

OID NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received _____
date entered _____

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ogden Art Deco Buildings

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Multiple _____ not for publication

city, town Ogden _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1

state Utah code 049 county Weber code 057

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ogden/Weber Municipal Building

street & number 2541 Washington Blvd.

city, town Ogden state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Utah Historic Sites Survey/
title Ogden Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1979/1977 _____ federal state _____ county local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City state Utah

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ogden Art Deco Buildings Thematic Group Nomination includes the three most significant Art Deco structures in the city of Ogden and the state of Utah. Consisting of the U. S. Forest Service Building (1933), the Ogden High School (1937), and the Ogden/Webber Municipal Building (1939), the nomination is linked by its architecture, architects, and theme of public works programs during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Designed in the Art Deco Style by the architectural firm of Hodgson and McClenahan, these three public buildings create a cohesive trio in design, geography, and chronology; and reflect the contemporary desire for "modern," progressive buildings evident throughout the United States during the 1920s and 1930s. Art Deco was also particularly popular in Public Works Administration (PWA) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects, which were instrumental in introducing the style into Utah.

The Art Deco style originated as a style of ornament, whose debut is usually linked to the 1925 Exposition des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. The rectilinear, low-relief style represented a deliberate break with historical eclecticism--a "modern" style. Yet, it was modern in a manner different from Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie School work, where plan, form, and massing were revolutionary, and the lack of ornament, or its comparative leanness and simplicity, was conspicuous. In Art Deco designs ornament is a distinguishing factor. It plays an integral role in the emphasis of vertical movement and the undulating spatial planes and setbacks which are identifying aspects of the massing schemes. Sharply defined, low relief geometric shapes with vertical or diagonal emphasis, chevrons and zigzags, fluting and reeding, and regular curvilinear motifs vaguely reminiscent of floral forms are typical Art Deco ornamental features. In architecture, these designs are characteristically found in spandrel areas between vertical piers, or around entrance areas, and are often of contrasting material.

These elements of the Art Deco Style are reflected in the three Ogden buildings. All were constructed of brick with glazed terra cotta trim. The U. S. Forest Service Building and the Municipal Building are both characterized by the vertical implications of the Art Deco Style. This contrasts somewhat to the Ogden High School which exhibits a horizontal massing. However, in the High School the main entrance is determined by a tall rectangular mass. There is greater spatial undulation here than in other parts of the building and a more vertical feeling. Rectangular and geometric units arranged in various set back modes also characterize these structures, but unlike the symmetry present in the Forest Service and Municipal buildings, the High School displays similarly detailed rectangular units of varying heights arranged in an asymmetrical massing.

All structures display typical Art Deco geometric and/or floral motifs. In the Forestry building a terra cotta stringcourse with a repeated geometric and floral motif separates the first and second stories. Terra cotta spandrels, existant in vertical bays which separate the second to fourth story facade, display sharply modeled geometrical designs emphasizing vertical and diagonal movement. Spandrels above the fourth story have combined geometrical and floral motifs also reflecting verticals and diagonals. Side elevations repeat that of the main facade. The High School also exhibits spandrels that reveal

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

decorative masonry with the geometric Art Deco character, stressing verticals and diagonals in the corbelling patterns. Cast terra cotta spandrels at the entrance have geometric floral motifs, and each of the four entrance doors has a geometric patterned metal grill transom. This compares to the entrance of the Municipal Building which has four steel frame doors, each having a tall transom which displays a metal grill with pierced geometric designs. The doors and transoms all have a terra cotta surround. The flat roofs in the Municipal Building are capped with contrasting glazed terra cotta trim which undulates respectively to the walls and pilasters, activating the roofline and terminating the vertical movement with crisp geo-curvilinear shapes. All structures exhibit some period furniture in the Art Deco Style.

