME - 063

Built: 1952
Architect: 
Architectural Style: 
Square Feet: 1,672
Primary Use: Public Service
Additions / Renovations: 

History:
Built: 1930
Architect: Paul K. Evans
Architectural Style: 
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 202,107
Primary Use: Academic Support
Additions / Renovations: 

History:

View across the Quad to the old Library before the expansions – unknown date. The original building was completely surrounded by two additions. Photo: USU Special Collections.

The Merrill Library after the second addition was completed – unknown date. Photo: USU Facilities Design and Construction files.

An architectural rendering of the Merrill Library after the additions – uncertain date. *Picture: USU Special Collections.*

The Hatch Room features hand carved linenfold panels as well as antique original paintings and tapestries – 2002. *Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.*

The marble fireplace in the Hatch Room – 2002. The Hatch Room is a less known feature of the library and can only be seen by permission. It houses many old and rare collections of literature and art. *Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.*
EAST CAMPUS OFFICE - 065

Built: 1949
Architect: (purchased)
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: State Government
Square Feet: 15,685
Primary Use: Institutional Support
Additions / Renovations:

History:
ANTHON H. LUND HALL - 066
“WOMEN’S RESIDENCE HALL”

Built: 1935
Architect: Young & Hansen
Contractor: Frank Campion
Architectural Style:
Source of Funds: College Housing Loan
  Program (under New Deal Program)
Square Feet: 22,579
Primary Use: Instruction
Additions / Renovations:

History:

Originally built as the women’s residence hall as a public works project in 1936-37, Lund Hall is on the state historic registry – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.

Front entrance of Lund Hall from the southeast – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.
Built: 1941
Architect:
Contractor: Stettler Construction
Architectural Style:
Square Feet: 11,520
Primary Use: Academic Support
Additions / Renovations:

History:

classes by satellite to USU extensions throughout Utah and neighboring states – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.

South side of the Multimedia & Distance Learning Center – 2002. Photo: Rob Bouwhuis.

The Multimedia & Distance Learning Center is used to broadcast KUSU public radio station and facilitate interactive