The buildings were designed by the firm of Hodgson and McClenahan (1919-1940). Leslie S. Hodgson, who came up with the firm's design concepts, is considered the most important architect of the Ogden-Weber County area during the late 1890s to 1947. Before and during his partnership with Myrl A. McClenahan he was awarded many important local commissions. McClenahan joined Hodgson as a partner in 1919 after working in his office for seven years. Hodgson had already distinguished himself as the architect for a number of houses in the David Eccles Subdivision (in the National Register). As a partner of J. A. Smith from 1906-1910 he collaborated on designs for Peery's Egyptian Theatre (National Register), the Union Stock Yards, Elk's Lodge, Washington School, Lorin Farr School and other area buildings. He practiced not only in the Prairie School and Art Deco Styles, but in several period revival styles. McClenahan is best known for his association with Hodgson. Their commissions together not only included the Forest Service Building, Ogden High School, and Municipal Building, but also the Ogden Stock Show Coliseum, the Stock Exchange Building, and the National Guard Amory in Ogden.

Research has revealed that the three Ogden buildings were constructed as part of the Federal Government's response to the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Forest Service Building was among those built after the first appropriation of funds by congress in the early years of the depression (1930-1932). The Ogden High School and Municipal buildings were both Public Works Administration projects designed to put people to work and create useable structures for the future.

During the past five years state and local surveys have been conducted which have identified various of the state's Art Deco buildings. This thematic nomination is based on these surveys as well as the work of Professor Peter L. Goss, University of Utah School of Architecture, who stated that the Art Deco Style, "had little effect in the state--with the exception of the 1936 Ogden High School and the 1938 Ogden-Weber Municipal Building (Art Deco) both by Hodgson and McClenahan. . ." It also represents an ongoing effort in identifying significant buildings constructed as part of the various public works programs during the 1930s depression.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

Notes

¹Peter L. Goss, "The Architectural History of Utah," Utah Historical
Quarterly 43(Summer 1975): 235-236. --

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1933, 1937, 1939 **Builder/Architect** Hodgson & McClenahan, Architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ogden Art Deco Buildings Thematic Group Nomination

U. S. Forest Service Building
507 25th Street
Ogden, Utah

Ogden High School
2828 Harrison Avenue
Ogden, Utah

Ogden-Weber Municipal Building
2541 Washington Blvd.
Ogden, Utah

The Ogden Art Deco Buildings Thematic Nomination, comprising the U. S. Forest Service Building (1933), Ogden High School (1937), and the Ogden/Weber Municipal Building (1939) are exceptionally significant because they represent the most significant Art Deco structures in Ogden and the state of Utah. Additionally, they represent important works of the architectural firm of Hodgson and McClenahan, and are excellent examples of federal work projects initiated during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

During the first four decades of the twentieth century, Ogden, Utah's second largest city and an early transportation hub of the state, was the center for avant garde architecture in Utah. Important regional examples of the Prairie School and the Art Deco (or Modernistic) Style, the two leading non-historical styles of this period, are found in Ogden. In fact, the impact of contemporary design has left a stronger legacy in Ogden in large commissions that it did in Salt Lake City. Shorter lived and less influential than the Prairie Style in the intermountain west, the Art Deco Style is well represented in Ogden by these three public buildings, which create a cohesive trio in design, geography, and chronology. They reflect the contemporary desire for "modern" progressive buildings evident throughout the United States during the 1920s and 1930s.

Designed by the firm of Hodgson and McClenahan, the three buildings are considered among their most important commissions. In fact, for Leslie S. Hodgson, labeled as the most important architect of the Ogden-Weber County area from the late 19th to the mid 20th century, the Ogden High School was regarded as his masterpiece, "the culmination of almost four decades' work." Hodgson worked in various styles, exhibiting a command in the Prairie School, several period revival styles, such as Egyptian Revival, and the Art Deco.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

As federal relief projects the structures are three among eleven significant buildings identified statewide that were part of the government's response to the Great Depression.² The U. S. Forest Service Building is of special importance in this regard because it numbered among the initial projects funded by congressional appropriations in the early years of the depression, prior to the formal organization of the Public Works Administration. The Ogden High School and Municipal Building were both PWA projects which, like the other, utilized local labor and materials as much as possible. They represent the continued identification of depression-period buildings of significance built in Utah.

The City of Ogden formed Utah's second largest city and served as a railroad center in the state's transportation network. As such, it became a progressive city and is considered as a center for avant garde architecture in Utah during the first four decades of the twentieth century. In assessing the Art Deco style in Utah, Peter L. Goss maintained that it "had little effect in the state--with the exception of the 1936 Ogden High School and the 1938 Ogden-Weber Municipal Building. . . perhaps because of the generally smaller scope of projects being built in Utah in comparison to those in the more populated areas of the country."³

With Ogden serving as an important northern Utah financial center, and as a significant regional location for federal government installations, the architect Leslie S. Hodgson found an environment in need of his services. Hodgson was born December 18, 1879 in Salt Lake City, Utah, the son of Oliver Hodgson, himself a builder. He studied architecture, apprenticed under prominent Utah architects Samuel S. Dallas and Richard K. A. Kletting, and worked as a draftsman for the San Diego office of Hebbard and Gill. Irving Gill had worked in Chicago for Adler and Sullivan (Louis Sullivan), and came under the influence of the Prairie School, which he passed on to his draftsman, Leslie Hodgson.

Hodgson returned to Utah in 1906, settled in Ogden and began his practice of architecture. He established a partnership with J. A. Smith (1906-1910), then practiced solo several years before establishing a firm with Myrl A. McClenahan, which opened a new era in Ogden architecture.⁴ Leslie provided

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

the design concept sketches to McClenahan who would then turn out working drawing details. As was stated in a history of Hodgson,

The partners shared a perfectionism and concern with detail, as evidenced by their beautiful Forest Services Regional Office Building. Hodgson and McClenahan personally selected the placement of every single brick in the building, in order to achieve a basement-to-cornice, dark-to-light ombre shading, so subtle as to be perceptible only when pointed out from a block-away vantage point and re-examined close up.⁵

The firm of Hodgson and McClenahan produced some of Ogden's most diverse architecture, including Peery's Egyptian Theatre (National Register). During Hodgson's forty-year career he demonstrated a mastery of many styles -- Wrightian Prairie Style homes and a chapel, classical revival mansions, Egyptian Revival theater, commercial works (such as the Eccles Building - National Register), and the Art Deco Style of the U. S. Forest Service Building, Ogden High School, and Ogden Municipal Building, which capped his career. The Ogden High School "was regarded as his [Hodgson's] masterpiece, the culmination of almost four decade's work."⁶

All three Art Deco building were products of the federal relief program of the 1930s. In the early 1930s Congress appropriated \$250,000,000 for a depression construction fund. Among those projects funded was a new headquarters building for the U. S. Forest Service Region Four. A contract was let to Murch Brothers Construction, St. Louis, on December 20, 1932 for \$229,000, and work began in January 1933. Local labor was employed when available and the granite used came from the Raymond Granite Quarries of California. Local brick and lumber were also utilized.⁷

Characterized by a most functional design, the Forestry headquarters was a model Art Deco example. Brick, cast stone, and terra cotta contrasted in texture more than in color in the four story structure, enhancing the tightness of the undulating facade. A low, square tower was included, centered above the entrance of the main facade. This was to house a greenhouse for the intermountain forest and range experimental station. Thus, form and function were of importance in the architectural design.

EXP. 12/31/34

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

Even while the forestry building was under construction, Ogden City sought funds from the Public Works Administration for a new high school. In June, 1933 the Ogden City Board of Education decided to apply for approximately \$600,000 from PWA state director R. A. Hart. After delays in the funding the school was eventually finished and dedicated in October, 1937.⁸ Leslie Hodgson not only produced the design but also supervised the construction of the school which cost \$1,150,000. In this building Hodgson varied characteristics of the Art Deco Style in the asymmetry and horizontal massing of the structure, but utilized vertical bands of metal frame windows and spandrels that revealed decorative masonry with geometric Art Deco elements, stressing vertical and diagonals in the corbelling patterns.

Upon completion of the school state PWA director Hart stated that his department's aims were to, 1) put men back to work, and 2) to build worthwhile buildings. Both were amply achieved in the Ogden High School, PWA project #1423. James H. Riley served as the president of the Ogden Board of Education, and A. M. Merrill became the school's principal.⁹

Officials were conferring on a consolidation of Ogden City and Weber County facilities in Ogden at least as early as March, 1934.¹⁰ By October, 1937 a joint grant by Ogden-Weber for PWA funds was in the works.¹¹ Federal funds were curtailed and the grant delayed until 1938. By October, 1938, plans had been drawn by Hodgson and McClenahan and the old Ogden City Hall razed. General contractor for the project was George A. Whitmeyer & Sons, Ogden. The building was completed in June, 1940, and dedicated in November, 1940.¹² Costs of the structure totaled \$952,668.52, with the PWA paying 43% or \$410,175.00, and Ogden City-Weber County each contributing \$271,246.75 or 28 1/2% of the cost.¹³

These Art Deco buildings continue to function as they did when built, and retain their historic integrity. As a group they document the best Art Deco designs in Utah, the design capabilities of the architectural firm of Hodgson and McClenahan, and help to document the role of federal relief programs in the City of Ogden and the State of Utah during the depression years of the 1930s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 5

Notes

¹Teddy Fullmer, "The Hodgsons: Two Generations of Utah Building," unpublished manuscript, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society, 1980, p. 1.

²Others identified and listed in the National Register include: War Veterans Memorial Building, Park City Main Street Historic District, Park City, Summit County; Price Municipal Building, Price, Carbon County; Helper Civic Auditorium, Helper Commercial District, Helper, Carbon County; Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant Historic Commercial District, Sanpete County; Bryce Canyon Airport Hangar, Garfield County; George Thomas Library and annex to Geology Building, University of Utah Circle, Salt Lake City; and the Salt Lake County Library, Midvale.

³Goss, "Architectural History of Utah," pp. 235-236.

⁴Fullmer, "The Hodgsons," p. 8.

⁵Ibid., p. 9.

⁶Ibid., pp. 1, 9-10.

⁷Deseret News (Salt Lake City), June 19, 1933, p. 1; and The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 16, 1933, p. 3.

⁸The Ogden Standard Examiner, June 18, 1933, p. 1; June 21, 1933, p. 1; and Deseret News, October 30, 1937, p. 3.

⁹Deseret News, October 30, 1937, p. 3.

¹⁰Deseret News, March 26, 1934, p. 11.

¹¹Deseret News, October 15, 1937, p. 3.

¹²Newspaper clippings, Ogden-Weber Municipal Building File, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society.

¹³[Elizabeth Tillotson], A History of Ogden -- 1960 (Ogden: Ogden City, 1962), p. 10.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Deseret News, June 19, 1933, p. 1; October 30, 1937, p. 3; October 15, 1937, p. 3; March 26, 1934, p. 11.

Fullmer, Teddy, "The Hodgsons: Two Generations of Utah Building," unpublished manuscript, Preservation Office, Utah State Historical Society, 1980, p. 1.

Goss, Peter L., "The Architectural History of Utah," Utah Historical Quarterly 43 (Summer 1975): 235-236.

Malmgren, Larry H., "A History of the WPA in Utah" (M.S. thesis, Utah State University, 1965), p. 16.

Newspaper clipping, dated April 28, 1938, "Clippings File," Utah State Historical Society Library.

"Ogden High," Utah Preservation/Restoration 2(1980): 57.

"Ogden's Million Dollar High School" The Utah Educational Review 31 (October-November 1937); 61.

The Ogden Standard Examiner, July 16, 1933, p. 3; April 10, 1939; April 30, 1939; June 18, 1933, p. 1; June 21, 1933, p. 1.

Polk, R. L., & Company, Ogden City Directory 1933, p. 544.

Salt Lake Tribune, April 24, 1939; October 2, 1938; March 3, 1949; October 17, 1940.

Tillotson, Elizabeth, A History of Ogden -- 1960 (Ogden: Ogden City, 1962), p. 10.

Street Address:

Site No:

ARCHITECTURE 4

Architect/Builder: **Hodgson & McClenahan / George A. Whitmeyer & Sons**

Building Materials: **Brick; glazed terra cotta**

Building Type/Style: **Art Deco**

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

Photos

HISTORY 5

Statement of Historical Significance:

Construction Date: