

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN
FOR THE
GEORGE THOMAS BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH**



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FOR THE
GEORGE THOMAS BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH**

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Contents

Site and Building Plans.....	1
Original Site Plan and Floor Plans.....	2
Test Fit and Adjacency Diagrams.....	7
Executive Summary.....	11
Introduction.....	13
Historic Context, Description, and Significance.....	15
George Thomas Building.....	15
Cottam’s Gulch.....	20
Stewart Building.....	21
Timeline.....	24
Significance Levels and Zones.....	27
Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.....	27
Integrity.....	28
Significance Levels and Zones.....	29
Inventory of Primary and Secondary Contributing Zones.....	31
Definitions.....	31
George Thomas Building Exterior.....	33
Vestibule, Lobby, and Main Staircase.....	42
Delivery Hall.....	49
Main Reading Room.....	56
Reserve Book Reading Room (Northeast).....	65
Reserve Book Reading Room (Southeast).....	69
Periodical Room.....	72
Graduate Reading Room.....	75
Cottam’s Gulch.....	80
Stewart Building.....	87
Conclusions and Recommendations.....	89
References.....	90

Figures

Figure 1.	Proposed site plan as prepared by EDA Architects, 2013.....	1
Figure 2a.	Original site plan for the George Thomas Library prepared by Ashton and Evans, 1933.....	2
Figure 2b.	Original basement plan for the George Thomas Library prepared by Ashton and Evans, 1933.....	3
Figure 2c.	Original first floor plan for the George Thomas Library prepared by Ashton and Evans, 1933.....	4
Figure 2d.	Original second floor plan for the George Thomas Library prepared by Ashton and Evans, 1933.....	5
Figure 2e.	Original third floor plan for the George Thomas Library prepared by Ashton and Evans, 1933.....	6
Figure 3a.	Final test fit diagram prepared by EDA Architects for the basement level of the George Thomas Building/Crocker Science Center, 2013.....	7
Figure 3b.	Final test fit diagram prepared by EDA Architects for the first floor level of the George Thomas Building/Crocker Science Center, 2013.....	8
Figure 3c.	Final test fit diagram prepared by EDA Architects for the second floor level of the George Thomas Building/Crocker Science Center, 2013.....	9
Figure 3d.	Final test fit diagram prepared by EDA Architects for the third floor level of the George Thomas Building/Crocker Science Center, 2013.....	10
Figure 4.	View of the University of Utah campus in 1946, showing the George Thomas Building (No. 20) and the Stewart Building (No. 21). Cottam’s Gulch, in the foreground, appears to have an unstable earth slope at its head, no paved path or staircase, and only immature trees.....	23
Figure 5.	Historic significance diagrams for the George Thomas Building (courtesy EDA Architects).....	30
Figures 6a and 6b.	Views of the George Thomas Library showing a) the north and east elevation shortly after construction in 1936 and b) the north elevation in 1950. (Courtesy Utah State Historical Society.).....	38
Figures 6c and 6d.	Views of the main entrance on the north side of the George Thomas Library, c. 1950s. (Courtesy University of Utah Health Sciences Collection.).....	39
Figures 7a–7d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the a) main façade (facing southeast); b) west side (facing east); c) south side (facing north); and d) south and east sides (facing northwest).....	40
Figures 7e–7i.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the e) main entrance with newer ramp (facing south); f) main reading room windows and cornice (facing east); g) original light fixture at entry (facing west); h) loggia (facing west); and i) main entrance doors (facing south).....	41
Figures 8a and 8b.	View of the staircase and main lobby of the George Thomas Library c. 1935, a) facing southwest and b) c. 1950 facing south. (Courtesy a: Utah State Historical Society and b: from National Register of Historic Places nomination form.).....	47
Figures 9a–9e.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the a) vestibule (facing west); b) vestibule entrance doors (facing south); c) lobby and vestibule doors (facing north); d) main staircase (facing south); and e) partition doors in west arm of lobby (facing west).....	48

Figure 10a.	View of the delivery hall on the second floor of the George Thomas Library c. 1935, facing west. The Main Reading Room is approached through the doors on the right. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.).....	53
Figures 10b and 10c.	Views of the delivery hall on the second floor of the George Thomas Library c. 1935, showing b) the delivery desk on the south side of the hall and c) the studded leather entry doors leading into the Main Reading Room on the north side of hall. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.).....	54
Figures 11a–11d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the a) delivery hall (facing west); b) west end of hall (facing west); c) delivery hall (facing east); and d) original delivery desk area at the center of the south wall (facing southeast).....	55
Figure 12a.	View of the Main Reading Room in the George Thomas Library c. 1935, prior to the installation of furniture, facing west. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)	60
Figures 12b and 12c.	From left to right: View of the Main Reading Room in the George Thomas Library c. 1935–1950, b) facing east and c) facing west. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)	61
Figures 13a–13d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the main reading room a) at the west end (facing northwest); b) at the center (facing northwest); c) at the center (facing east); and d) at the east end (facing northeast).....	63
Figures 13e–13i.	Top left to bottom right: Details of the main reading room, including a) window transom and reveal treatments; b) window casing and reveal treatments; c) original light recesses and decorative ceiling bands; d) an air return grate in the south wall; and i) original bookcases.	64
Figure 14.	View of the reserve book reading room on the northeast corner of the first floor c. 1935, facing southeast. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)	67
Figures 15a–15d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the reserve book reading room on the northeast corner of the first floor: a) general view (facing southeast); b) windows and cornice (facing northeast); c) paneling and doors to hallway; and d) air return grate and cornice (south wall).	68
Figures 16a–16d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the reserve book reading room on the southeast corner of the first floor: a) general view (facing southeast); b) windows and damaged wall (facing northeast); c) wood-grained duct cover (facing east); and d) cornice and ceiling treatment (facing southeast).....	71
Figures 17a–17d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the periodical room on the southeast corner of the second floor: a) general view (facing northeast); b) original window, wood blind, book cases and floor behind false wall on south end (facing west); c) wood-grained duct cover and possibly covered bookcases (facing northeast); and d) original doors leading into main reading room (facing north).	74
Figure 18.	View of the Graduate Reading Room on the third floor c. 1950s, facing northeast. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)	78
Figures 19a–19d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the graduate reading room on the southeast corner of the third floor: a) general view (facing northeast); b) original book cases (facing southeast); c) detail of bookcases (facing north); and d) detail of ceiling treatment (facing northwest).	79

Figure 20a.	Aerial view of University of Utah Circle with Cottam’s Gulch extending diagonally toward the bottom right of the photograph. The date is c. 1920–1932, after the construction of the Stewart Building and prior to construction of the George Thomas Library. (Courtesy University of Utah.)	81
Figure 20b.	Aerial view of University of Utah Circle facing southeast, with Cottam’s Gulch extending toward the right side of the photograph. The date is c. 1920–1932, after the construction of the Stewart Building and prior to construction of the George Thomas Library. (Courtesy University of Utah.)	82
Figures 21a–21d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of Cottam’s Gulch, including: a) general view from the west side of the George Thomas Building (facing south); b) general view from the south side of the George Thomas Building (facing west); c) view from University Street toward the George Thomas Building (facing northeast); and d) view toward University Street (facing west).	83
Figures 21e–21h.	Top left to bottom right: Details of Cottam’s Gulch, including: e) the head of the gulch adjacent to the southwest corner of the George Thomas Building (facing northeast); f) the staircase and “U” planter at the head of the gulch (facing southeast); g) a disused in-ground concrete tree marker in the gulch; and h) an older tree label on a tree adjacent to the George Thomas Building.....	84
Figure 22.	Plan of the landscaped area around the George Thomas Building with the proposed addition shown. The locations of existing trees that may be impacted by the addition or related construction activities are numbered. See Table 15 for available information on these trees.....	85
Figures 23a–23d.	Top left to bottom right: Views of the Stewart Building, including: a) the west façade (facing southeast); b) the east façade (facing southwest); c) the north end of the building adjacent to the George Thomas Building (facing northeast); and d) detail of the north side and part of the west façade (facing southeast).	88

Tables

Table 1.	Inventory of existing architectural elements and features on the exterior of the George Thomas Building and recommendations for treatment.....	33
Table 2.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the exterior of the George Thomas Building.....	37
Table 3.	Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the vestibule, lobby, and main staircase of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.....	43
Table 4.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the vestibule, lobby, and main staircase of the George Thomas Building.	46
Table 5.	Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the delivery hall of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.....	50
Table 6.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the delivery hall of the George Thomas Building.....	52

Table 7.	Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the main reading room of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.....	57
Table 8.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the main reading room of the George Thomas Building.	59
Table 9.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the reserve book reading room (northeast) of the George Thomas Building.....	66
Table 10.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the reserve book reading room (southeast) of the George Thomas Building.	70
Table 11.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the periodical room of the George Thomas Building.....	73
Table 12.	Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the graduate reading room of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.....	75
Table 13.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the graduate reading room of the George Thomas Building.	77
Table 14.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for Cottam’s Gulch.	80
Table 15.	Existing trees adjacent to the George Thomas Building and/or Cottam’s Gulch that may be affected by the proposed new addition and related construction activities for the Crocker Science Center. See Figure 22 for a plan of tree locations.	86
Table 16.	Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the Stewart Building.....	87

Appendix

Appendix A.	Original Building Plans
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SITE AND BUILDING PLANS

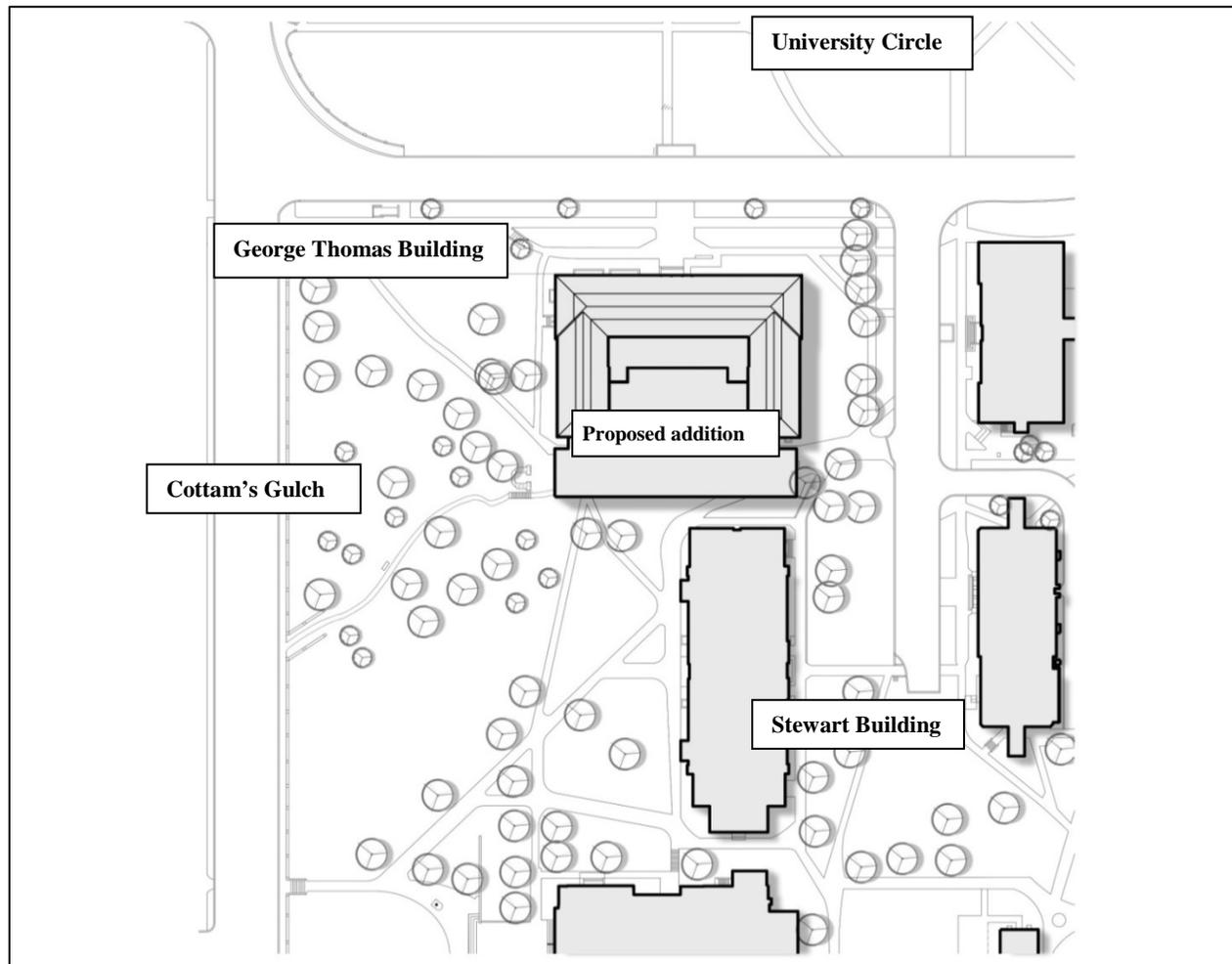


Figure 1. Proposed site plan as prepared by EDA Architects, 2013.

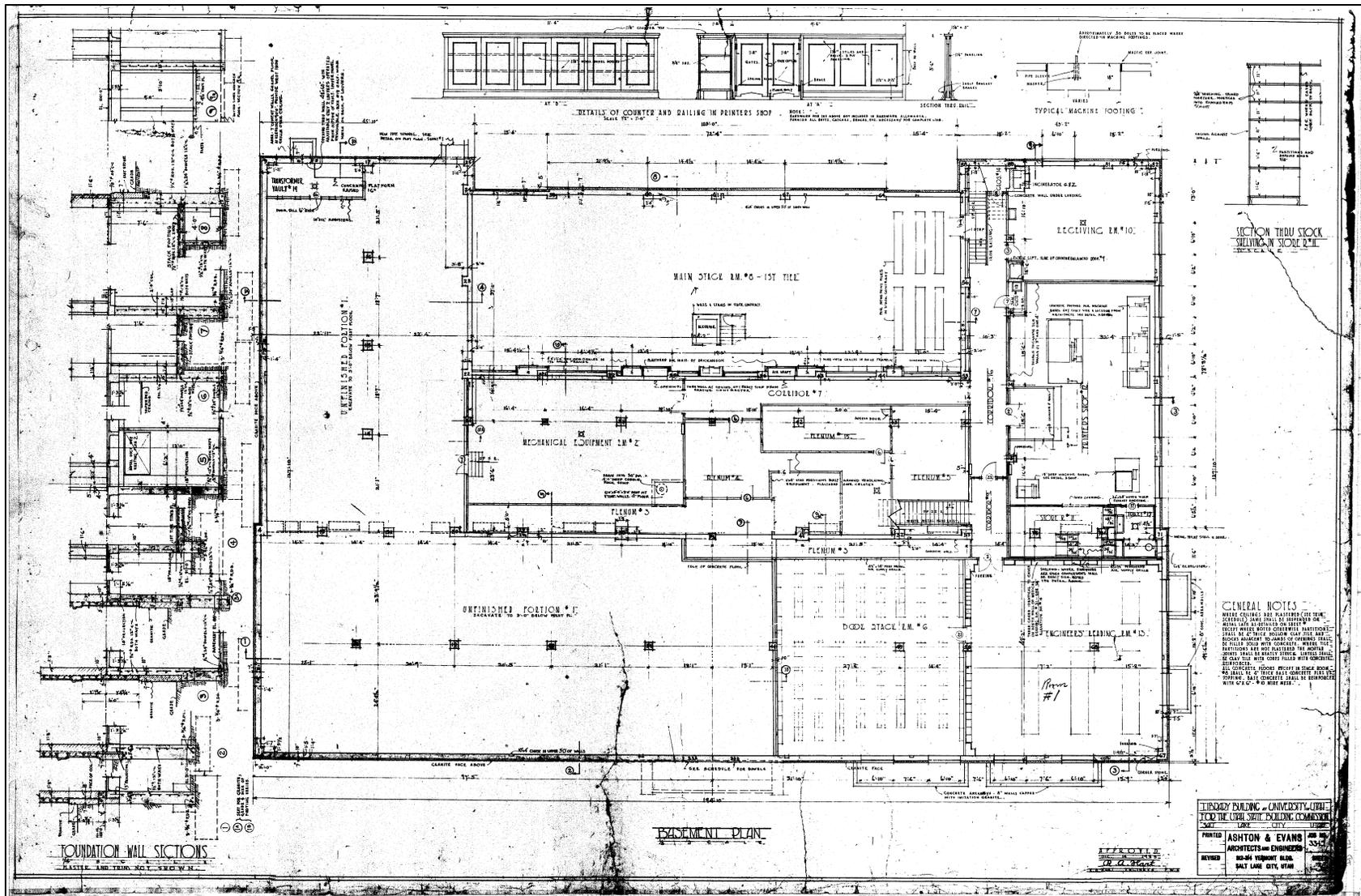


Figure 2b. Original basement plan for the George Thomas Library prepared by Ashton and Evans, 1933.

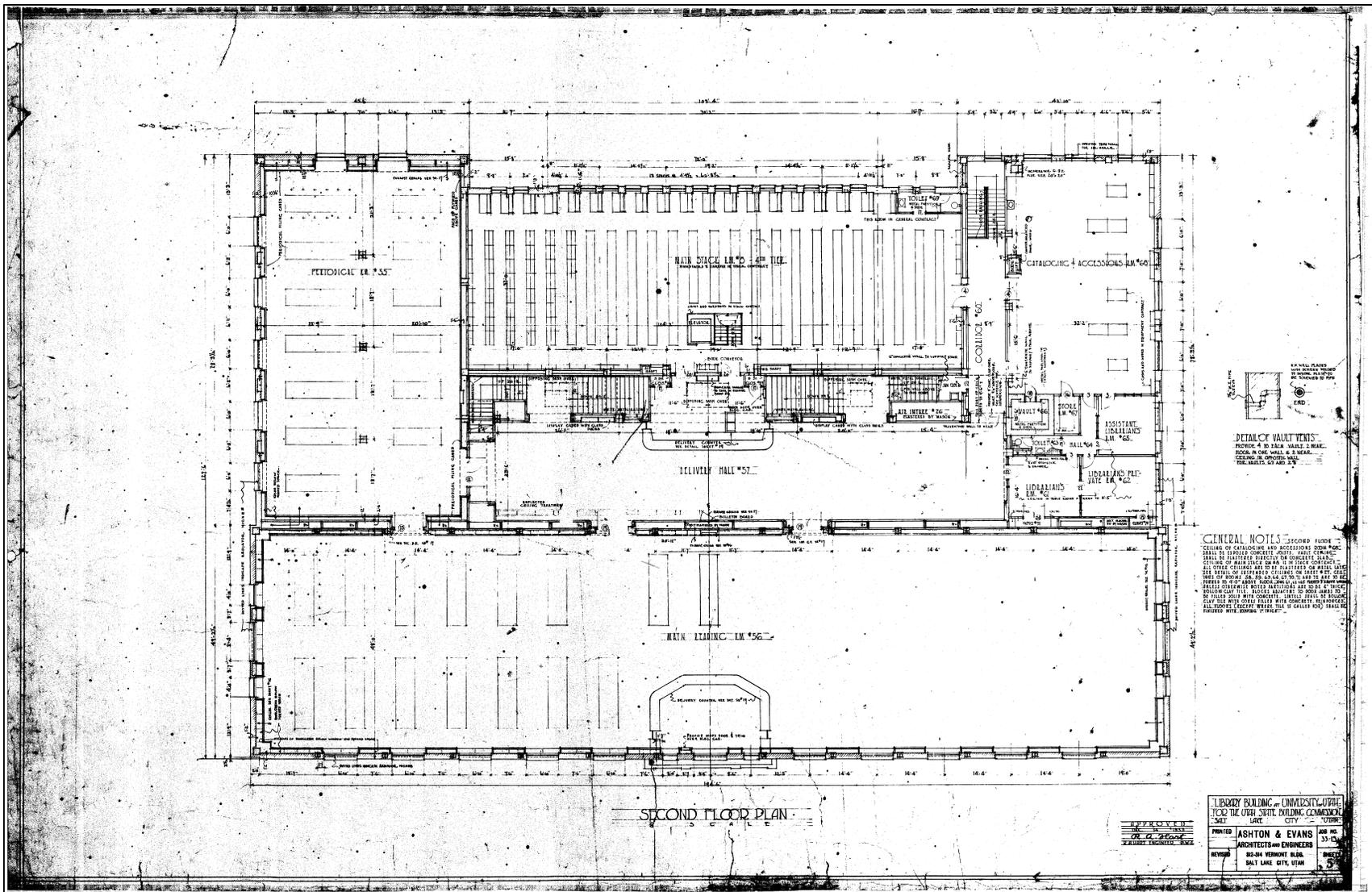


Figure 2d. Original second floor plan for the George Thomas Library prepared by Ashton and Evans, 1933.

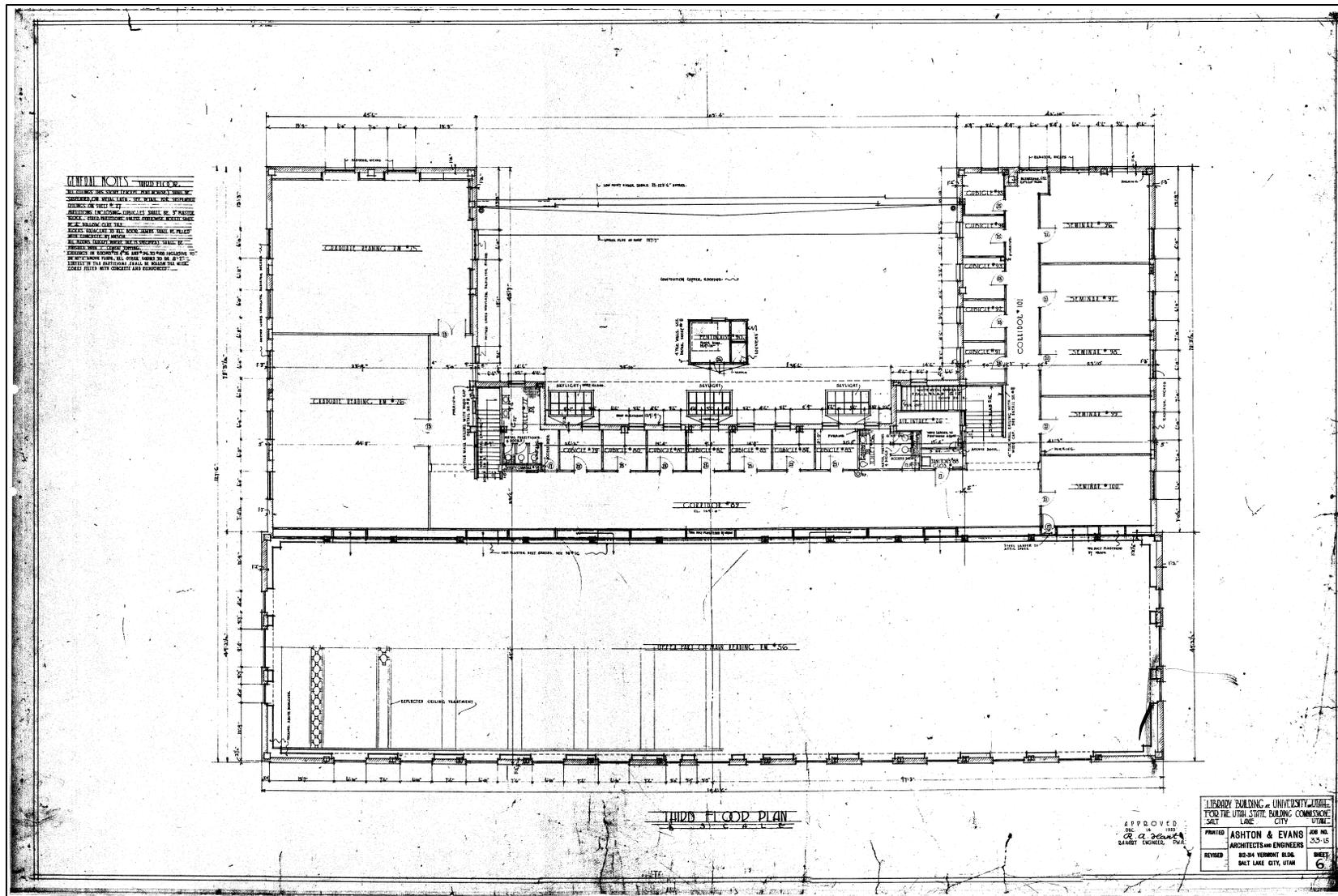


Figure 2e. Original third floor plan for the George Thomas Library prepared by Ashton and Evans, 1933.

Test Fit and Adjacency Diagrams

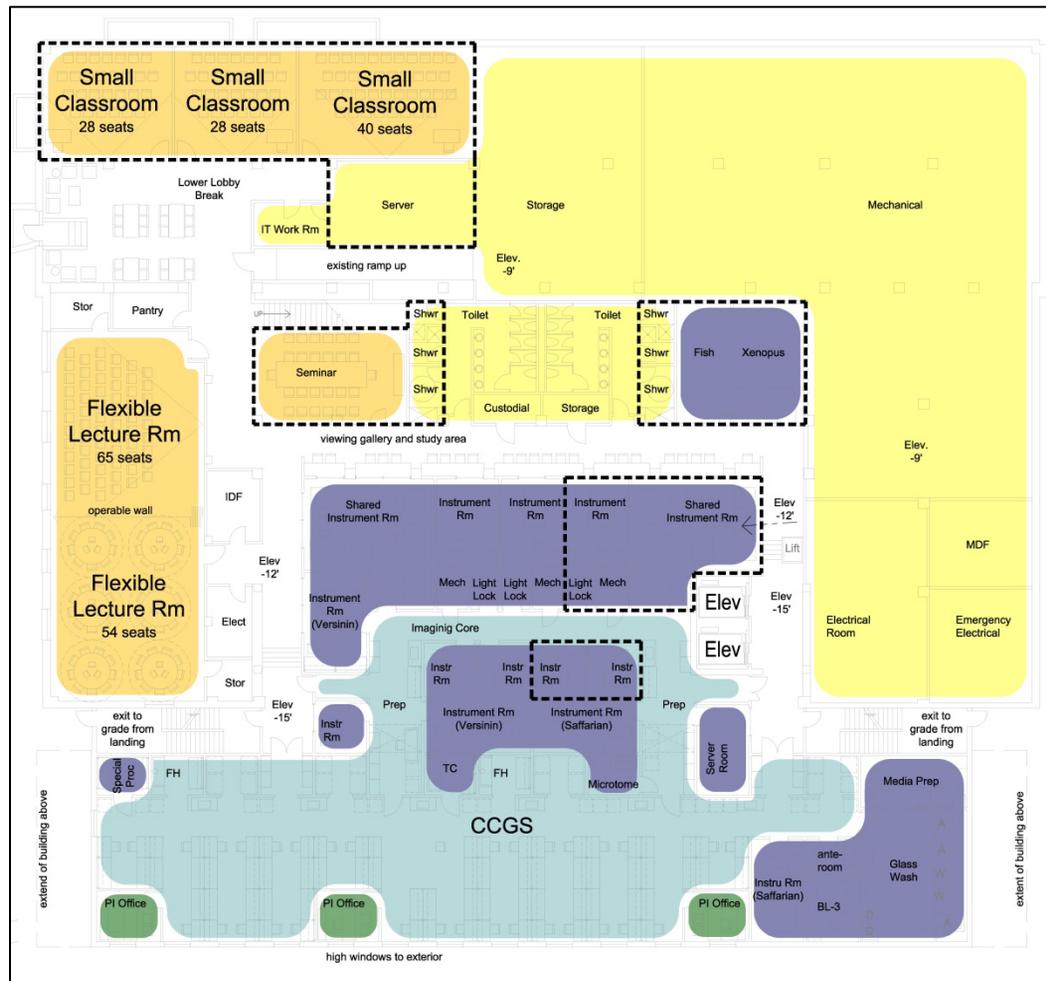


Figure 3a. Final test fit diagram prepared by EDA Architects for the basement level of the George Thomas Building/Crocker Science Center, 2013.



Figure 3b. Final test fit diagram prepared by EDA Architects for the first floor level of the George Thomas Building/Crocker Science Center, 2013.

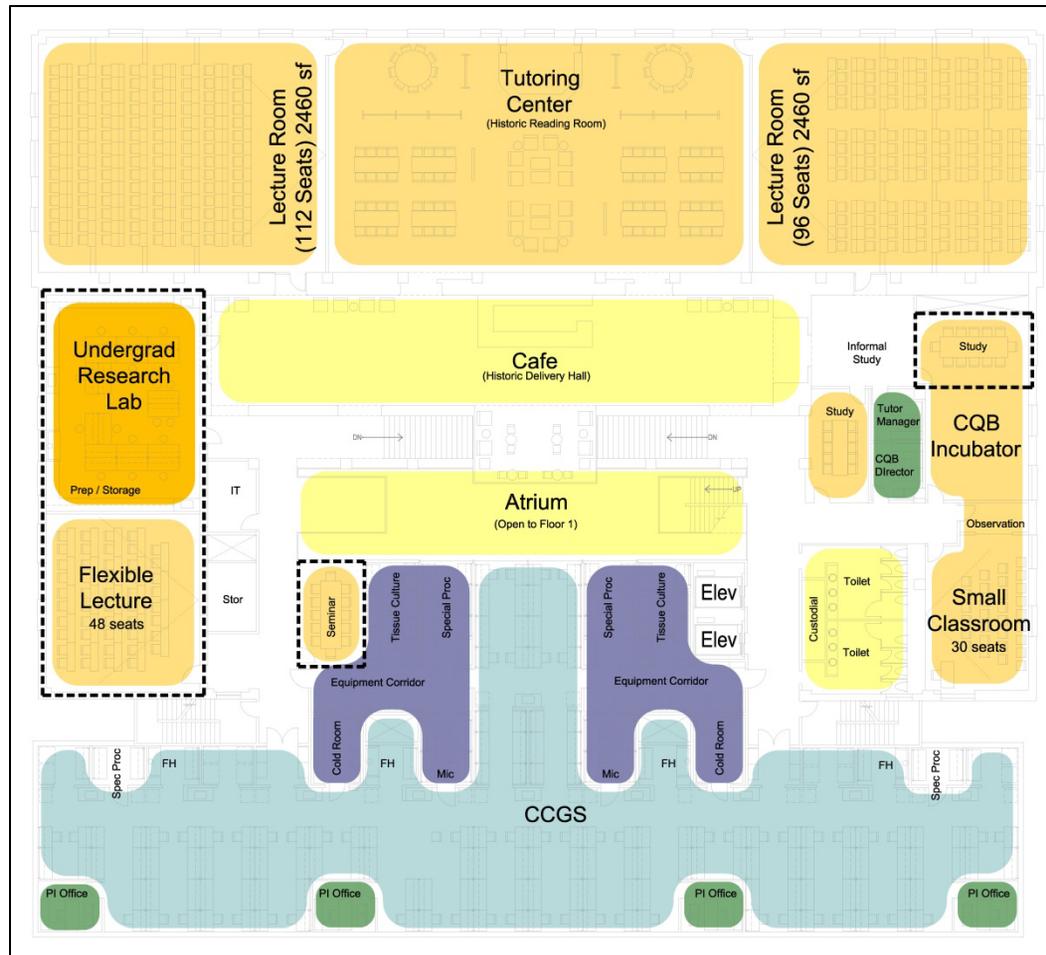


Figure 3c. Final test fit diagram prepared by EDA Architects for the second floor level of the George Thomas Building/Crocker Science Center, 2013.

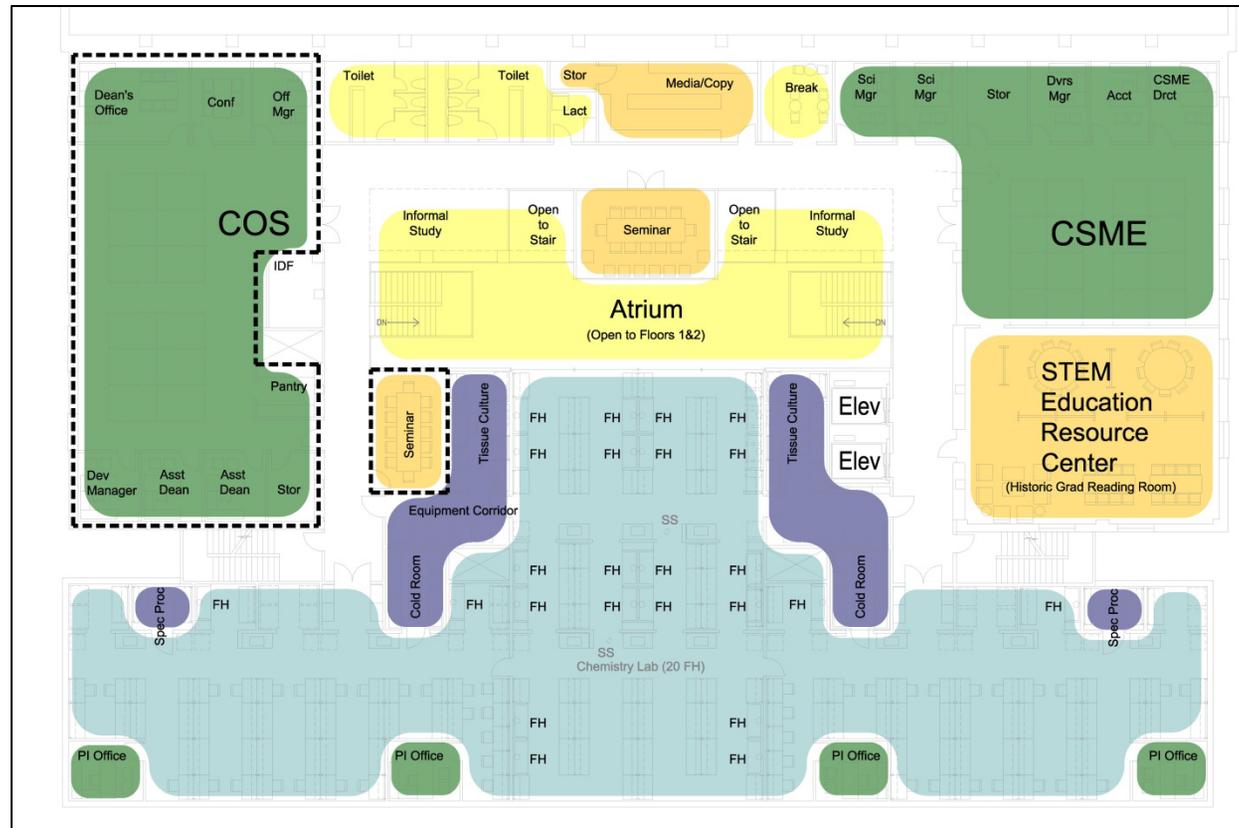


Figure 3d. Final test fit diagram prepared by EDA Architects for the third floor level of the George Thomas Building/Crocker Science Center, 2013.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The George Thomas Building is one of eight historic buildings on President's Circle, located at the heart of the University of Utah. Designed by the firm of Ashton & Evans, it was constructed as the University's main library between 1933 and 1935. The library soon outgrew the space, and in 1968 the building was converted to the Utah Museum of Natural History, which likewise expanded and moved to a new location in 2011. Through an adaptive reuse and rehabilitation project, the George Thomas Building will soon become the home of the Crocker Science Center (CSC).

The George Thomas Building is an important part of both the University's history and regional history in the 1930s. The programming effort for CSC has been guided by the vision that the most historically significant exterior and interior spaces and features of the George Thomas Building will be retained, allowing secondary and non-contributing spaces and features to be modified or removed to accommodate the building's new use. This includes the removal of the book stacks wing and its replacement with an addition housing modern laboratories, which may impact two adjacent historic properties: Cottam's Gulch and the Stewart Building.

The development of the project program (EDA Architects, 2013) involved numerous meetings, presentations, and work sessions between the University's steering committee, executive committee, faculty and administrative staff, campus planning staff, and other representatives; the Utah Department of Facilities and Construction Management; the Utah State Historic Preservation Office; the Utah Heritage Foundation; and EDA Architects and its consultants. Potential impacts to historic properties were discussed, resulting in recommendations for programming and rehabilitation actions that will be consistent with national historic preservation standards.

In the late spring of 2013, during the development of the draft program document for the CSC, a Memorandum of Agreement was drafted between the University and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office regarding the demolition of another University building, Carlson Hall. The building, located southwest of the George Thomas Building and constructed in 1938, was the first women's dormitory on campus and was also designed by Ashton & Evans. As part of off-site mitigation for the loss of Carlson Hall, the University agreed to prepare a historic preservation plan for the George Thomas Building prior to rehabilitation.

Through the preparation of this plan, the University commits to retain and preserve the inherent historical character of the exterior and primary interior features of the Thomas Library. This plan will also identify how the University will preserve the physical history embodied in the secondary and contributing areas of the building... The University commits to preserve the following key elements of the building:

- a. Ground floor entry corridor and the double-sided stairway such that they are one contiguous area with a view from the entry doors to the stairway.
- b. Materials included within the entry corridor and stairway including, but not limited to wood paneling, marble, and stainless steel railings.
- c. The plaque citing the original construction of the George Thomas Library.
- d. The circulation corridors [*sic*] on the second floor including its original materials and engraved statements along the frieze.
- e. The Reading Room's volume of space. How to best preserve this will be determined as part of the adaptive reuse design in continued discussion with the Utah SHPO and consulting parties (University of Utah and Utah State Historic Preservation Office, 2013).

In partial fulfillment of the Memorandum of Agreement, this preservation plan provides the following:

- A summary of the historic context and significance of the George Thomas Building, Cottam's Gulch, and the Stewart Building;
- a summary of the national standards that guide historic preservation and help to determine significance and integrity, followed by an identification of significance levels and zones for the three historic properties;
- an inventory of primary and secondary contributing spaces, elements, and features for each of the three historic properties, including a description, a summary of condition, optimum and acceptable levels of treatment, and the expected level of effort to achieve an acceptable level of treatment;
- the proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for each historic property or space;
- historic (when available) and current photographs for each significant property and/or space; and
- conclusions and recommendations for documentation and monitoring during and after construction in order to support compliance with the preservation plan and evaluate to what degree preservation goals are achieved.

INTRODUCTION

The George Thomas Building is one of eight historic buildings on President's Circle, located at the heart of the University of Utah. Designed by the firm of Ashton & Evans, it was constructed as the University's main library between 1933 and 1935. The library soon outgrew the space and in 1968 the building was converted to the Utah Museum of Natural History, which likewise expanded and moved to a new location in 2011. Through an adaptive reuse and rehabilitation project, the George Thomas Building will soon become the home of the Crocker Science Center (CSC).

Looking forward, it is the University's desire to repurpose the George Thomas Building with a program that will benefit from such a prominent location. The creation of the new Crocker Science Center (CSC) is an ideal fit and represents an opportunity to invest in the [George Thomas Building's] renovation. The new facility will house the College of Science and the new Center for Cell and Genome Science and is an opportunity to create a state of the art, highly flexible laboratory space for undergraduate and graduate education. This collocation of education and research offers an opportunity to capitalize on possible synergies. The building will become a highly visible and exciting showcase for the promotion of interest in the sciences for undergraduates, graduates, school children and other segments of the general public (EDA Architects 2013, p. 01.3).

The George Thomas Building is an important part of both the University's history and regional history in the 1930s. The programming effort for CSC has been guided by the vision that the most historically significant exterior and interior spaces and features of the George Thomas Building will be retained, allowing secondary and non-contributing spaces and features to be modified or removed to accommodate the building's new use. This includes the removal of the book stacks wing and its replacement with an addition housing modern laboratories, which may impact two adjacent historic properties: Cottam's Gulch and the Stewart Building.

The development of the project program involved numerous meetings, presentations, and work sessions between the University's steering committee, executive committee, faculty and administrative staff, Campus Planning staff, and other representatives; the Utah Department of Facilities and Construction Management (DFCM); the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); the Utah Heritage Foundation (UHF); and EDA Architects and its consultants. Potential impacts to historic properties were discussed, resulting in recommendations for programming and rehabilitation actions that will be consistent with national historic preservation standards.

In the late spring of 2013, during the development of the draft program document for the CSC, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was drafted between the University and the Utah SHPO regarding the demolition of another University building, Carlson Hall. The building, located southwest of the George Thomas Building and constructed in 1938, was the first women's dormitory on campus and was also designed by Ashton & Evans. As part of off-site mitigation for the loss of Carlson Hall, the University agreed to prepare a historic preservation plan for the George Thomas Building prior to rehabilitation.

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In partial fulfillment of the MOA, this preservation plan provides the following:

- A summary of the historic context and significance of the George Thomas Building, Cottam's Gulch, and the Stewart Building;
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- the proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for each historic property or space;
- historic (when available) and current photographs for each significant property and/or space; and
- conclusions and recommendations for documentation and monitoring during and after construction in order to support compliance with the preservation plan and evaluate to what degree preservation goals are achieved.

HISTORIC CONTEXT, DESCRIPTION, AND SIGNIFICANCE

The George Thomas Building was constructed as the main library for the University of Utah between 1933 and 1935. It is important not only in the context of the University's history but in the context of regional history as an example of the importance of federally funded building programs like the Public Works Administration (PWA) in providing relief and shaping the built environment during the Great Depression. Two other historic features may be impacted during the proposed rehabilitation of the George Thomas Building, namely the Stewart Building to the south and Cottam's Gulch to the southwest. The history and significance of these three historic resources are presented below.

George Thomas Building

History

The University of Utah began life as the University of Deseret, which was established in Salt Lake City in 1850 and was originally intended to train teachers for Utah's public schools. Throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, the University moved between various locations and faced serious financial challenges but, by the 1870s, its mission had expanded and a broader array of classes was offered. The University found a more permanent location at Union Square (the current site of West High School) during this time. In 1892, the Utah State Legislature renamed the institution the University of Utah and began petitioning the U.S. Congress for a land grant to provide a new site for the growing university. Congress obliged, deeding 60 acres from the Fort Douglas military reservation on Salt Lake City's east bench to the University in 1894 and making it the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River. A campus was established on the site in 1899, consisting of the area now known as Presidents' Circle. The original master plan, designed by prominent Utah architect Richard K. A. Kletting, comprised a group of buildings facing a circular lawn. However, the circle was extended westward to create a U-shaped lawn and drive by 1905 in order to accommodate more buildings. Between 1899 and 1935, nine buildings were constructed along Presidents' Circle, the last of which was the George Thomas Library. These buildings (eight of which remain) represent the University's historic core and are an important part of today's much larger campus (Meecham, 1977).

The University's first library had been established in 1874, when President John Park lent his personal collection and opened a reading room with seating for 50 students (Marriott Library, 2012). After the University moved to its present site, a new library building (now known as the LeRoy Cowles Building) was constructed on Presidents' Circle in 1901 (Meecham, 1977). The library was located in an L-shaped room on the first floor, contained 12,950 volumes, and had seating for 100 students (Meecham, 1977). The ever-expanding library was moved into the new administration building (now the Park Building) after it was completed in 1914; in this location it held 40,012 volumes and seated 475 students.

As the University continued to grow, the Board of Regents proposed renovating and expanding the Park Building to provide an improved library facility. However, by the early 1930s, the board and President George Thomas had determined that a new building was needed, indicating that it should "meet not only the requirements of the present, but... take care of the growth of the institution for a considerable number of years" (Chamberlin, 1960, p. 422). At the time, Utah and the rest of the nation were suffering from the economic distress of the Great Depression, and the University's funding had been cut. President Thomas worked with the Utah state government to negotiate for \$550,000 from the federal government to finance construction of the new library. Funding was provided by the PWA under the National Recovery Act, and was part of a series of federal relief efforts intended to stimulate the economy and relieve unemployment (Chamberlin, 1960).

As a PWA building, the George Thomas Library reflects the legacy of New Deal programs in Utah, a state deeply affected by the Great Depression. In 1933, 36 percent of Utah's working-age population was unemployed but federal relief efforts played a vital role in putting residents back to work: in the 1930s, per capita federal spending in Utah was the ninth highest in the nation. Much of this spending came in the form of funding for public works and building projects. Between 1933 and 1943, more than 230 public buildings were constructed in Utah under various federal programs, including the PWA. Established in 1933, it served the dual function of creating construction jobs and funding public projects needed by state and local governments. Nationally, the PWA completed 34,000 projects at a cost of more than six billion dollars, and employed four million people. The PWA was important to the construction of educational buildings such as the George Thomas Library, funding the construction of 70 percent of such buildings in the 1930s (McCormick & Carter, 1985). The George Thomas Library thus represents the importance of federal relief programs in Utah and of the PWA in particular.

George Thomas: Biography

George Thomas (1866–1951) served as the President of the University of Utah from 1921 to 1941 and was instrumental to the construction of the library building named in his honor. The son of Welsh immigrants, he was born in Hyde Park, Cache County, Utah, growing up on the family farm and attending school in nearby Logan. He later obtained two degrees from Harvard University and attended several European universities, eventually earning a Ph.D. from the University of Halle in Germany. Thomas returned to Utah after completing his studies, where he taught economics at the State Agricultural College in Logan and at the University of Utah; he became President of the University of Utah in 1921. During his tenure, as he strove to raise the University's academic standards and achievements, attendance more than doubled and there was "a like increase in buildings, improvement and beautification of grounds, and expansion of educational facilities generally" (Chamberlin, 1960, p. 450).

The George Thomas Library was designed by the local architectural firm of Ashton & Evans, which was formed in 1922 by Raymond J. Ashton (1887–c.1975) and Raymond L. Evans (1895–1963) (Louis, 1984). Ashton had previously worked for several firms in Salt Lake City and Chicago, while Evans had worked for the influential Utah firm of Ware and Treganza (Louis, 1984). Ashton & Evans designed numerous buildings in Utah, including several at the University of Utah: the Union Building (1931, now Gardner Hall), Carlson Hall (1938), Nielsen Field House (1939), and a remodel of the Park Building. Their other works included Saltair (1925), the Utah State Prison (1941), the Veterans' Hospital (1948), and Salt Lake International Airport (1960). After Evans' death, the firm was renamed Ashton, Brazier, Montmorency and Associates, and is now MHTN Architects.

President Thomas was apparently involved in the design and selection of materials for the building, as he traveled with Ashton to California to consider buildings of concrete construction as models for the new library (Meecham, 1977). The result, an eclectic, three-story, Neoclassical building constructed of concrete with a cast stone veneer and Second Renaissance Revival detailing around the main entrance, was designed to harmonize with both the earlier Second Renaissance Revival buildings and the later Neoclassical buildings on President's Circle. The interior was more typical of the 1930s, with Art Deco metalwork around the entry and Art Moderne details for the main staircase, delivery hall, and reading rooms. Several innovations were noted: "Wainscoting in the rooms is of 'flexwood,' thin veneer of oak or walnut fibre foundation. The floors are covered with silent rubber tile" (*Utah Chronicle*, 1935).¹

¹ Flexwood was developed in 1929 and is still manufactured today by Flexible Materials, Inc. It is a very thin wood veneer permanently bonded under heat and pressure to a resin-saturated backer sheet. At the George Thomas Library, it was applied to the walls and columns in many of the reading rooms, giving the appearance of wood paneling. As the manufacturer notes, "YES, it's real wood" (Flexible Materials, Inc., 2013).

The initial contract for excavation, grading, and foundation work was given to Berntsen and Kuhre, low bidders at \$15,754 (*Salt Lake Telegram*, 1933). George Whitmeyer & Sons served as general contractor for the remainder of construction. These builders, based in Ogden, also worked on the Federal Building in Brigham City, Ogden High School, the Ogden/Weber Municipal Building, and Nielsen Field House. A newspaper article written at the time of the library's dedication intimates that students may have helped with construction: "At future homecomings, many graduates looking upon the building will have pride stirred in them by recalling days spent in muscular toil at the site... This labor was the means of enabling many students to continue their schooling through trying times" (*Salt Lake Telegram*, 1935). Ground was broken on November 14, 1933, and the building was formally dedicated and opened on December 4, 1935, in the presence of "the Governor, Regents, faculty, seven hundred special guests and many of the public" (Chamberlin, 1960, p. 423). Esther H. Nelson, hired by the University in 1906 as its first professionally trained librarian, was appointed the librarian for the George Thomas Library (Marriott Library, 2012).

When it opened, the library contained 124,070 volumes (Chamberlin, 1960); by 1941, it housed more than 142,000 bound volumes and 36,000 pamphlets. One of the third floor graduate reading rooms was named the Edward Rosenbaum Memorial Library at the request of Mrs. Harriet Rosenbaum, a member of the Board of Regents, who had donated \$10,000 for the purchase of books related to economics, history, political science, and sociology. The University Press set up shop in the basement and produced numerous publications (Federal Writers' Project, 1941, and *Utah Daily Chronicle*, 1934). The library remained in the George Thomas Building for about 30 years, when it again outgrew its home. Plans for a new building commenced as early as 1964, and by 1968 the Marriott Library was completed. This building originally had room for more than one million volumes and seating for 3,000; it has since undergone several major renovations and expansions, and remains the University's library today (Marriott Library, 2012).

After the collections were moved in 1968, the George Thomas Building was repurposed as the Utah Museum of Natural History (UMNH), with renovations designed by Robert Springmeyer (EDA and Perkins + Will, 2010). The museum housed exhibits on anthropology, geology, paleontology, and biology. The only exterior alterations were the construction of a ramp adjacent to the north entrance to provide handicapped accessibility and the addition of a stair tower on the south side. Interior alterations were more extensive, and many of the reading rooms were reconfigured to provide exhibit space. In particular, the Treasure Room and Medical Library (Rooms 29 and 31) on the first floor were greatly altered, but in most other rooms, false walls and free-standing display mounts predominated. As a result, the original floors, walls, and ceilings of the reading rooms have survived intact and are generally in good condition due to the inherent durability of the materials used in the library's construction.

In 1978, the historic significance of President's Circle was recognized when it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the University of Utah Circle Historic District. As the nomination form notes:

Besides its educational character which makes it distinct from the commercial and residential buildings across from University street, it is unique on the campus. These are the nine original buildings [eight remain today] built on the on the first sixty acres grant. Although several laboratories, plants, and temporary buildings were also built in the period between 1900 and 1930 these building around the U were the major architectural statements chronicling the development of the University into an important educational institution. Further these buildings, situated in a closed grouping around the U shaped commons, necessarily are more distinctive in their unity than the construction which came in later years and followed no such strong landscaping concept (Meecham, 1977).

The George Thomas Building, as the last erected on the circle, is significant in this context because it brings the story of the district and the history of the University through the 1930s. It is a visible reminder of both the trying years of the Great Depression and the positive impact of public relief programs like the WPA on people and institutions during those times.

In 2010, UMNH closed its location at the George Thomas Building in preparation for its move to a new building adjacent to Red Butte Gardens and Arboretum. In the same year, the University received a ten million dollar donation from Gary L. and Ann S. Crocker to rehabilitate the George Thomas Building for use as a new science center (Notebook, 2013). While programming and plans are developed for the CSC, reversible modifications have been made to some of the reading rooms and other spaces to provide a temporary home for the Virginia Tanner Creative Dance Program.

Description

The George Thomas Building is a large, three-story, Neoclassical building constructed of concrete with a cast stone veneer and Second Renaissance Revival detailing around the main entrance. The rectangular building was divided into two parts: a three-story, U-shaped structure housing reading, staff, and instruction rooms, and a book stacks wing situated between the arms of the U. The stacks wing was also three stories but with lower floor heights (Appendix A, Sheet 8). It is an eclectic building, designed to harmonize with both the earlier Second Renaissance Revival buildings and the later Neoclassical buildings on President's Circle. Interior finishes were more typical of the 1930s, with Art Deco metalwork around the entry and Art Moderne details for the main staircase, delivery hall, and reading rooms.

On most exterior walls, the poured concrete foundation is finished with large, cast stone veneer blocks laid in a coursed ashlar pattern. The blocks have tooled, beveled edges, giving the building a rusticated feel; this treatment is continued around the triple-arched main entrance on the north side. The top of the foundation is marked by a projecting, cast-concrete water table capped with copper flashing. The foundation treatment on the south side of the stacks wing is simpler, with flush edges and a slight recess rather than a water table. The walls are also clad in cast-stone veneer and the blocks are the same size as those used for the rusticated base but with flush edges. Mortar is colored to match the concrete and joints are thin and flush with the masonry. A cast concrete, raised relief, geometric belt course near the top of the third floor creates a blank frieze above it, which is finished with very large cast concrete veneer blocks. Above the frieze is a dentil course and then a projecting cornice, above which is a parapet wall of veneer blocks capped by lions' heads separated by incised geometric blocks. All of the work appears to be done in cast concrete, although a close visual inspection was not possible. The low-pitched, hipped roof over the main building and the shed roof over the stacks are only minimally visible from the ground but are clad in standing-seam copper sheets and "composition copper roofing," respectively. Internal gutters are located behind the parapet walls.

Window sizes vary by floor and room use but the window treatment is consistent on the main wing, with recessed openings and projecting cast concrete sills. Windows on the north, east, and west sides of the first floor also have slightly raised, cast concrete surrounds. The windows themselves generally comprise a rectangular grid with two panes in the center (the upper of which is typically an operable awning-type sash) bordered by fixed panes (with the center pane at the base typically an operable hopper-type sash). The windows have steel frames and muntins, painted white, with projecting muntins and glazing putty on the exterior side and a flat profile on the interior side. On the north, east, and west sides, the windows of the second-story main reading room have transoms of transparent art glass set in zinc comes; the transoms are separated from the windows by decorative metal bands. On the stacks wing, the recessed window openings have projecting concrete sills while the side-by-side windows are single-pane metal, with one fixed pane and one operable casement pane. Around the building, nearly all of the original windows are in place, although a number have been modified to accommodate air conditioners.

The primary entrance is recessed in the center of the north façade, forming a small loggia, and is composed of three Roman arches accentuated by rusticated cast concrete blocks capped with an elaborately decorated, projecting false balcony. Three pairs of aluminum double doors open into the vestibule; their arch-headed transoms are filled with decorative aluminum grills backed by single-pane glazing and are separated from the doors by geometric aluminum Art Deco transom bands. The floor of the loggia is granite and the ceiling is groin-vaulted cast concrete, lightly coffered. The ribs of the arches spring from decorative pilasters, also of cast concrete. Original copper carriage lamps flank the entrance and three cylindrical copper lanterns light the recessed entry. According to the plans, the only other original doorway was at the west end of the south side, a glazed and paneled single door with six lights and a transom. Over the years, two new

doorways were created from window openings, one on the west side and one on the east end of the south side; these are presently fitted with newer solid metal doors. The fifth doorway is part of a stair tower addition dating to c. 1968, again on the south side.

Original building plans and written accounts provide a good picture of the library when it first opened (see Figures 2a–2e). On the first floor, two reserve book reading rooms (Rooms 20 and 21) were located on the east side of the vestibule and main corridor, served by a single delivery desk east of the main staircase. To the west of the vestibule was a Treasure Room (Room 29) for rare and valuable books, “a new innovation [*sic*] into school library institutions,” and in the northwest corner was the medical library (Room 31) (*Utah Daily Chronicle*, 1934). An instruction room, staff room, restrooms, and the stacks completed the floor (see Figure 2c).

The main staircase led up the delivery hall (Room 57) on the second floor, which in turn provided access to the grand, two-story main reading room (Room 56) and a periodical room on the east side (Room 55). Offices, support rooms, and the stacks completed the floor (see Figure 2d). The third floor comprised two graduate reading rooms on the east side (Rooms 75 and 76), study cubicles, and seminar rooms, many overlooking the roof of the stacks (see Figure 2e). Much of the basement was unfinished, but in the northwest corner was the engineering library (Rooms 6 and 13) and, to the south, a printer’s shop (Room 12) and a receiving room (Room 10; see Figure 2b).

Interior finishes were simple but durable, and included rubberized floors in both checkerboard and plain patterns with borders, polished limestone wainscoting in primary halls and stairways, wood paneling (some oak, some “Flexwood” veneer) in the reading rooms with a variety of plaster cornices (some painted and others finished with faux wood graining to match the paneling), oak bookcases and shelves, and smooth-finished plaster walls above wainscots and in secondary spaces. It appears that all ceilings were flat plastered but the larger spaces usually had a border treatment around the edges. Doors were mainly wood with pebbled glazing and aluminum Art Moderne knobs and plates, although studded leather doors were used for the main reading room. Wood blinds covered the windows while Art Deco and Art Moderne fixtures provided artificial light; few of these remain. The main floor restrooms were finished with light blue and black tile.

Remarkably few alterations have been made to the George Thomas Building. On the exterior, these include the modification of the original secondary door and the creation of two more doors from window openings, the addition of a ramp next to the north entry, and the addition of a stair tower on the south side. On the interior, some floors have been covered with carpet, many book cases have been removed or covered over, and acoustic tiles have been applied to some of the plaster ceilings. Reading rooms have been altered to accommodate museum exhibits (and, more currently, dance studios), but modifications mainly comprise false walls and are reversible. Perhaps the most significant interior changes have occurred in the northwest corner of the first floor, where the original Treasure Room and medical library have been merged into a single space, and in the east arm of the main staircase, where access to the third floor has been blocked. Nearly all changes date to c. 1968, although acoustic ceiling tiles were added as early as the 1950s.

Significance

The George Thomas Building is significant at the regional level under NRHP Criterion A for its association with both the history of the University of Utah and the federal relief programs of the 1930s. The building can also be considered significant under Criterion B for its association with George Thomas, who was actively involved in its planning, design, and construction, and who served a pivotal role in expanding and modernizing the University of Utah to create a regionally important institution. Finally, the building is significant under Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of 1930s-era PWA architecture while also seeking to harmonize with the earlier Renaissance Revival and Neoclassical buildings on President’s Circle, resulting in a unique yet harmonious progression of styles.

The George Thomas Building is in very good condition and retains six of the seven aspects of integrity important in conveying its significance. These include integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The building's integrity of association and its ability to convey its original use as a library have been compromised by the removal of most books, bookcases, furnishings like reading tables and chairs, and all of the delivery desks, and will be further compromised by the proposed removal of the stacks.

Cottam's Gulch

History

Cottam's Gulch, the tree-lined gully that extends southwest of the George Thomas Building, was established by botany professor Walter P. "Doc" Cottam in the 1930s (Maffly, 2008). The gully, a relict of the uninhabited and sparsely vegetated bench of land east of Salt Lake City, had previously been used by nearby residents for recreational activities, such as touch football and sledding (Bardsley, 2002). While the George Thomas Library was under construction, the University began to consider filling in the gully but Cottam protested, arguing that it should be left as a natural area. After the University agreed, Cottam planted a variety of native and exotic trees along the gully throughout the years for arboreal research. The senior class of 1947 officially named the site in his honor (Hornaday, 1957).

Cottam is known for hybridizing various species of oak trees, and also as an early conservationist and a critic of unsustainable resource management (Maffly, 2008). In a 1947 speech that received considerable attention, he warned of the impacts of overgrazing on Utah's landscape. He planted many of the trees on the University campus and established Red Butte Garden (Sleight, 2010). The Utah State Legislature designated the University campus as a state arboretum in 1961, thanks in part to the tree collection cultivated by Cottam (Maffly, 2008).

Description

Cottam's Gulch is a grass-lined swale with its steep, narrow head near the southwest corner of the George Thomas Building; it extends southwestward, becoming broader and shallower as it approached University Street. A walkway of irregular stone pavers runs the length of the gulch, ending in a stone staircase at its head that provides access to the concrete sidewalk adjacent to the George Thomas Building; these features were added after 1946 (Figure 4). Other built features include a bench near the middle of the walk and a newer, U-shaped concrete planter built into the slope at the head of the gully. Photographs and renderings show that the gully and adjacent fields were devoid of trees in the early 1930s but many were planted by Cottam and perhaps others through the years (see Figure 4). A number of these are identified with metal or plastic name plates on their trunks; circular concrete markers at the foot of some trees, with rectangular recesses for name plates, give evidence of an earlier identification system. Among those identified are horse chestnuts, lindens, mimosas, Chinese elms, maples, and a giant sequoia. Lawns were also planted at some point, creating an open, park-like area with numerous large trees that extends north and south from the gulch, creating a physical and visual buffer between University Street and the George Thomas Building, the Stewart Building, and Pioneer Theater.

Significance

Cottam's Gulch and its associated trees are significant at the local level under NRHP Criterion A for their association with the history of the University of Utah and the transformation of the dry bench upon which it was originally sited into a treed and green campus. As an outdoor classroom, the gulch was once important in the academic lives of many students. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the quiet, secluded area was important in their personal lives as well, as a place for reflection and, sometimes, for courtship. The gulch can also be considered significant under Criterion B for its association with Walter Cottam, the planter of many of its trees, an important and influential faculty member in his time, and the founder of Red Butte Garden.

Cottam's Gulch and most of its associated trees and man-made features are in very good condition and retain six of the seven aspects of integrity important in conveying their significance. These include integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The stone walkway and staircase are not original but appear to have been added in the 1950s or 1960s and contribute to the bucolic feeling. The concrete "U" planter, while a more recent addition, does not significantly impact the historic nature of the gulch. However, the gulch's integrity of association and its ability to convey a link with Walter Cottam have been diminished because that association was largely something held in the experience and memory of past students and faculty. Restoring name plates to the trees will reaffirm the area's association with learning and hopefully restore it to use as an outdoor classroom, while the addition of an interpretive sign will help to strengthen the link to Cottam.

Stewart Building

History

During World War I, the University of Utah was designated as a training camp for the Student's Army Training Corps (SATC). This designation, made in 1918, meant that the University suddenly had to house and feed a military unit of approximately 1,250 men. The University began construction of the Stewart Building in 1918 to provide barracks for the soldiers (Chamberlin, 1960). Local architectural firm Young & Hansen designed the building and it provided temporary military housing while it was still under construction (Department of Architecture, 1998). Once the troops were demobilized at the end of 1918, the building was completed and became the new home of the Normal School (the University's teacher training school, later the Education Department) (Chamberlin, 1960). Part of the school's program was a model school for students in kindergarten through grade nine, the "Stewart Training School," which remained in operation in the building until 1967 (Hadley, 1988). The school and building were both named for William M. Stewart, who was a school principal and later head of the University's education department from 1888 through the early 1900s (Chamberlin, 1960). Since the closure of the school, the Stewart Building has been used by other academic departments and currently houses the Anthropology Department (Department of Architecture, 1998).

William Stewart: Biography

William Stewart served as head of the education department at the University of Utah and as principal of its "Normal School," a model school operated by the department. Stewart was born in Draper in 1859 and grew up on a farm. He attended school in Draper and later the University of Deseret. After completing his education, Stewart worked as principal of the school in Draper and later as superintendent of Salt Lake County schools. He was appointed principal of the Normal School at the University of Deseret in 1888. He also served as head of the university's education department (Chamberlin, 1960). Stewart emphasized the importance of active, hands-on learning, stating that, "The school must be made a life-laboratory wherein childhood can be given the fullest, freest expression. Nothing is too good for the child" (Hadley, 1988).

Description

The Stewart Building is a large, two-story, flat-roofed structure with nearly identical primary façades facing east and west. Smaller wings are appended to the north and south ends; the north wing, closest to the George Thomas Building, was originally a gymnasium and/or auditorium, while the south wing was likely a cafeteria and dining hall. The form, massing, symmetry, and rhythm of the building are Neoclassical but the design is early Art Moderne in the simplification of forms and the abstraction of architectural details like pilasters, capitals, and parapets. The concrete foundation supports walls of pale yellow brick, articulated

with recessed window and door openings separated by full-height pilasters. The concrete sills, lintels, water table, belt course, capitals, and parapet coping are unadorned. It appears that windows were originally one-over-one paned sashes on the main section with multi-paned windows on the wings, but a few windows on the main section have older two-over-two paned sashes and it is unclear if these are original. The multi-paned, two-story windows on the north side of the north addition have been covered with brown paint. The double-doored main entrances on the east, west, and north sides have been altered and their original appearance is unknown, but original doors remain on the south wing and elsewhere in secondary locations. The building interior was not documented or extensively evaluated but retains much of its original plan and many original features.

Significance

The Stewart Building is significant under NRHP Criterion A at the local level for its association with the history of the University of Utah during World War I and the history of the education department at the school in subsequent years, particularly the Stewart Training School. The building is also significant under Criterion C because it is an unusual example of proto-modern architecture at the University, an early example of the experimentation that resulted as architects attempted to reconcile the traditional forms of the prevailing neoclassical styles with the more streamlined and simplified ethos of the burgeoning modern movement.

The Stewart Building is in good condition and retains six of the seven aspects of integrity important in conveying its significance. These include integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The building's integrity of association, namely its ability to convey earlier uses as a military barracks, model school, and home of the education department, has been compromised by the change of use, albeit compatible, to offices and classrooms for other academic departments.

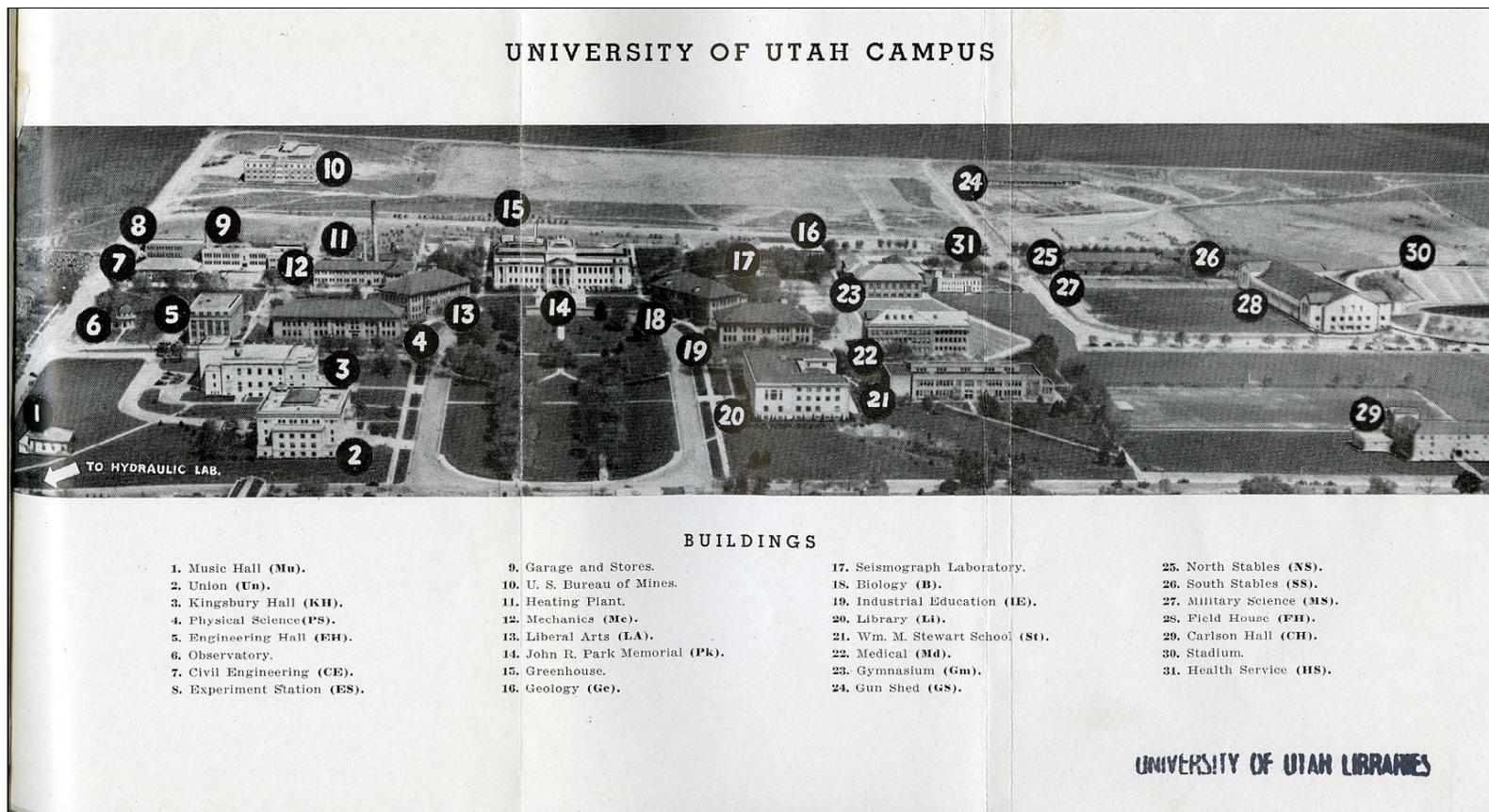


Figure 4. View of the University of Utah campus in 1946, showing the George Thomas Building (No. 20) and the Stewart Building (No. 21). Cottam’s Gulch, in the foreground, appears to have an unstable earth slope at its head, no paved path or staircase, and only immature trees.

TIMELINE

- 1850: University of Deseret is established
- 1874: The first University library is established by John Park, using his personal book collection; seating for 50 students
- 1892: University of Deseret becomes University of Utah
- 1899: University of Utah moves to its current site; Presidents' Circle is established



President's Circle, early 1900s (courtesy University of Utah).

- 1900: University library is located in LeRoy Cowles Building with 12,950 volumes and seating for 100 students
- 1905: Presidents' Circle is extended into "U" shape



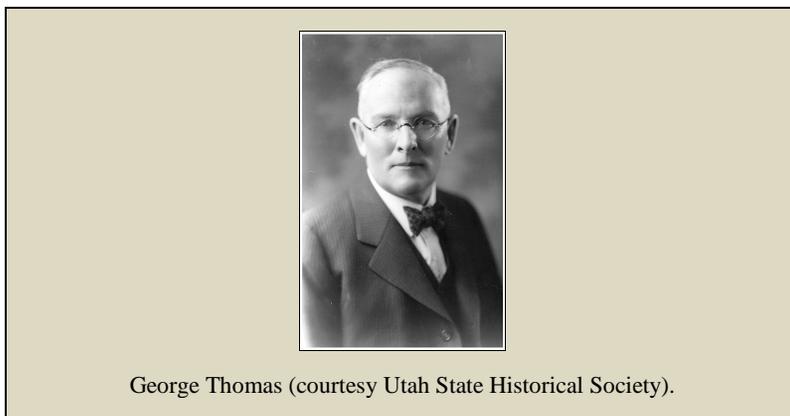
President's Circle, extended into a U-shape, c. 1920–1932. The Stewart Building is visible on the right side of the photo, with Cottam's Gulch cutting diagonally in front of it. The future location of the George Thomas Library is on the empty land at the head of the gulch.

- 1910s: Gully near Presidents' Circle is used by nearby residents for recreation
- 1912–1914: John R. Park building is constructed and library is moved to this building with 40,012 volumes and seating for 475 students
- 1918: University of Utah is designated as a training camp for the Student's Army Training Corps
- 1918: Stewart Building is constructed; intended for use as barracks to house soldiers on campus
- 1919: Stewart Building is put to use as the "Stewart Training School," an elementary and secondary school operated by the University of Utah's education department



Students at the Stewart School, 1947.

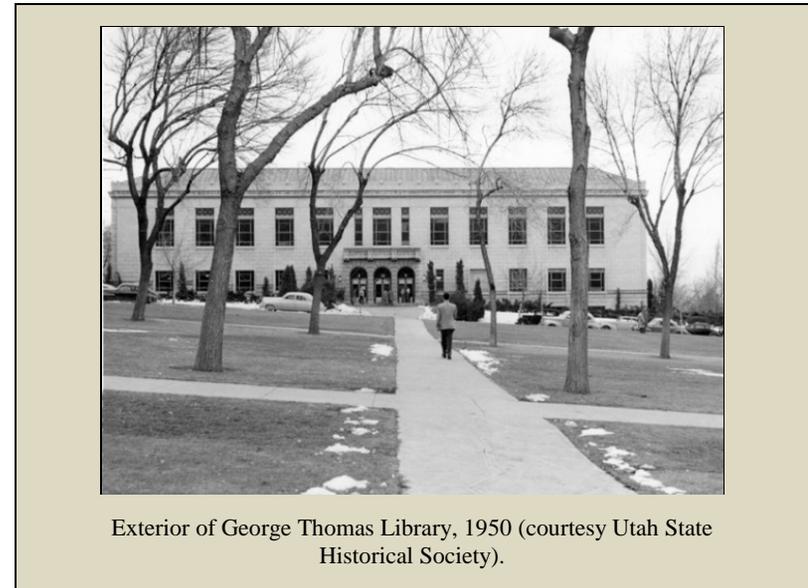
1921: George Thomas becomes President of University of Utah



George Thomas (courtesy Utah State Historical Society).

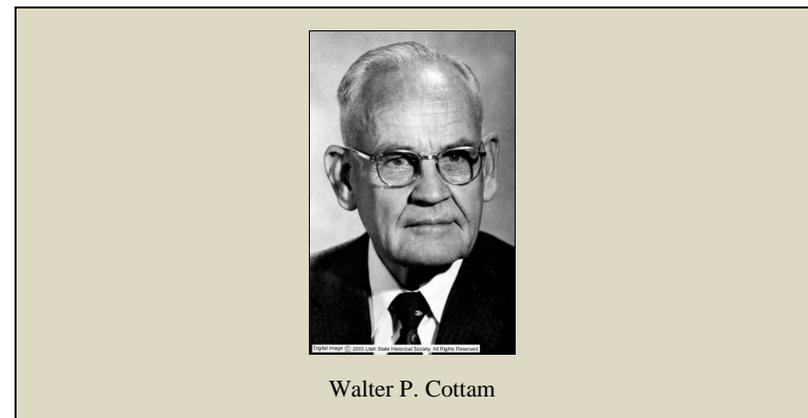
1933: Unemployment in Utah reaches 36%

1933–1935: George Thomas Library is constructed with 124,070 volumes and several reading rooms using PWA funds



Exterior of George Thomas Library, 1950 (courtesy Utah State Historical Society).

1930s: Walter Cottam prevents gully near George Thomas Library from being filled in and begins planting trees there; gully later becomes known as “Cottam’s Gulch”



Walter P. Cottam

1933–1943: Over 230 public buildings are constructed in Utah under various federal relief programs, including the PWA



Reading room, George Thomas Library (courtesy Utah State Historical Society).

- 1967: School in Stewart Building is closed; building is put to use for other academic purposes
- 1968: Library is moved to new Marriott Library building with more than 1 million volumes and seating for 3,000 students
- 1968: George Thomas Building is renovated for use as the Utah Museum of Natural History
- 1978: George Thomas Building is listed on National Register of Historic Places as part of University of Utah Circle Historic District
- 2010: Utah Museum of Natural History closes and prepares for move to new location



Utah Museum of Natural History, showing the original reading room in use as an exhibit hall (courtesy Utah State Historical Society and University of Utah).

- 2010: University of Utah begins planning to renovate George Thomas Building for use as the new Gary L. and Ann S. Crocker Science Center
- 2013: After consultation with stakeholders throughout the University, a Project Program for the Crocker Science Center @ the George Thomas Building is developed by EDA Architects and associated consultants
- 2013: Memorandum of Agreement between Utah SHPO and the University is drafted regarding the demolition of Carlson Hall, another Ashton & Evans building, with the stipulation that a preservation plan is developed for the George Thomas Building as part of off-site mitigation

SIGNIFICANCE LEVELS AND ZONES

The George Thomas Building is already listed on the NRHP and both Cottam's Gulch and the Stewart Building are considered eligible for listing. In the United States, standards and guidelines for the treatment of historic properties are set by the Secretary of Interior (Secretary). The Secretary defines four approaches to their treatment:

1. Preservation, which focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time.
2. Rehabilitation, which acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.
3. Restoration, which depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.
4. Reconstruction, which re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

At the George Thomas Building, the recommended approach to the historic property is rehabilitation. The building's use as either a library or museum is no longer viable because both institutions have greatly outgrown the capacity of the building to provide adequate space and facilities. As well, the building requires updating and modification to accommodate modern office and classroom space suitable to a large university. And to meet the needs of the proposed CSC, the building also requires the addition of modern spaces for laboratories and associated equipment and instruments.

Proposed changes and construction activities related to the rehabilitation of the George Thomas Building will encroach upon Cottam's Gulch and, because it cannot be preserved exactly as it is, the recommended approach for the gulch is also rehabilitation. No physical changes are scheduled for the Stewart Building but proposed work at the George Thomas Building has the potential to impact its historic setting and feeling, and this should be accounted for in the planning process.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

The Secretary further defines the standards for rehabilitation of historic properties as listed below. By adhering to these standards, the George Thomas Building and Cottam's Gulch can be adapted for continuing and new use while retaining their historic character, and impacts to the adjacent Stewart Building can be minimized.

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Integrity

The rehabilitation of historic properties demands the retention of their historic integrity while allowing for alterations and additions to less sensitive areas and features in order to accommodate continued or new use. The Secretary identifies seven aspects of integrity that a historic property might need to retain, in varying degrees, to convey its historic significance. These are:

- Location – the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
- Design – the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
- Setting – the physical environment of a historic property.
- Materials – the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
- Workmanship – the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during a given period in history or prehistory.
- Feeling – a property’s expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
- Association – the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

For the George Thomas and Stewart buildings, location, design, setting, and feeling are of primary importance in conveying their significance, while associations with past events and persons are of secondary importance. The same aspects are important for Cottam’s Gulch, but the retention of its association with Walter Cottam and its past use as an outdoor classroom are also of primary importance.

Significance Levels and Zones

Based on the results of historic research and visual inspections, the spaces and features of all three historic properties can be prioritized by their significance in forming or contributing to the most important aspects of integrity. The four levels of significance are primary, secondary/contributing, non-contributing, and non-historic.

- *A-Primary*: Historic spaces, features, and/or architectural elements that are critical in conveying one or more important aspects of integrity.
- *B-Secondary/Contributing*: Historic spaces, features, and/or architectural elements that help to convey one or more important aspects of integrity.
- *C-Non-Contributing*: Historic spaces, features, and/or architectural elements that are of least importance in conveying one or more important aspects of integrity.
- *D-Non-Historic*: Non-historic spaces, features, and/or architectural elements that represent alterations or additions outside the period of historic significance.

At the George Thomas Building, zones of primary significance comprise the exterior envelope of the U-shaped part of the building, the lobby and main staircase, the delivery hall, and the main reading room. Areas of secondary/contributing importance comprise the south exterior wall of the stacks wing, the two reserve book reading rooms on the first floor, the periodical reading room on the second floor, and the graduate reading room on the third floor. All other areas are considered non-contributing or non-historic zones (Figure 5). Rehabilitation efforts can be directed toward retaining primary zones and, to the extent possible, secondary/contributing ones. Major changes can be programmed for non-contributing and non-historic zones or for secondary/contributing ones when other options are not viable.

For Cottam's Gulch, the zone of primary significance comprises the entire length of the gulch and the immediately adjacent lawns with their planted and labeled trees, about a 30-foot buffer. The zone of secondary significance comprises the remaining open areas to the north and south, again with their planted and labeled trees. The only aspects of the Stewart Building relevant to this project are the exterior building envelope and its associated setting. These are considered of primary significance on the building's east and west sides and of secondary/contributing significance on its north and south sides.

After significance zones are established, significance levels can then be determined for the particular elements and features found within the primary and secondary/contributing zones of each historic property. These are presented in the following inventory.

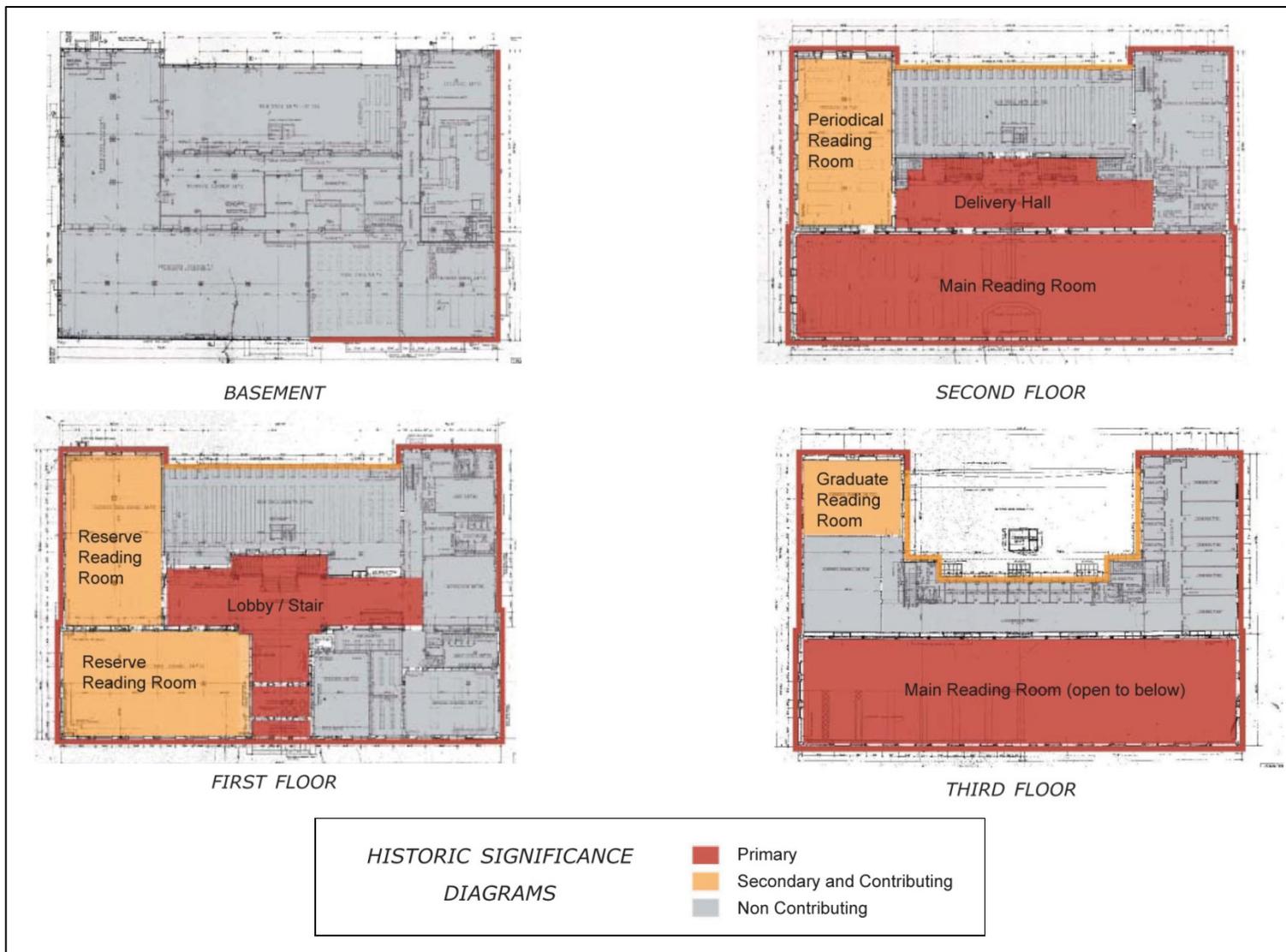


Figure 5. Historic significance diagrams for the George Thomas Building (courtesy EDA Architects).

INVENTORY OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CONTRIBUTING ZONES

The inventory of primary and secondary contributing zones is organized by space (e.g., room or area) and architectural element (e.g., floor, wall, ceiling, window opening). When applicable, the important features that comprise that element and their locations are then listed, followed by a description of the materials forming each element or feature. The significance level of the element or feature is then noted, followed by an assessment of its condition, the optimum and acceptable levels of treatment, and the anticipated level of effort needed to complete the acceptable level of treatment. Condition, treatment and effort levels are defined below.

Definitions

Condition Level

The condition of each element or feature was assessed in order to provide both an understanding of its physical integrity and information necessary in determining the level of effort needed for its treatment. Condition levels are defined as:

- *A-Excellent*: Element or feature exhibits few if any deterioration conditions.
- *B-Good*: Element or feature exhibits minor deterioration conditions that can be addressed through routine maintenance or in future repair or restoration projects (within 5–10 years).
- *C-Fair*: Element or feature exhibits moderate deterioration conditions that should be addressed in near-term repair or restoration projects (within 2–5 years).
- *D-Poor*: Element or feature exhibits advanced deterioration conditions that should be addressed in short-term repair or restoration projects (within 1–2 years).

Treatment Level (Optimum and Acceptable)

Preservation and rehabilitation efforts can be further prioritized by defining both optimum and acceptable levels of treatment for primary and secondary contributing elements and features. The optimum treatment level will ensure the highest degree of preservation while the acceptable treatment level will, at a minimum, preserve the basic character-defining features of an element or feature while allowing for the maximum amount of flexibility in project planning and implementation. Generally, the optimum and acceptable treatment levels for elements and features of primary significance will be the same, while acceptable treatment levels for secondary and non-contributing elements and features will be less stringent.

- *A-Restore/Repair/Replace with Like Materials*: Restore or repair the extant space, element, or feature to return it to its original condition. Only when necessary, replace highly deteriorated elements or features with identical or similar materials.
- *B-Repair/Replace with Compatible Materials*: Repair the extant space, element, or feature or replace it with materials compatible with but not necessarily identical to original materials in order to return it to a condition similar to original.
- *C-Repair/Replace*: Repair the extant historic space, element, or feature or replace it with a new design or materials in order to return it to a useable condition.
- *D-Remove/Demolish*: Remove or demolish the extant space, element, or feature and, if necessary, replace it in order to allow for a modified or new use.

Effort Level

The level of effort required to achieve an acceptable level of treatment is a combination of several factors: the condition of the element or feature, the degree to which it requires specialized treatment or replacement materials due to its historic or unusual nature, and/or the difficulty in removing or replacing it altogether. Levels of effort include:

- *A-High*: Building element or feature is in poor to fair condition, and/or requires specialized treatment in order to repair historic building materials or replace them with identical or very similar materials, and/or will be difficult and/or costly to remove or replace with new materials.
- *B-Medium*: Building element or feature is in fair to good condition, and/or requires routine treatment in order to maintain the current condition of historic building materials or replace them with compatible alternatives, and/or will be moderately difficult and/or costly to remove or replace with new materials.
- *C-Low*: Building element or feature is in good to excellent condition, and/or requires only routine maintenance or no treatment, and/or will be easy and/or inexpensive to remove or replace with new materials.

George Thomas Building Exterior

Description

The George Thomas Building exterior is described in the “Historic Context and Significance” section of this report. In summary, it is a Neoclassical building with Second Renaissance Revival details, clad in cast concrete veneer with cast concrete features like window sills and surrounds, and articulated with incised and carved concrete details like belt courses, cornices, and parapets (Figures 6a–6d and 7a–7i). The original metal-framed windows remain, as do the original main entryway and doors on the north side. Significant alterations are few but include the replacement of many secondary doors, the installation of window-mounted air conditioning units, and the addition of a stair tower on the south side of the building.

Summary of Condition

In general, the exterior of the George Thomas Building is in good to excellent condition (Table 1). Visible deterioration conditions are limited to very minor mortar loss, staining and soiling of the foundation and walls due to uneven water runoff and ivy growth (since removed), corrosion of metal transom bars, and disintegration of the granite pavers at the north entrance. Incompatible alterations include window-mounted air-conditioning units, the design and details of original and new secondary entrances on the west and south sides, and, to a lesser extent, the design of the ramp providing handicapped accessibility at the north entrance. Of greatest concern, however, are the original methods of attachment for the cast concrete veneer, cornice, and parapet, which likely do not meet current seismic safety codes. Limited destructive testing is required to evaluate the nature and strength of these attachments.

Table 1. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features on the exterior of the George Thomas Building and recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
General – Main building	General	North, east, and west sides of building	Concrete	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	B-medium	Main U-shaped part of original library housing reading rooms, study areas, and offices.
General – Stacks wing	General	South side of building	Concrete	C-non-contributing	B-good	B-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	B-medium	Wing contained between arms of U-shaped building housing original book stacks for library.

Table 1. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features on the exterior of the George Thomas Building and recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
Foundation	Masonry veneer	All sides of main building	Buff-colored cast concrete	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Medium-sized, coursed ashlar blocks with beveled edges.
	Masonry veneer	Stacks wing	Buff-colored cast concrete	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Large, coursed ashlar blocks with flush edges.
	Mortar	All sides, main building and stacks wing	Colored cement	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Thin, flush joints colored to match masonry.
	Water table	All sides of main building	Buff-colored cast concrete, copper flashing	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Projecting band of cast stone with copper flashing on top, stepped to match foundation height.
Wall	Masonry veneer	All sides of main building	Buff-colored cast concrete	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low [A-high]	Coursed ashlar blocks. High effort level if supplemental attachments are necessary.
	Masonry veneer	North entrance	Buff-colored cast concrete	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low [A-high]	Medium-sized, coursed ashlar blocks with beveled edges. High effort level if supplemental attachments are necessary.
	Masonry veneer	Stacks wing	Buff-colored cast concrete	B-secondary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Coursed ashlar blocks.
	Belt course	All sides of main building, third floor level	Buff-colored cast concrete	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Raised-relief, geometric decorative band.
	Mortar	Main building and stacks wing	Colored cement	A-primary (main bldg.) B-secondary (stacks wing)	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair (main building) D-demolish (stacks)	C-low	Thin, flush joint colored to match masonry.

Table 1. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features on the exterior of the George Thomas Building and recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
Roof	Covering	Main building	Standing-seam copper sheeting	B-secondary	B-good	B-repair/replace	C-repair/replace	B-medium	Not highly visible from grade.
	Covering	Stacks wing	Composition copper sheets	B-secondary	B-good	B-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Not visible from grade.
	Cornice	Main building	Buff-colored cast concrete	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low [A-high]	Projecting molded cornice over dentil course. High effort if supplemental attachments needed.
	Cornice	Stacks wing	Buff-colored cast concrete	B-secondary	B-good	B-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Projecting molded cornice below false parapet.
	Parapet	Main building	Buff-colored cast stone	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low [A-high]	Veneer blocks capped by lions' heads and incised geometric blocks. High effort if supplemental attachments needed.
Windows	Glazing	Basement level	Clear glass	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	A-high	Plain glazing, some panes replaced to accommodate AC units.
	Sash	Basement level	Metal	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	A-high	Projecting metal with putty and paint.
	Glazing	Upper levels	Clear glass	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	A-high	Plain glazing, some panes replaced to accommodate AC units.
	Sash	Upper levels	Metal	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	A-high	Projecting metal with putty and paint.
	Frame/casing	Main building, first floor level	Cast concrete	B-secondary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Cast concrete veneer, slightly raised.
	Transom	Windows of main reading room	Irregular glass (tinted?), lead or zinc cames	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Close inspection not possible, condition appears excellent.
	Transom bar	Windows of main reading room	Metal	A-primary	C-fair	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	A-high	Loss of finish, discoloration and some corrosion.

Table 1. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features on the exterior of the George Thomas Building and recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
Entry	Paving	North side of main building	Granite	B-secondary	C-fair	B-repair/replace	C-repair/replace	B-medium	Unclear if granite stairs and pavers are original.
	Masonry walls and ceiling	North side of main building	Buff-colored cast concrete	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Flat masonry/mortar on walls and columns, groin-vaulted ceiling has shallow coffers.
	Doors	North side of main building	Aluminum	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Three pairs, single-pane glazing with metal panels above and below.
	Metal transoms and grillwork	Door transoms, north entry	Aluminum	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Geometric Art Deco/Art Moderne design, grills backed by single-paned, arched wood transoms.
	Door	West side of main building	Metal, concrete	D-non-historic	B-good	C-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	B-medium	Newer unglazed metal door and concrete infill panel in original window opening.
	Door and stairs	South side of main building, west end	Metal, concrete	D-non-historic	B-good	C-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	B-medium	Newer unglazed metal door in original doorway, concrete stairs, metal railing, mailbox.
	Door and stairs	South side of main building, east end	Metal, glass, concrete	D-non-historic	B-good	C-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	B-medium	Newer unglazed metal door with sidelights in original doorway, concrete stairs, metal railing, mailbox.
Addition	Stair tower and door	South side of main building abutting stacks wing	Smooth and pebbled concrete panels, glass, metal door	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	B-medium	c.1968 addition.
Other	Lighting	North entrance	Copper, opaque glass	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Two wall-mounted lanterns flanking entry and three hanging lanterns in loggia.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is modified for use as the CSC, a number of proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions will impact the historic character of the exterior, which is one of its most significant features. Actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the exterior of the George Thomas Building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Maintain the historic character and integrity of the building exterior through the preservation and restoration of as many zones, elements and features of primary and secondary significance as possible.	For existing zones, elements, and features, comply with the recommendations for optimum treatment levels when possible and acceptable treatment levels when necessary as presented in Table 1.
Install supplementary attachments for concrete veneer, cornices and parapets for seismic stability.	Install all new veneer attachments on the interior side of the building on the east, north, and west sides; exterior attachments can be made on the south side when historic interior finishes will be impacted. Install new cornice and parapet attachments from the back or top side. No new attachments should be visible on the exterior faces of the east, north, and west sides.
Replace roof covering.	Remove existing roofing materials and replace with like or new materials similar in design and appearance to the original.
Upgrade or replace windows to meet sustainability goals.	Retain existing windows if possible. If not, replace with insulated/thermal pane glass between existing metal frames, otherwise design new windows to match original in design, profile, and materials.
Upgrade existing window transoms to meet sustainability goals.	Repair and restore existing window transoms. Install ventilated storm windows on the interior side as necessary.
Redesign handicapped accessible ramp on north side or relocate to secondary entrance.	Remove the ramp and create ADA-compliant entrances on the east and west sides of the building if possible. If not, redesign north ramp to be compatible in design and materials with the historic building.
Create new entrance in east wall using an existing window opening.	Enlarge opening only enough to accommodate doorway. Contain entry doors and vestibule within building envelope. Limit exterior additions to canopy or awning over opening, compatible in design and materials with historic elements features.
Demolish the stacks wing and replace with a three-story, T-shaped addition on the south side that will extend across the south sides of east and west arms of main building.	Create breaks on east and west sides to differentiate historic walls from addition walls. Limit addition to three stories and do not exceed height of historic building. Use new walls to improve seismic stability and minimize damage to historic walls.
Impinge on head of Cottam’s Gulch and remove some historic trees to accommodate new addition.	Do not alter present contours of gulch. Remove only those trees within or immediately adjacent to footprint of new addition. Protect roots and canopies of other trees during construction, as well as banks of gulch. Design entrance and other features at southwest corner of addition to provide link between building and gulch.
Minimize physical and visual impacts to the Stewart Building by limiting size of addition.	Protect Stewart Building during construction activities. Retain passage between buildings and adjust landscaping and walkways as needed to preserve and strengthen link from the George Thomas Building to main entrances on east and west sides of Stewart. Preserve current unobstructed views of east and west sides of Stewart as viewed from east and west.

Historic Photographs – Exterior



Figures 6a and 6b. Views of the George Thomas Library showing a) the north and east elevation shortly after construction in 1936 and b) the north elevation in 1950. (Courtesy Utah State Historical Society.)



Figures 6c and 6d. Views of the main entrance on the north side of the George Thomas Library, c. 1950s. (Courtesy University of Utah Health Sciences Collection.)

2013 Photographs – Exterior



Figures 7a–7d. Top left to bottom right: Views of the a) main façade (facing southeast); b) west side (facing east); c) south side (facing north); and d) south and east sides (facing northwest).



Figures 7e–7i. Top left to bottom right: Views of the e) main entrance with newer ramp (facing south); f) main reading room windows and cornice (facing east); g) original light fixture at entry (facing west); h) loggia (facing west); and i) main entrance doors (facing south).

Vestibule, Lobby, and Main Staircase

Room 23/Room 100

Description

The vestibule, lobby, and main staircase of the George Thomas Building are approached through the triple doorway in the loggia of the north façade. The vestibule floor is of unpolished limestone pavers in hexagons and squares, while the walls are polished limestone with a slightly raised border. Geometric grillwork in the walls (of painted metal at the wall base and terrazzo to match the limestone at mid-wall) cover the heating ductwork. The ceiling is deeply coffered and decoratively painted in neutral tones. A spherical Art Moderne fixture hangs from the ceiling. Three pairs of single-light wood doors, very similar in appearance to the metal exterior doors, lead to the lobby and are surmounted by single-pane, arched wood transoms. The interior sides of the doors have metal kick plates and abstracted linenfold push plates.

The T-shaped lobby originally had a rubberized floor laid with brown and off-white marbleized tiles in a diagonal checkerboard pattern with a linear black border; this is presently covered by carpet tiles. The walls have a polished limestone wainscot with flat plaster above; a gap in the wainscot on the east wall, just south of the vestibule, marks the former location of a built-in, glass-fronted display case. Ceiling beams are stepped, as are the borders of the ceilings, which originally had main fields of flat plaster; these were covered with acoustic tile in about the 1950s (Figures 8a–8b and 9a–9e). The east and west arms of the lobby led to the reading rooms. The wood and glass partition wall (double doors are missing) in the west arm is not shown on the original drawings but may have been an early alteration. On the south side of the east wing was a delivery desk for reserve books, which were retrieved from the stacks wing through doors in the south wall behind the desk. The lobby was originally lit with conical pendant fixtures, since replaced with fluorescent strip lighting.

At the south end of the lobby, on axis with the entry, is a short, wide flight of stairs leading to a broad landing, from which rises a double staircase leading east and west to provide access to the upper floors. The newels, stepped skirtboards, stair risers, and wainscots are polished limestone while the stair treads are of marbleized rubber colored to match. The open sides of the stairs have aluminum, Art Moderne, doubled railings, which switch to smooth aluminum handrails along walls. The second floor landings were originally lit by wood-framed ceiling fixtures comprising a central panel for electric lighting flanked by 12-light leaded-glass panels; the latter provided natural light from skylights above. The west staircase becomes narrower from the second to the third floor and this flight is lit by a window in the south wall. The east staircase originally matched it but was blocked by a wall at the second floor level c. 1968.

In the west arm of the lobby, along the north side, is a single flight of stairs leading to the basement and the original engineering library. The staircase is finished in the same way as the main staircase, with polished limestone wainscoting and stair risers, rubberized treads with metal step plates, and a polished aluminum railing, which extends around the west and south sides of the opening. Plexiglas was later used to enclose the opening and a metal and Plexiglas gate was installed to close off the head of the stairs. More recently, a wood-framed, drywalled half wall was installed around the west and south sides of the opening, presumably to increase the height of the barrier and comply with code.

Early alterations to the lobby included the installation of acoustic ceiling tile, a carpet runner, and possibly the partition wall in the west arm (see Figure 8b). More recent significant alterations include the installation of a low ramp and other alterations to the doorway leading to the Treasure Room on the west side of the lobby (just inside the vestibule doors), the addition of wall-to-wall carpet tiles, the addition of temporary office space in the east arm, the removal or alteration of original light fixtures, the installation of a ceiling-mounted fire suppression system, the blocking of the east staircase at the second floor level, and the partial enclosure of the basement staircase.

Summary of Condition

The vestibule, lobby, and staircase are in good condition due to ongoing maintenance and the use of simple yet durable materials (Table 3). The removal of ceiling tiles, the repair or replacement of the original floor with one of similar design, and the installation of more compatible light fixtures will go a long way toward restoring the historic appearance and feeling of the spaces. The vestibule floor requires minor repair or resurfacing while the limestone veneer used for the wainscoting, and for the newels in particular, is chipped and exhibits mortar loss. Alterations like the low ramp leading into the former Treasure Room, walls for temporary office space in the east arm of the lobby, and the blocked upper flights of the east staircase are all reversible.

Table 3. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the vestibule, lobby, and main staircase of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
General – Vestibule	General	Center of north side, first floor of main building	Limestone veneer, cast concrete	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Most elaborate space in building, stone walls and coffered ceiling.
General – Lobby	General	Center of first floor, main building	Rubberized flooring, stone veneer, plaster	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	B-medium	Plain space, retains essential form and feeling despite alterations.
General – Staircase	General	South side of first floor, main building	Rubberized flooring, stone veneer, plaster	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	B-medium	Short flight leads to half landing, splits into double staircase.
Floor	Pavers	Vestibule	Unpolished limestone	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	C-low	Patterned with hexagons and squares.
	Covering	Lobby	Patterned, rubberized flooring beneath carpet tiles	D-non-historic (carpet) A-primary (rubberized flooring)	B-good	D-remove/demolish (carpet) A-restore/repair (rubberized flooring)	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Marbleized brown and white tiles laid in diagonal checkerboard, linear border. Restore or replace with similar.
	Covering	Main stairs and basement stairs	Stone risers, rubberized treads, metal step plates	B-secondary	C-fair	A-restore/repair	C-repair/replace	B-medium	Carpet covers first level of main stairs. On upper flights and basement stairs, treads and plates exhibit wear.

Table 3. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the vestibule, lobby, and main staircase of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
Wall	Wall surface	Vestibule	Polished limestone veneer	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Plain wall with raised borders, very thin joints. Some surface-mounted electrical and plaques.
	Heating grates	Vestibule	Metal at wall base painted to match, terrazzo mid-wall	B-secondary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Matching geometric patterns, similar to transom bars on exterior doors.
	Wainscot	Lobby and staircases	Polished limestone veneer	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Very minor chipped edges and mortar loss.
	Mortar	Wainscot of lobby and staircases	Colored cement	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Very thin, flush joints colored to match masonry.
	Upper wall	Lobby and staircases	Plaster	B-secondary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	C-low	Historic photos show plain painted finish.
Ceiling	Coffered finish	Vestibule	Cast concrete?, plaster, paint	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Hexagon and square pattern similar to floor treatment.
	Flat finish with border	Lobby	Acoustic tiles, raised plaster borders	D-non-historic (tiles) B-secondary (borders)	B-good	D-remove/demolish (acoustic tiles) B-repair/replace (flat plaster and borders)	D-remove/demolish (acoustic tiles) B-repair/replace (flat plaster and borders)	C-low	Acoustic tiles installed over original flat plaster ceiling. Restore flat finish, retain borders.
	Flat finish	Staircase	Plaster	B-secondary	A-excellent	B-repair/replace	B-repair/replace	C-low	Original finish.
Staircase	Newels	Foot of first flight, main staircase	Polished limestone	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Rectangular newels anchor foot of staircase.
	Railings	Main staircase	Polished aluminum	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Double horizontal railing on open sides, single handrail with Moderne brackets along walls.
	Railings	Basement staircase	Polished aluminum, Plexiglas	B-secondary D-non-historic (Plexiglas)	B-good	A-restore/repair (metal railing) D-remove/demolish (Plexiglas)	B-repair/replace (metal railing) D-remove/demolish (Plexiglas)	B-medium	Double horizontal railing on open sides, single handrails with Moderne brackets along walls.
	Half wall	Basement staircase	Wood, drywall	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Wall added after c. 1968, obscures original railing.

Table 3. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the vestibule, lobby, and main staircase of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
Windows	Skylights	Second floor landings	Wood frames and muntins, glass, metal light frame	B-contributing	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Glazed, flat panels for electric light flanked by 12-paned panels for natural light.
Doorway	Doors	Vestibule	Wood, glass, metal plates	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Single pane glazing with wood panels above and below. Three door pairs.
	Transoms	Vestibule	Wood frames, glass	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Three transoms, single-pane glazing, arched.
	Partition wall	West arm of lobby	Wood frames, glass	C-non-contributing	B-good	B-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Tripartite with pair of doors (missing) at center, glazing to sides and in transoms.
Other	Lighting	Vestibule	Aluminum, opaque glass	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Spherical hanging globe with 3 aluminum bands
Other	Lighting	Lobby	Fluorescent tubes	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Replaced with earlier conical hanging fixtures if possible.
Other	Ramp and wall	West side of lobby	Wood, drywall	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Remove to restore original space and volume.
Other	Office partitions	East side of lobby	Wood, drywall	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Remove to restore original space and volume.
Other	Dedication plaque	West wall of vestibule	Cast metal	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Retain in vestibule per MOA

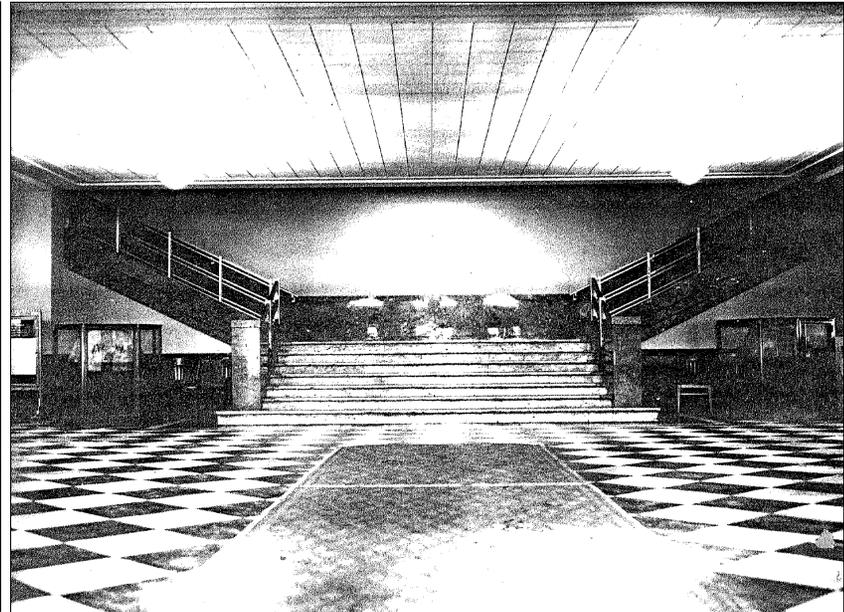
Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is converted for use to the CSC, a number of proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions will impact the historic character of the vestibule, lobby, and main staircase, which are considered of primary significance as architectural spaces. Actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the vestibule, lobby, and main staircase of the George Thomas Building.

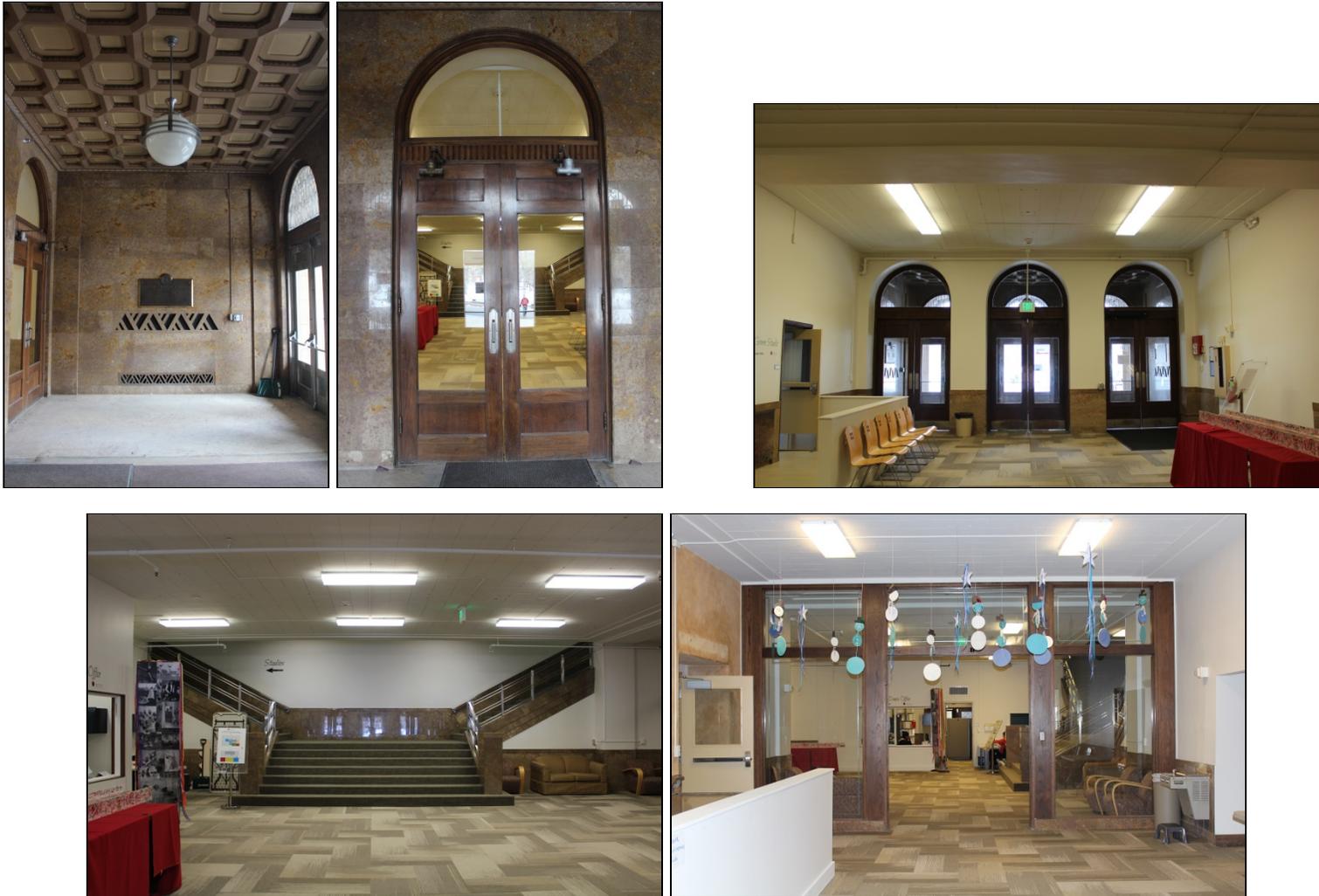
Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Maintain the historic character and integrity of the vestibule, lobby, and main staircase through the preservation and restoration of as many spaces, elements and features of primary and secondary significance as possible.	For existing spaces, elements, and features, comply with the recommendations for optimum treatment levels when possible and acceptable treatment levels when necessary as presented in Table 3.
Remove doorway to former Treasure Room on west side of lobby to create solid wall just inside vestibule doors.	Remove ramp leading to door as well. Ensure new finishes match existing historic finishes, including polished limestone wainscot with plaster wall above.
Remove south wall of staircase at first floor level and add short flight descending into new addition/atrium to provide visual and physical link between old and new parts of building.	Design new south side of staircase to match or complement historic north side, maintaining width and railing design.
Install secondary stair railings to meet current code.	Retain original railings and install code-compliant railings adjacent to them. Design secondary railings to be unobtrusive and/or compatible with historic railings.
Create conference room and two study rooms beneath east and west arms of main staircase at first floor level.	Place doors to these spaces as far east and west (away from the stairs) as practicable in order to have the least impact on the appearance of the lobby and staircase.
Extend east arm of lobby to link with new entrance on east side of building.	This requires removing the north end of the southeast reserve reading room (Room 20/108). Ensure that finishes in the new portion of the hall are compatible (but not necessarily identical) to those in the historic lobby. The new vestibule and its exterior and interior doors should also be compatible in materials and appearance.
Retain basement staircase.	Remove both half wall and Plexiglas from around historic railing. Retain original railing and install code-compliant railing adjacent to it as required. Design any secondary railing to be unobtrusive and/or compatible with historic railing.
Remove non-original partition wall in west arm of lobby.	Repair any damage to original finishes after partition wall is removed.
Remove staircases above the second floor level and relocate these in the new addition to allow for modified use of original but non-contributing spaces.	Retain original staircase configuration to the landings at the second floor level, including skylights, and restore original materials or replace with compatible materials.

Historic Photographs – Vestibule, Lobby, and Main Staircase



Figures 8a and 8b. View of the staircase and main lobby of the George Thomas Library c. 1935, a) facing southwest and b) c. 1950 facing south. (Courtesy a: Utah State Historical Society and b: from National Register of Historic Places nomination form.)

2013 Photographs – Vestibule, Lobby, and Main Staircase



Figures 9a–9e. Top left to bottom right: Views of the a) vestibule (facing west); b) vestibule entrance doors (facing south); c) lobby and vestibule doors (facing north); d) main staircase (facing south); and e) partition doors in west arm of lobby (facing west).

Delivery Hall

Room 57/Rooms 209–210

Description

The rectangular delivery hall is on the second floor of the George Thomas Building and lies at the head of the double staircase leading up from the lobby on the first floor (Figure 10a–10c and 11a–11d). Originally, books were requested at a desk set across a recess in the south wall; doors behind the desk led into the stacks wing, where books were retrieved and then delivered to patrons at the desk. Glass-fronted display cases were built into the walls on either side of the delivery desk. Two sets of doors on the north side of the hall led into the grand, vaulted main reading room. A doorway at the east end of the hall led into the periodical reading room and one at the west end provided access to offices. A corridor leading to a large cataloging and accessions room opened from the west end of the south wall. The space had no windows.

The delivery hall floor was similar in appearance to the lobby and main reading room floors, with rubberized brown and off-white marbled tiles in a diagonal checkerboard pattern with a linear border; this is presently covered by carpet tiles. The walls are clad in polished limestone with incised details, capped by a segmentally arched, barrel-vaulted ceiling. The ceiling was originally finished with flat plaster but has since been covered with acoustic tiles, and fluorescent light fixtures and a fire suppression system have been mounted over the tiles. Along the north and south walls, at the springpoints of the vault, are the original rectangular light fixtures of opaque glass set in metal frames that run the length of the vault, giving the room an Art Moderne feel. Above the doorways in the east, south, and west walls are inscriptions carved into the limestone that read:

East wall: HAPPY IS THE MAN THAT FINDETH WISDOM
AND THE MAN THAT GETTETH UNDERSTANDING

South wall: IN BOOKS LIES THE SOUL OF THE WHOLE PAST TIME – THE ARTICULATE AUDIBLE VOICE OF THE PAST
WHEN THE BODY AND MATERIAL SUBSTANCE OF IT HAS ALTOGETHER VANISHED LIKE A DREAM

West wall: WHAT IN ME IS DARK ILLUMINE
WHAT IS LOW RAISE AND SUPPORT

Originally, behind the delivery desk were wood-framed closet doors with pebbled-glass glazing flanking two sets of double doors with clear glazing leading to the stacks. The closet doors have been replaced with solid wood doors and the openings into the stacks wing have been blocked with drywall. The double doors at the east end of the room, leading to the periodical room, were likely wood-framed with large panes of pebbled glazing but have been replaced with a pair of large wood doors with small, square panes of pebbled glazing. A single wood-framed door with pebbled glazing and sidelights led into the library offices at the west end; this has been removed and the opening now leads into a small elevator lobby. The two sets of leather-covered and studded double doors leading to the reading room on the north side remain and have small, single lights; their original knobs have been replaced with metal push plates. Original furnishings, no longer extant, included stone benches set against the north wall and the curved wood delivery desk at the center of the south wall.

In summary, major alterations to the delivery hall include the removal of the benches and delivery desk; the installation of a partition wall with a door at the west end and low walls around the south wall opening to create temporary offices for Tanner Dance; the application of acoustic tiles, new lights, and a fire suppression system to the ceiling and surface-mounted electrical to the walls; the installation of carpet tiles over the original floor; the replacement of the south closet doors with solid wood doors; the (probable) replacement of the doors leading to the periodical room; and the installation of drywall to fully or partially block original openings into the stacks wings, the second-floor stair landings, the closet space under the staircase at the east end of the hall, and the corridor leading into the south arm of the main wing.

Summary of Condition

The delivery hall is in good condition due to ongoing maintenance and the use of simple yet durable materials (Table 5). Alterations are few and reversible. The removal of partition walls and ceiling tiles, the restoration of original light fixtures and openings in the south wall, and the repair or replacement of the original floor with one of similar design will help to re-establish the historic appearance and feel of the space.

Table 5. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the delivery hall of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
General – Delivery Hall	General	Center of south side, second floor of main building	Rubberized flooring, polished limestone	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Long, low, Art Moderne space, important public room.
Floor	Covering	Entire floor	Patterned, rubberized flooring beneath carpet tiles	D-non-historic (carpet) A-primary (rubberized flooring)	B-good	D-remove/demolish (carpet) A-restore/repair (rubberized flooring)	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Marbleized brown and white tiles laid in diagonal checkerboard, linear border. Restore or replace with similar.
Wall	Wall surface	All walls	Polished limestone veneer	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Plain wall with curved corners, incised details, very thin joints. Some surface-mounted electrical added.
	Mortar	All walls	Colored cement	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Very thin, flush joints colored to match masonry.
	Inscriptions	East, south and west walls above doorways	Limestone	A-primary	A-excellent	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	V-grooved, unpolished capital letters. Inscriptions transcribed above.
	Display cases	South wall flanking recess, center of north wall	Wood framed doors with clear glazing	C-non-contributing	B-good (north wall) D-poor (south wall)	B-restore/repair	D-remove/demolish	B-medium	On south, projecting display cases built over recesses, original doors missing. North case intact.
	Heating grate	Center of north wall	Metal	C-non-contributing	B-good	B-restore/repair	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Decorative rectangular grill.

Table 5. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the delivery hall of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
Ceiling	Finish	Entire ceiling	Acoustic tiles	D-non-historic (tiles) A-primary (original plaster beneath tiles)	B-good	D-remove/demolish (acoustic tiles) B-repair/replace (original plaster beneath tiles)	D-remove/demolish (acoustic tiles) B-repair/replace (original plaster)	B-medium	Acoustic tiles installed over original vaulted plaster ceiling. Restore flat finish.
	Fire suppression system	Center of ceiling	Metal pipes and sprinkler heads	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	System installed over acoustic tile.
Doorway	Doors	East wall	Wood, pebbled glazing	D-non-historic	B-good	B-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Original doors probably wood framed with large panels of pebbled glazing.
	Doors and doorways	Center of south wall, closets and entries to stacks	Wood, drywall	D-non-historic	B-good	B-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Newer solid wood closet doors, original doors to stacks removed and openings drywalled.
	Doorways	West and east ends, south wall: access to stair landings, closet and corridor	Drywall, metal fire door in east stair opening	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Most openings originally without doors, closet door likely wood-framed with pebbled glazing.
	Doorway	West wall, original entry to offices	None	D-non-historic	B-good	B-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Opening empty, originally wood door with sidelights.
	Doors	North wall, entries to main reading room	Wood, leather, metal studs, clear glazing	B-contributing	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Two pairs of leather-covered doors with decorative metal studs.
Other	Lighting	Length of north and south walls	Aluminum, opaque glass	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Box lights with faces directed out and down.
Other	Lighting	South side of ceiling	Fluorescent panels	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Installed over acoustic tile.
Other	Partition walls	West end of hall, center of s. wall	Wood, drywall	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Remove to restore original space and volume.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is modified for use as the CSC, a number of proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions will impact the historic character of the delivery hall, which is considered of primary significance as an architectural space. Actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the delivery hall of the George Thomas Building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Maintain the historic character and integrity of the delivery hall through the preservation and restoration of as many spaces, elements and features of primary and secondary significance as possible.	For existing spaces, elements and features, comply with the recommendations for optimum treatment levels when possible and acceptable treatment levels when necessary as presented in Table 5.
Restore original feel and volume of the delivery hall.	Remove non-historic partition walls, remove acoustic tile and carpeting, and restore or reproduce the original patterned floor design.
Create a third opening in the north wall to provide access to a proposed classroom at the west end of the main reading room.	Design opening and doors to be compatible in design and materials with historic openings and doors to the east.
Restore some openings in the south wall.	Remove drywall from openings leading to stair landings and repair extant original materials as necessary.
Visually connect delivery hall to new wing by opening south wall of recessed area and creating balcony overlooking atrium.	Minimize damage to limestone walls and retain as much original material as possible. Design new walls, floor, and balcony railings to be compatible with historic materials.
Repurpose the space as a café with a counter along the north wall and an array of tables and chairs.	Design counter to be compatible in design and materials with original space. Ensure any modifications necessary for café infrastructure are reversible.
Reconfigure east and west ends of south wall to accommodate new circulation patterns.	Retain original openings to east and west stair landings. Minimize damage to limestone walls and retain as much original material as possible. Design new finishes to be compatible with historic materials.

Historic Photographs – Delivery Hall



Figure 10a. View of the delivery hall on the second floor of the George Thomas Library c. 1935, facing west. The Main Reading Room is approached through the doors on the right. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)



Figures 10b and 10c. Views of the delivery hall on the second floor of the George Thomas Library c. 1935, showing b) the delivery desk on the south side of the hall and c) the studded leather entry doors leading into the Main Reading Room on the north side of hall. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)

2013 Photographs – Delivery Hall



Figures 11a–11d. Top left to bottom right: Views of the a) delivery hall (facing west); b) west end of hall (facing west); c) delivery hall (facing east); and d) original delivery desk area at the center of the south wall (facing southeast).

Main Reading Room

Room 56/Room 201

Description

The rectangular main reading room is the most significant public area in the George Thomas Building and extends across the north side of the building on the second floor (Figures 12a–12f and 13a–13i). Originally, a librarian’s desk was located at the center of the north wall and the remainder of the space was filled with reading tables and chairs; by about the 1950s, the librarian’s desk had been moved to the south side of the room. The walls were lined with built-in bookcases and the space was lit by large windows set in the east, north, and west walls, as well as light panels recessed into the vaulted ceiling. Two doorways in the south wall led into the delivery hall and a third, at the east end of the south wall, led into the periodical room.

The reading room floor was similar in appearance to the lobby and delivery hall floors, with rubberized brown and off-white marbled tiles in a diagonal checkerboard pattern with a linear black border; this is presently covered by carpet tiles and laminated wood dance floors. A few of the oak bookcases and shelves remain along the lower walls but many were covered with wood panels through the years, and on the south wall travertine panels were used to entirely cover the bookcase openings in about 1968. Decorative metal heating duct grates are located at the bases of a number of bookcases on the east, north, and west walls. The upper walls are finished with flat plaster, relieved on the south wall with large, decorative air return grates. The segmentally arched, barrel-vaulted ceiling springs from squared beams that run the lengths of the north and south walls. Decorative bands with octagonal, coffered lozenges span the vault and are painted a cream color, alternating with white-painted, flat plaster sections punctuated by the recessed light panels.

The windows and transoms have wood sills and casings; the metal windows themselves were described with the building exterior (above). All window openings are framed by low-relief plaster pilasters with raised-relief capitals of abstract design, the latter painted a cream color. The windows on the east and west walls have matching raised-relief panels on the lintel faces. Wood blinds originally covered the windows but only the wood valances remain. The three sets of double doors in the south wall were described with the delivery hall (above).

Major alterations to the main reading room comprise the removal of all furniture, including the librarian’s desk; the removal or alteration of many of the book cases; the installation of carpet and wood floors over the original floor; the installation of temporary partition walls in the last few years to divide the space into three dance studios; the replacement of original light fixtures in the ceiling panels and the installation of emergency lighting on some walls; and the addition of hanging acoustic panels.

Summary of Condition

Despite modifications to accommodate a large exhibit hall for UMNH and, more recently, the installation of temporary floors and walls to accommodate use by the dance department, the main reading room is in good condition. Water leaks have caused minor damage to some of the window lintels and the remaining bookcases have been damaged through use or modification, but as with other spaces in the library, ongoing maintenance and the use of simple yet durable materials have proven their worth (Table 7). Major alterations are few and most are easily reversible, and the removal of partitions and the repair or replacement of the original floor with one of similar design will help to re-establish the historic appearance and feel of the space.

Table 7. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the main reading room of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
General – Main Reading Room	General	Length of north side, second floor of main building	Rubberized flooring, wood bookcases, plaster	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	A-high	Large, dramatic space with high ceiling, abundant natural light, most important public room.
Floor	Covering	Entire floor	Patterned, rubberized flooring beneath carpet tiles and laminated dance floors	D-non-historic (carpet and laminate) A-primary (rubberized flooring)	B-good	D-remove/demolish (carpet and laminate) A-restore/repair (rubberized flooring)	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Marbleized brown and white tiles laid in diagonal checkerboard, linear border. Restore or replace with similar.
Wall	Wall surface	All walls	Wood bookcases and trim	A-primary	C-fair	B-repair/replace	C-repair/replace	B-medium	Bookcases no longer relevant but retain two-part division of wall surface, preferably wood paneling below.
	Wall surface	All walls	Plaster	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Flat plaster painted white.
	Wall surface	South wall	Travertine	D-non-historic	A-excellent	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Stone panels cover original bookcases.
	Air return grates	Upper field of south wall	Painted metal	B-contributing	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	C-low	Decorative rectangular grill.
	Heating grates	Built into bookcases and below windows	Metal	C-non-contributing	B-good	B-restore/repair	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Decorative rectangular grills built into cases.
Ceiling	Finish	Plain fields of ceiling	Plaster	B-contributing	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Flat plaster.
	Arched decorative bands	Spanning width of ceiling	Painted plaster	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Appear single color in historic photos but conduct paint study?

Table 7. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the main reading room of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
Windows	Sills and casings	All windows	Wood	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	C-low	Will be affected if bookcases removed, design new finish details similar to original.
	Valances	Between window and transom	Wood	C-non-contributing	B-good	B-repair/replace	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Original wood blinds have been removed.
	Surrounds	All window openings	Plain and raised relief plaster	A-primary	B-good to C-fair	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Water damage in some areas, repair any leaks.
Other	Lighting	Six-light recessed ceiling panels	Metal, glass	A-primary	B-good	B-repair/replace	C-repair/replace	B-medium	Retain appearance as able, recess new fixtures.
Other	Lighting	Projecting directional lighting	Directional spot lighting	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Replace with recessed fixtures.
Other	Partition walls	East and west ends of room	Wood, drywall	D-non-historic	A-excellent	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Remove to restore original space and volume.
Other	Acoustic panels	Suspended from ceiling	Wood, fabric	D-non-historic	A-excellent	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Remove to restore original appearance.
Other	Acoustic panels	Walls	Wood, fabric	D-non-historic	A-excellent	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	C-low	Remove to restore original appearance.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is modified for use as the CSC, a number of proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions will impact the historic character of the main reading room, which is considered of primary significance as an architectural space. For this room in particular, the potential impacts have been discussed at length in general meetings and in smaller discussions with representatives from the University, the Utah SHPO, UHF, and the programming team, resulting in recommendations for programming and rehabilitation that will be consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation. Actions and preservation goals are summarized in Table 8.

Table 8. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the main reading room of the George Thomas Building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
<p>Maintain the historic character and integrity of the main reading room through the preservation and restoration of as many spaces, elements and features of primary and secondary significance as possible.</p>	<p>For existing spaces, elements, and features, comply with the recommendations for optimum treatment levels when possible and acceptable treatment levels when necessary as presented in Table 7. In particular, remove non-historic partition walls and acoustic wall and ceiling panels. Remove newer flooring and restore or reproduce the original patterned floor design. Retain wood paneling on lower part of walls or, at a minimum, retain division of walls into two fields.</p>
<p>Restore and retain original feel and volume of the main reading room while carefully modifying the space to accommodate compatible uses and meet programming needs. Divide space into three parts: classrooms with tiered seating at either end, separated from central tutoring center by glass partition walls that allow uninterrupted view along length of space. Design partition walls to be partially retractable so that three spaces can be joined into one for special events.</p>	<p>Ensure walls are as transparent as practicable to allow for view along length of room from different vantage points. Design structural systems, walls, and furnishings to have as little impact on historic building materials as possible, and to be reversible where possible.</p>
<p>Create a third opening in the south wall to provide access to the delivery hall from the tiered classroom at the west end of the reading room.</p>	<p>Design opening and doors to be compatible in design and materials with historic openings and doors to the east.</p>
<p>Secure exterior cast concrete veneer by creating new attachments from interior walls over entrances on north and west sides, constructing false walls over existing walls to conceal work.</p>	<p>Design any projecting false walls to be similar in finish and appearance with historic walls. Keep false walls to minimum possible dimensions. Do not cover or otherwise impacting design details like pilasters and capitals around window openings.</p>

Historic Photographs – Main Reading Room



Figure 12a. View of the Main Reading Room in the George Thomas Library c. 1935, prior to the installation of furniture, facing west. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)

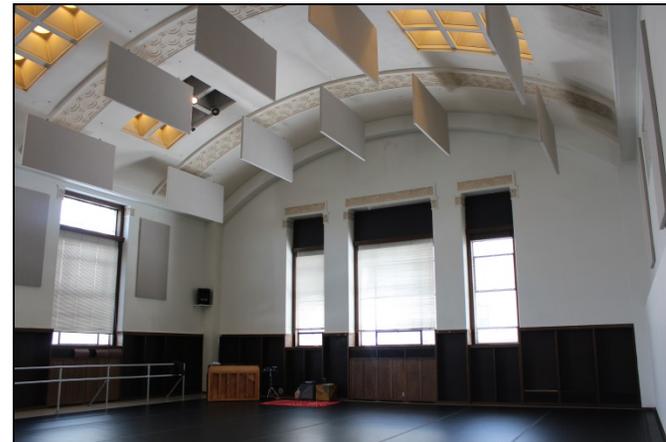
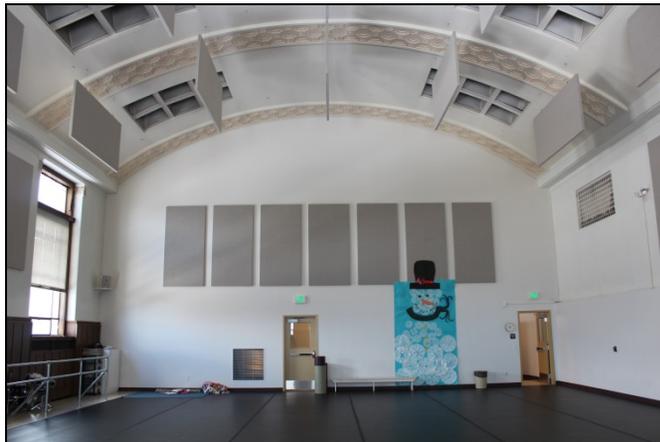


Figures 12b and 12c. From left to right: View of the Main Reading Room in the George Thomas Library c. 1935–1950, b) facing east and c) facing west. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)

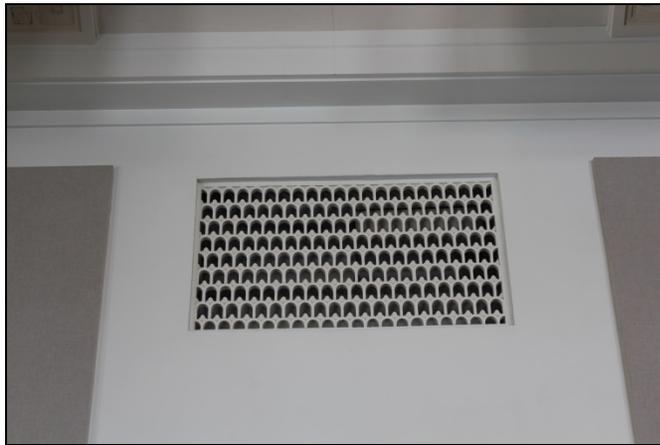
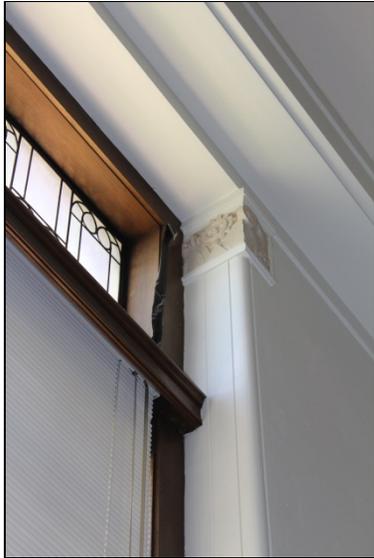


Figures 12d–12f. Top left to bottom left: Views of the Reading Room d) before the librarian’s desk was moved from the north to the south side of the room, c. 1935–1950, facing west, and e) after, c. 1950s, facing southwest and f) facing southeast. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections [d], University of Utah Health Sciences Collection [e], and Utah State Historical Society [f]).

2013 Photographs – Main Reading Room



Figures 13a–13d. Top left to bottom right: Views of the main reading room a) at the west end (facing northwest); b) at the center (facing northwest); c) at the center (facing east); and d) at the east end (facing northeast).



Figures 13e–13i. Top left to bottom right: Details of the main reading room, including a) window transom and reveal treatments; b) window casing and reveal treatments; c) original light recesses and decorative ceiling bands; d) an air return grate in the south wall; and i) original bookcases.

Reserve Book Reading Room (Northeast)

Room 21/Room 109

Description

The reserve book reading room in the northeast corner of the first floor is considered a secondary contributing space in the George Thomas Building (Figures 14 and 15a–15d). Originally, it was connected by double doors to the reserve book delivery desk in the east arm of the lobby and to a second reserve book reading room to the south. The room was lit by large windows and conical light fixtures depended from the ceiling. Furnishings were limited to tables and chairs.

The reading room retains its original rubberized floor, which is a solid reddish brown color with a green and black border. The plastered walls are covered in very thin “Flexwood” wood veneer in imitation of wood paneling, and the elaborate, serpentine plaster cornice is painted with graining to match the Flexwood. The three columns that run east to west down the center of the room, supporting the floor of the main reading room on the second floor, are also covered in Flexwood. The ceiling comprises a slightly recessed flat plaster field with stepped borders; the main field has been covered with acoustic tiles and painted black in most areas. Metal heating duct covers below the windows are finished with faux wood graining to match the Flexwood while decorative metal air return grates are located high on the south wall. The metal windows in the east and north walls have stone sills, wood jambs and casings, and Flexwood reveals; after c.1968, metal tape was applied to the window glazing as part of a security system. The two pairs of double doors in the south wall are of wood framing large panes of pebbled glass in the upper field and smaller panes in the lower field; the lobby doors also have pebbled glass sidelights.

The reserve book reading room has been extensively altered to accommodate exhibits during UMNH’s tenure but this mainly comprises false walls, surface-mounted directional lighting and fire suppression sprinkler pipes on the ceiling, behind which the original floor, walls, ceiling (beneath the acoustic tiles), windows, and doors remain. All original furnishings have been removed, as have the original light fixtures.

Summary of Condition

Although dusty and neglected, the reserve book reading room is in good condition. Leaks around the windows have damaged small sections of the plaster cornice and have caused the Flexwood veneer to delaminate. The major alterations are easily reversible, and the removal of false walls and ceiling accretions would immediately re-establish the historic appearance and feel of the space. However, the space is scheduled for extensive modification to meet the programming needs for the CSC.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is modified for use as the CSC, a number of proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions will impact the historic character of the northeast reserve book reading room, which is considered of secondary significance as an architectural space. The optimum preservation treatment would be to restore the space, elements, and features to their original condition but this cannot be done while at the same time meeting the program needs of the CSC. Acceptable actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 9. Of note, the graduate reading room will be restored (albeit with some modifications), thus preserving an example of this type of space in the building.

Table 9. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the reserve book reading room (northeast) of the George Thomas Building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Focus restoration efforts on primary contributing spaces (exterior, vestibule, lobby, staircase, delivery hall, main reading room) and extensively modify the northeast reserve reading room to accommodate new use.	Photographically document room after later modifications are removed and original volume and finishes are visible. Permanently archive photographs.
Divide space into two teaching labs accommodating 24 students each.	Retain existing window openings and do not partially or fully cover or obscure with new walls or ceilings. Consider restoring existing ceiling with stepped border and retaining one or more existing walls (with Flexwood finish and cornice) in each room.
Use existing doorways into lobby for access to each room but replace doors.	Retain door if possible. If not, document doors and openings prior to modification/replacement. Design new doors to be compatible in design and materials with historic lobby. Consider reusing original doors elsewhere in building.

Historic Photographs – Reserve Book Reading Room (Northeast)



Figure 14. View of the reserve book reading room on the northeast corner of the first floor c. 1935, facing southeast. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)

2013 Photographs – Reserve Book Reading Room (Northeast)



Figures 15a–15d. Top left to bottom right: Views of the reserve book reading room on the northeast corner of the first floor: a) general view (facing southeast); b) windows and cornice (facing northeast); c) paneling and doors to hallway (facing south); and d) air return grate and cornice (south wall).

Reserve Book Reading Room (Southeast)

Room 20/Room 108

Description

The reserve book reading room in the southeast corner of the first floor is considered a secondary contributing space in the George Thomas Building (Figures 16a–16d). Originally, it was connected by double doors on the west wall to the reserve book delivery desk in the east arm of the lobby, and to the second reserve book reading room to the north. The room was lit by large windows in the east and south walls. No historic photographs were located but the room was likely furnished with tables and chairs in a manner similar to the northeast reserve book reading room.

The reading room was later divided into three main areas: a UMNH exhibit space on the west side of the room, separated by a wood and glass partition from a UMNH laboratory space on the east side of the room, and storage rooms and closets along the south side. However, the entire room retains its original rubberized floor, which is a solid reddish brown color with a green and black border. The original plastered walls are covered in very thin Flexwood veneer, with fluted pilasters at the corners of the room; the cornice is narrow and plain. The three columns that run north to south down the center of the room, supporting the floor of the periodical room on the second floor, have been incorporated into the newer partition walls. The original ceiling comprises a slightly recessed flat plaster field with a channeled border, some of which has been painted black. Other parts of the ceiling are obscured by a drop ceiling fitted with acoustic tiles and fluorescent lights, and surface mounted fire suppression pipes and electrical conduit crisscross the walls and ceiling. Metal heating duct covers below the windows are finished with faux wood graining to match the Flexwood. The metal windows in the east and south walls have stone sills, wood jambs and casings, and Flexwood reveals; after c.1968, metal tape was applied to the window glazing as part of a security system. The double doors in the north wall are wood framed with large panes of pebbled glass in the upper field and smaller panes in the lower field.

The reserve book reading room has altered in significant ways: partition walls and a drop ceiling were added; the west window on the south wall was converted to a doorway; intrusive fire suppression and electrical systems were mounted on walls and ceilings; the Flexwood finish was removed from the east half of the north wall; and all original light fixtures and furnishings were removed.

Summary of Condition

The southeast reserve book reading room is in poor condition. Leaks around the windows have damaged sizeable sections of the plaster cornice and have caused the Flexwood veneer to delaminate. However, the major alterations are reversible and the removal of partition walls and ceiling accretions, as well as repairs to original materials, would immediately re-establish the historic appearance and feel of the space. Nonetheless, the space is scheduled for extensive modification to meet the programming needs for the Crocker Science Center.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is modified for use as the CSC, a number of proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions will impact the historic character of the southeast reserve book reading room, which is considered of secondary significance as an architectural space. The optimum preservation treatment would be to restore the space, elements, and features to their original condition but this cannot be done while at the same time meeting the program needs of the CSC. Acceptable actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 10. Of note, the graduate reading room will be restored (albeit with some modifications), thus preserving an example of this type of space in the building.

Table 10. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the reserve book reading room (southeast) of the George Thomas Building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Focus restoration efforts on primary contributing spaces (exterior, vestibule, lobby, staircase, delivery hall, main reading room) and extensively modify the southeast reserve book reading room to accommodate new use.	Photographically document room after later modifications are removed and original volume and finishes are visible. Permanently archive photographs.
Convert northernmost window opening in the east wall to a doorway and use north end of room to create a vestibule and hall for the new entrance.	Ensure design and finishes are compatible with historic lobby.
Subdivide remaining space into an advising hive, with offices for advisors along the east wall and advising rooms to the west. Use the southwest corner of the room to create new toilet facilities that will be accessed from the west side.	Retain all existing window openings and do not partially or fully cover or obscure with new walls or ceilings. Consider restoring existing ceiling with stepped border and retaining existing walls (with Flexwood finish and cornice) along the east and south walls.
Abut new addition against west end of south exterior wall of reading room. Remove non-historic doorway (converted from historic window opening) and replace with solid wall. Begin addition west of remaining window to create recess and separation between historic building and addition.	Retain historic window opening and window at east end of south wall.

Historic Photographs – Reserve Book Reading Room (Southeast)

None located.

2013 Photographs – Reserve Book Reading Room (Southeast)



Figures 16a–16d. Top left to bottom right: Views of the reserve book reading room on the southeast corner of the first floor: a) general view (facing southeast); b) windows and damaged wall (facing northeast); c) wood-grained duct cover (facing east); and d) cornice and ceiling treatment (facing southeast).

Periodical Room

Room 55/Room 204

Description

The periodical reading room in the southeast wing of the second floor is considered a secondary contributing space in the George Thomas Building (Figures 17a–17d). Originally, it was connected by double doors with sidelights on the west wall to the delivery hall and by double doors to the main reading room to the north. The periodical room was lit by large windows in the east and south walls. No historic photographs were located but the room was likely furnished with tables and chairs in a manner similar to the other reading rooms, and also had built-in wood bookcases and shelves lining most or all walls.

Later alterations created a UMNH exhibit space across most of the room with a storage area along the south wall. However, the entire room retains its original rubberized floor, with brown and off-white marbled tiles in a diagonal checkerboard pattern with a linear black border. A few of the oak bookcases and shelves remain along the lower walls, although some appear to be covered with newer wood paneling; the upper walls are covered with Flexwood and are capped by a simple, narrow cornice. The three columns that run north to south down the center of the room, supporting the third floor, are also finished with Flexwood. The original ceiling was apparently flat plaster with no border and is presently painted black. Metal heating duct covers below the windows are finished with faux wood graining while metal grates are used on the lower parts of some bookcases and for air returns in the upper walls. The windows on the east wall remain in place and have wood sills but have been covered with drywall to darken the room, while the original metal windows on the south wall, in the storage area, have wood casings and Flexwood reveals, and retain their original wood blinds. The double doors in the north wall are wood framed with large panes of pebbled glass in the upper field and smaller panes in the lower field, while those in the west wall are replacements and are further described with the delivery hall (above).

The periodical room has been extensively altered with false walls, partition walls, and display cases, as well as blocked windows and covered bookcases in order to create an exhibit hall for UMNH, but most original features and finishes remain.

Summary of Condition

The periodical reading room requires maintenance and minor repairs but the visible portions are otherwise in good condition. The major alterations are reversible and the removal of partition walls and exhibit cases, as well as repairs to original materials, would re-establish the historic appearance and feel of the space. However, the space is scheduled for extensive modification to meet the programming needs of the CSC.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is modified for use as the CSC, a number of proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions will impact the historic character of the periodical room, which is considered of secondary significance as an architectural space. The optimum preservation treatment would be to restore the space, elements, and features to their original condition but this cannot be done while at the same time meeting the program needs of the CSC. Acceptable actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary's Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 11. As partial mitigation, the graduate reading room will be restored (albeit with some modifications), thus preserving an example of this type of space in the building.

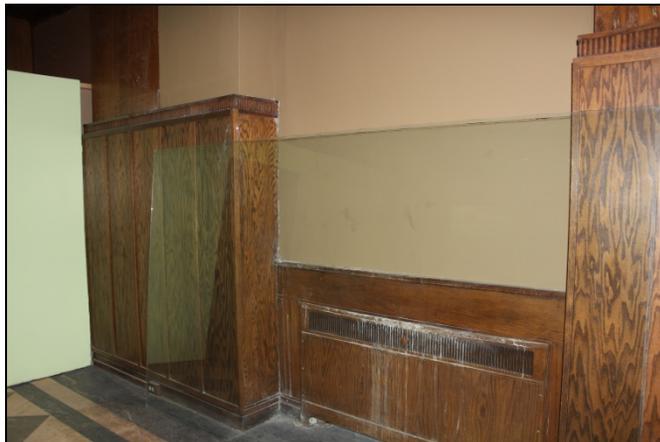
Table 11. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the periodical room of the George Thomas Building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Focus restoration efforts on primary contributing spaces (exterior, vestibule, lobby, staircase, delivery hall, main reading room) and extensively modify the periodical room to accommodate new use.	Photographically document room after later modifications are removed and original volume and finishes are visible. Permanently archive photographs.
Subdivide space into classroom, study, and departmental office space that will be accessed primarily from a new corridor in the west wall opening from the addition. Use the southwest corner of the room to create new toilet facilities that will be accessed from the west side.	Retain all existing window openings and do not partially or fully cover or obscure with new walls or ceilings. Consider retaining existing walls (with Flexwood finish and cornice) along portions of the north, east and south walls.
Abut new addition against west end of south exterior wall of periodical room. Begin addition west of remaining window to create recess and separation between historic building and addition.	Retain historic window opening and window at east end of south wall, and window at west end of south wall if possible.

Historic Photographs – Periodical Room

None located.

2013 Photographs – Periodical Room



Figures 17a–17d. Top left to bottom right: Views of the periodical room on the southeast corner of the second floor: a) general view (facing northeast); b) original window, wood blind, book cases and floor behind false wall on south end (facing west); c) wood-grained duct cover and possibly covered bookcases (facing northeast); and d) original doors leading into main reading room (facing north).

Graduate Reading Room

Description

Originally, two graduate reading rooms were located in the southeast wing on the third floor of the George Thomas Building (Figures 18 and 19a–19d). The south room, presently used as an office, is the more elaborate space and was likely the Edward Rosenbaum Memorial Library referenced in an early description (Federal Writers’ Project, 1941); it is considered a secondary contributing space. The walls were lined with built-in bookcases and the space was lit by windows set in the east, south, and west walls (the last overlooking the roof of the stacks wing). A doorway at the west end of the north wall gave access to the corridor while a second doorway near the center of the north wall, not shown in plans but apparently original, led into the graduate reading room to the north. Furnishings, some of which remain in the room, included reading tables, chairs, and a small librarian’s desk.

The original reading room floor is presently covered with carpet but is likely of rubberized flooring. All of the oak bookcases and shelves remain along the walls, with plaster walls above; both have rounded corners at door and window openings. The flat plaster ceiling is covered with acoustic tiles but retains its original stepped border with curved corners, presently painted in pastel colors. The original conical light fixtures have been replaced with long fluorescent tubes depended from the ceiling. Wood-grained metal heating duct covers are located beneath the windows, which have stone sills and plaster reveals. The wood double doors leading to the corridor are replacements while the wood-paneled door leading to the north reading room is original.

Alterations to the graduate reading room are limited to the installation of carpet on the floor, acoustic tile on the ceiling, new light fixtures, and new corridor doors.

Summary of Condition

The graduate reading room exhibits typical wear but is in good condition (Table 12). Alterations are few and easily reversible, and the restoration of the floor and ceiling will re-establish the historic appearance and feel of the space.

Table 12. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the graduate reading room of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
General – Graduate Reading Room	General	South end of east wing, third floor of main building	Rubberized flooring, wood bookcases, plaster	B-secondary/ contributing	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Small space but good example of original features and finishes.
Floor	Covering	Entire floor	Patterned, rubberized flooring beneath carpet	D-non-historic (carpet) A-primary (rubberized flooring)	B-good	D-remove/demolish (carpet) A-restore/repair (rubberized flooring)	B-repair/replace	B-medium	Original appearance unknown, likely remains beneath carpet. Restore or replace with similar.

Table 12. Inventory of existing architectural elements and features in the graduate reading room of the George Thomas Building, with recommendations for treatment.

Architectural Element	Feature	Location	Material	Significance Level	Condition Level	Treatment Level		Effort Level	Description/Comments
						Optimum	Acceptable		
Wall	Wall surface	All walls	Wood bookcases and trim	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	B-medium	Bookcases have rounded corners; retain shelves and numbers.
	Wall surface	All walls	Plaster above bookcases	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Flat plaster painted white, rounded corners.
	Heating duct covers	Below windows	Metal painted with faux wood graining	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-restore/repair	B-medium	Decorative rectangular grills built into cases.
Ceiling	Finish	Main field of ceiling	Acoustic tile over plaster	D-non-historic (acoustic tile) B-secondary (plaster)	B-good	D-remove/demolish (acoustic tile) A-restore/repair (plaster)	B-repair/replace	C-low	Flat plaster beneath acoustic tile.
	Stepped borders	Edges of ceiling	Painted plaster	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	A-restore/repair	C-low	Borders have curved corners.
Windows	Sills	All windows	Stone	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	C-low	Polished limestone.
	Lintels, casings, and surrounds	All windows	Plaster	B-secondary	B-good	A-restore/repair	B-repair/replace	C-low	Perhaps had wood blinds, since removed.
Other	Lighting	Ceiling	Metal, glass	D-non-historic	B-good	D-remove/demolish	D-remove/demolish	B-medium	Newer fluorescents, replace with fixtures similar to original.
Other	Tables and chairs	In use in room	Wood, leather	A-primary	B-good	A-restore/repair	D-remove/demolish	C-low	At least two wood tables and one chair remain, document and retain somewhere in building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is modified for use as the CSC, a number of proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions may impact the historic character of the graduate reading room, which is considered of secondary significance as an architectural space. Because all of the other reading rooms of secondary

importance will be extensively altered, the preservation of the graduate reading room takes on added importance as a representative example of this type of space in the former library. Actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 13.

Table 13. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the graduate reading room of the George Thomas Building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Maintain the historic character and integrity of the graduate reading room through the preservation and restoration of as many spaces, elements and features of primary and secondary significance as possible.	For existing spaces, elements, and features, comply with the recommendations for optimum treatment levels when possible and acceptable treatment levels when necessary as presented in Table 12. In particular, retain all original features and remove non-historic carpet, ceiling tile, and lighting.
Eliminate corridor to north and use window opening at south end of west wall to make primary entrance opening into new addition.	Design doorway to fit within existing window opening and fit with new door compatible in design and materials with historic doors.
Eliminate window at north end of west wall.	Retain window and opening if possible. Otherwise retain form of window opening on interior side to mark former location.
Eliminate doorway at center of north wall.	Retain door and opening if possible. Otherwise retain form of doorway on interior side to mark former location; leave door in place or reuse elsewhere in room if possible.
Secure exterior cast concrete veneer as needed by creating new attachments from exterior over entrance on south side to avoid damage to interior finishes.	Avoid all damage to original bookcases and other interior finishes.
Abut new addition against west end of south exterior wall of graduate reading room. Begin addition west of east window to create recess and separation between historic building and addition.	Retain historic window opening and window at east end of south wall. Incorporate window at west end of south wall in new addition if possible, otherwise retain form of window opening on interior side to mark former location.

Historic Photographs – Graduate Reading Room



Figure 18. View of the Graduate Reading Room on the third floor c. 1950s, facing northeast. (Courtesy University of Utah Special Collections.)

2013 Photographs – Graduate Reading Room



Figures 19a–19d. Top left to bottom right: Views of the graduate reading room on the southeast corner of the third floor: a) general view (facing northeast); b) original book cases (facing southeast); c) detail of bookcases (facing north); and d) detail of ceiling treatment (facing northwest).

Cottam’s Gulch

Description

Cottam’s Gulch is described in the “Historic Context and Significance” section of this report. In summary, it is a grass-covered gully extending southwestward from the George Thomas Building (Figures 20a–20b and 21a–21h). Built features include a stone walkway and staircase as well as a newer concrete, U-shaped planter. Trees in the gully and on the surrounding lawns were planted by Cottam and others beginning in the 1930s and most have reached maturity. Some trees are identified with metal or plastic nameplates on their trunks; circular concrete pads at the base of some trees are evidence of an earlier identification system.

Summary of Condition

In general, Cottam’s gulch is in good to excellent condition, although the nameplates on some of the trees may have been lost and others are aging. The condition of the trees themselves is outside the scope of this report, although it appears that the giant sequoia is dying.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

As the George Thomas Building is modified for use as the CSC, several proposed programming measures and rehabilitation actions may affect the historic character of Cottam’s Gulch, which is considered of primary significance as a historic property. The proposed addition will encroach on the steep head of the gulch and construction activities may destabilize the banks. The addition will result in the loss of several labeled trees adjacent to the building and on the surrounding lawns, and the roots and branches of others may be impacted by associated construction activities (Figure 22 and Table 15). As well, the proposed addition poses a danger of removing the gully as usable thoroughfare by blocking its northeast end. Actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 14.

Table 14. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for Cottam’s Gulch.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Recognize and preserve the historic character and significance of Cottam’s Gulch throughout the planning and construction process.	Preserve the stone walk and stairway in the gulch. Re-establish the link with Cottam and the University’s history through the use of interpretive signage and reactivate the gulch as a place of learning by re-labeling trees.
Preserve the existing topography of the gulch by ensuring footprint of addition does not extend into gulch and protecting head of gulch during construction activities.	Design and install protective shoring and/or fill during construction, monitor condition of gulch during construction, remove protective measures after construction, and restore vegetation as necessary.
Remove only those trees directly impacted by new construction activities; protect other trees during construction activities.	Consult with the state forester, Red Butte Garden, and/or other responsible and knowledgeable party to create a master plan for the trees prior to construction. Clearly identify trees to be removed and trees that will remain. Monitor removal process and replant removed trees as possible. Monitor protective measures and condition of trees during construction process.
Keep access to the gulch viable by creating an entrance in the southwest corner of the addition.	Also create sightlines from the new addition into the gulch and use sidewalks to link the gulch and the George Thomas Building.

Historic Photographs – Cottam’s Gulch

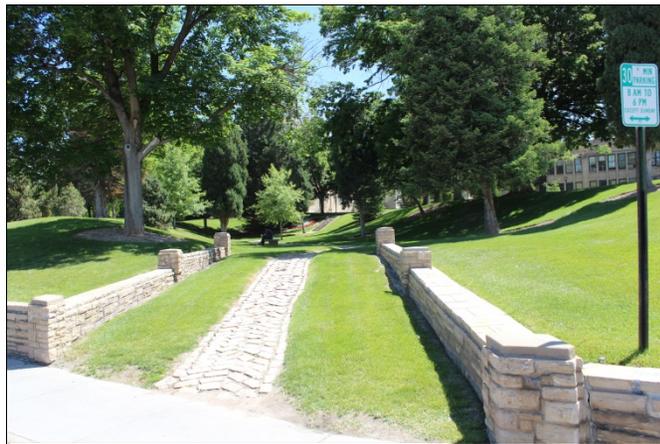


Figure 20a. Aerial view of University of Utah Circle with Cottam’s Gulch extending diagonally toward the bottom right of the photograph. The date is c. 1920–1932, after the construction of the Stewart Building and prior to construction of the George Thomas Library. (Courtesy University of Utah.)



Figure 20b. Aerial view of University of Utah Circle facing southeast, with Cottam's Gulch extending toward the right side of the photograph. The date is c. 1920–1932, after the construction of the Stewart Building and prior to construction of the George Thomas Library. (Courtesy University of Utah.)

2013 Photographs – Cottam’s Gulch



Figures 21a–21d. Top left to bottom right: Views of Cottam’s Gulch, including: a) general view from the west side of the George Thomas Building (facing south); b) general view from the south side of the George Thomas Building (facing west); c) view from University Street toward the George Thomas Building (facing northeast); and d) view toward University Street (facing west).



Figures 21e–21h. Top left to bottom right: Details of Cottam’s Gulch, including: e) the head of the gulch adjacent to the southwest corner of the George Thomas Building (facing northeast); f) the staircase and “U” planter at the head of the gulch (facing southeast); g) a disused in-ground concrete tree marker in the gulch; and h) an older tree label on a tree adjacent to the George Thomas Building.

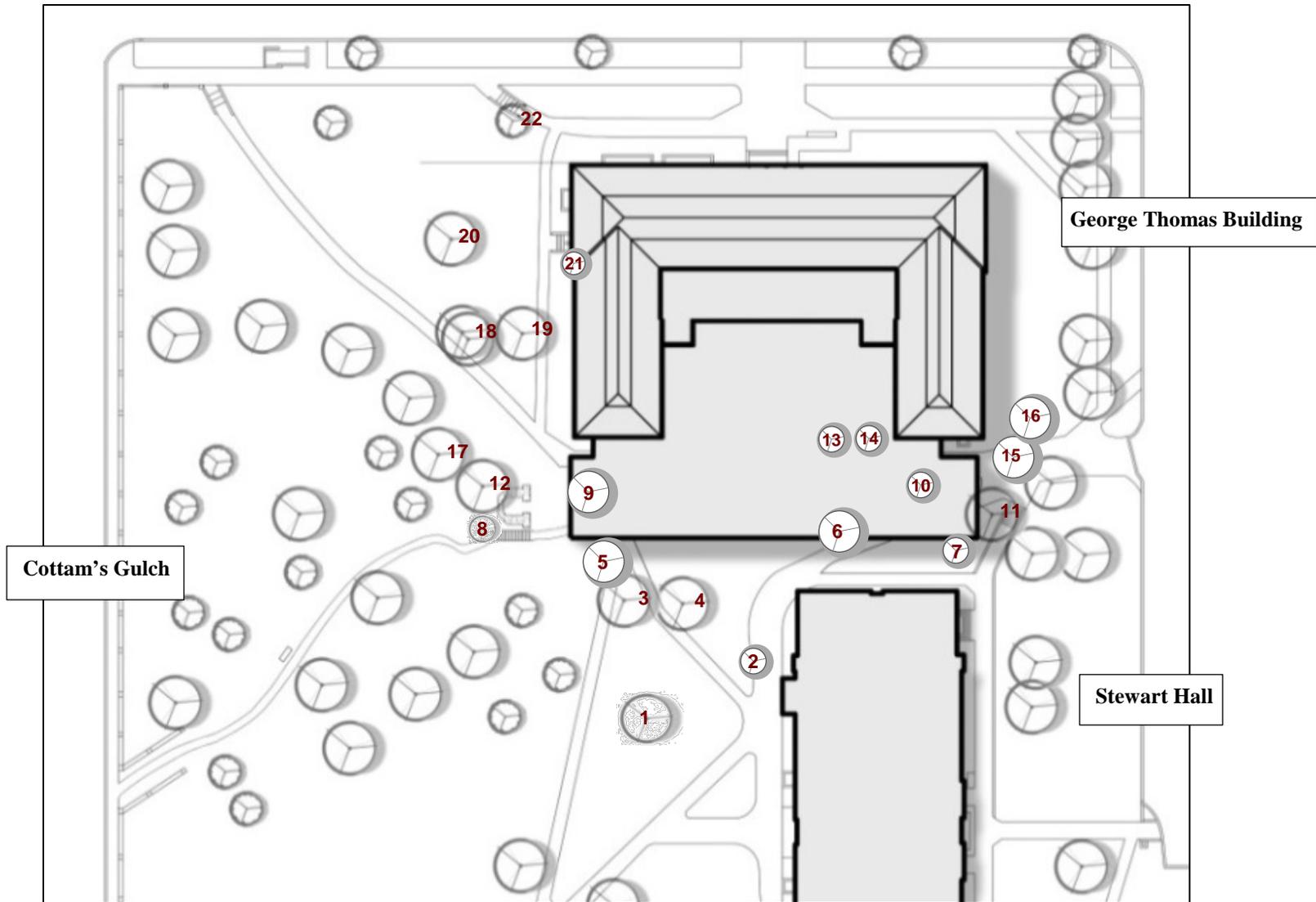


Figure 22. Plan of the landscaped area around the George Thomas Building with the proposed addition shown. The locations of existing trees that may be impacted by the addition or related construction activities are numbered. See Table 15 for available information on these trees.

Table 15. Existing trees adjacent to the George Thomas Building and/or Cottam's Gulch that may be affected by the proposed new addition and related construction activities for the Crocker Science Center. See Figure 22 for a plan of tree locations.

Tree Number on Plan	Nameplate?	Species	Potential Impacts
1	No	Maple?	Damage during construction
2	No	Maple?	Damage during construction
3	Yes	Common horse chestnut	Damage during construction
4	No	Horse chestnut?	Damage during construction
5	No	Horse chestnut?	Removal
6	No	Spruce?	Removal
7	No	Mulberry?	Removal
8	Missing	Juniper? (concrete nameplate pad remains at base)	Damage during construction
9	Yes	American linden	Removal
10	No	Young oaks and shrubs used to screen HVAC	Removal
11	No	Ornamental spruce?	Removal
12	Yes	Lawson false cypress	Damage during construction
13	Yes	Mimosa	Removal
14	Yes	Mimosa	Removal
15	No	Spruce?	Removal
16	No	Juniper?	Removal or damage during construction
17	No	Maple	Damage during construction
18	Yes	Lacebark or Chinese elm	Damage during construction
19	No	maple?	Damage during construction
20	Yes	Hedge maple	Damage during construction
21	Yes	Western redbud	Damage during construction
22	Yes	Norway maple	Damage during construction

Stewart Building

Description

The Stewart Building is described in the “Historic Context and Significance” section of this report. In summary, it is a flat-roofed Neoclassical building with early Art Moderne details, built of pale yellow brick with concrete lintels and trim (Figures 23a–23d). The primary façades face east and west while the north side of the building, adjacent to the George Thomas Building, was originally a gymnasium and/or auditorium and is of secondary importance; all of its windows are presently painted over.

Summary of Condition

In general, the exterior of the Stewart Building is in good condition. Primary sightlines to and from the building from the east and west have been retained through the years, particularly the view across Cottam’s Gulch and the lawns west of the building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions and Preservation Goals

The proposed addition to the George Thomas Building will extend south toward the Stewart Building, which is considered of primary significance, and has the potential to impact aspects of its historic integrity. Actions and preservation goals that will be consistent with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation are summarized in Table 16.

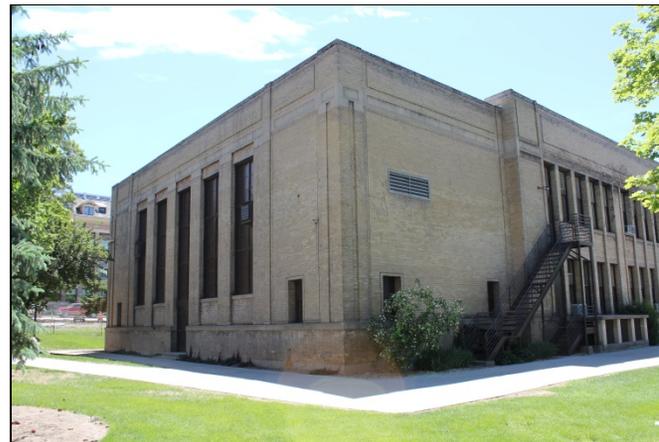
Table 16. Summary of proposed rehabilitation actions and associated preservation goals for the Stewart Building.

Proposed Rehabilitation Actions	Preservation Goals
Recognize and preserve the historic character and significance of the Stewart Building throughout the planning and construction process.	Protect physical fabric of Stewart Building during construction.
Design addition to extend across south side of George Thomas Building. Do not extend addition further south or obscure views of the Stewart Building from east and west.	Maintain historic sightlines to and from primary east and west façades of Stewart building through compatible design of addition to George Thomas Building.
Keep access to the both buildings viable by maintaining a landscaped walkway between the buildings and using sidewalks to link the buildings.	Create an attractive and usable space between the buildings. If possible, include windows on south side of addition to improve quality of space and provide visual link to the Stewart Building. Remove paint from Stewart Building windows or use reflective glass to improve feel space and connect with CSC.

Historic Photographs – Stewart Building

None located. See historic aerial views for Cottam’s Gulch (Figures 20a and 20b).

2013 Photographs – Stewart Building



Figures 23a–23d. Top left to bottom right: Views of the Stewart Building, including: a) the west façade (facing southeast); b) the east façade (facing southwest); c) the north end of the building adjacent to the George Thomas Building (facing northeast); and d) detail of the north side and part of the west façade (facing southeast).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The George Thomas Building is well-built and in good condition, and its rehabilitation and adaptive reuse as the Crocker Science Center will restore it to a prominent place on President's Circle. The restoration of significant zones, including much of the building exterior as well as the vestibule, lobby, main staircase, delivery hall, main reading room, and graduate reading room, will ensure the preservation of the building's historic character. Most secondary contributing zones will be significantly altered or lost in order to meet the CSC program needs, but the graduate reading room will be preserved as an example of that type of space. Careful design and protective measures during construction will minimize impacts to Cottam's Gulch and the Stewart Building.

The following recommendations are made to help mitigate the loss of secondary contributing spaces, support compliance with the preservation plan and allow for ongoing discussions as issues arise during the design and construction phases, and evaluate to what degree preservation goals were achieved at project completion.

- After additions and alterations are removed, particularly UMNH and Tanner Dance accretions in the reading rooms, photographically document the original spaces and construction materials.
- Photographically document the stacks wing, including significant interior features, prior to demolition.
- Archive the preservation plan and its associated photographs, as well as any new photographs taken for the above tasks.
- During the design and construction phases, continue regular discussions between the design team, contractors, University representatives, Utah SHPO, and UHF regarding preservation issues. If possible, appoint a knowledgeable University representative or a historic preservation consultant to oversee preservation aspects of the project.
- At project completion, prepare an addendum to this report containing the following: a summary of the design and construction phases with an emphasis on preservation issues that arose, including the topics and results of any collaborative preservation meetings; a systematic, tabular evaluation of whether, and to what degree, the preservation goals presented in the tables above were met; a similar evaluation of whether optimum and/or acceptable treatment levels were achieved for specific elements and features within primary and secondary contributing zones, as presented in the tables above; and final photographs, after construction and prior to occupation, of the exterior and interior of the historic building and new addition.

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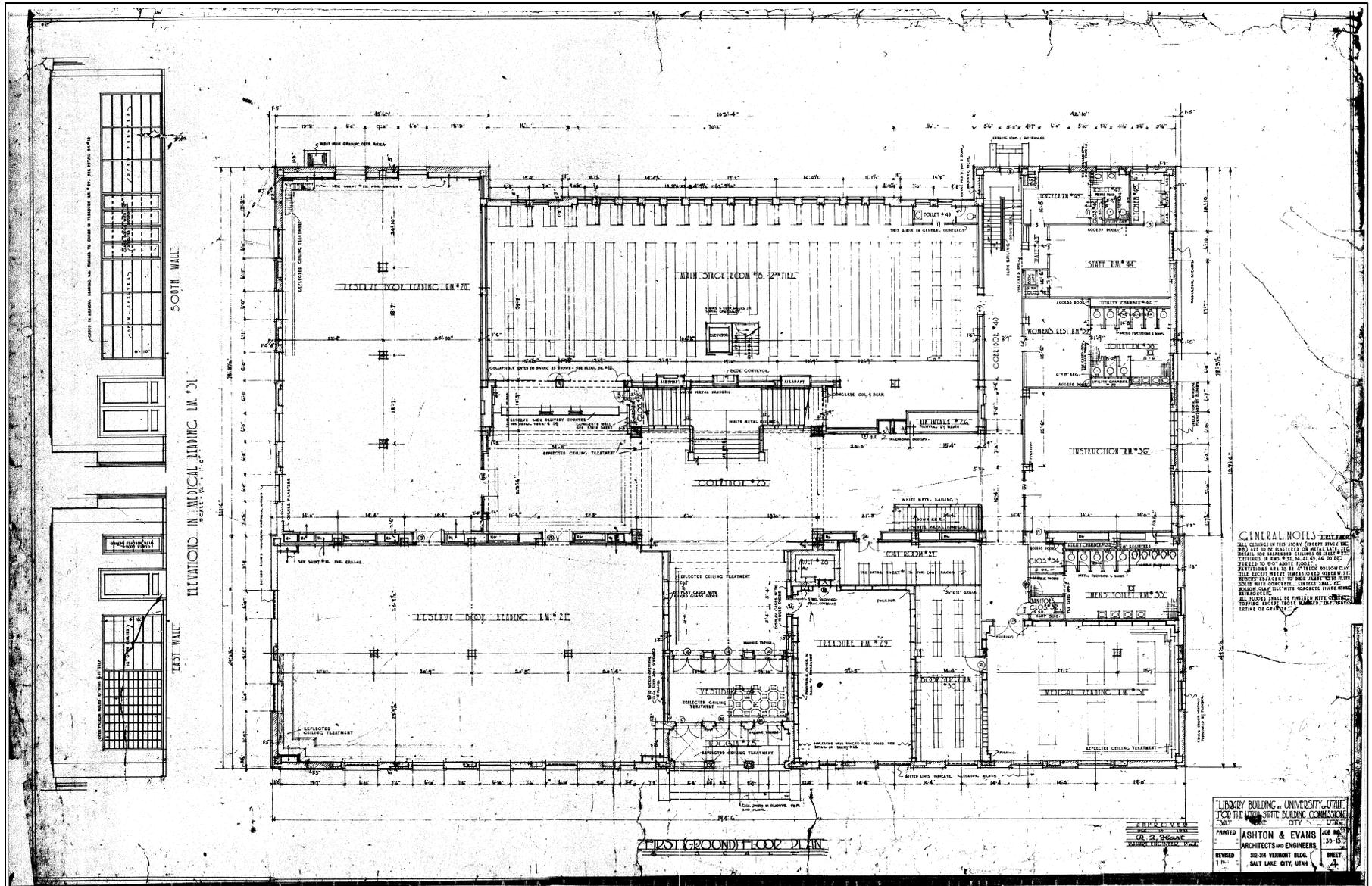
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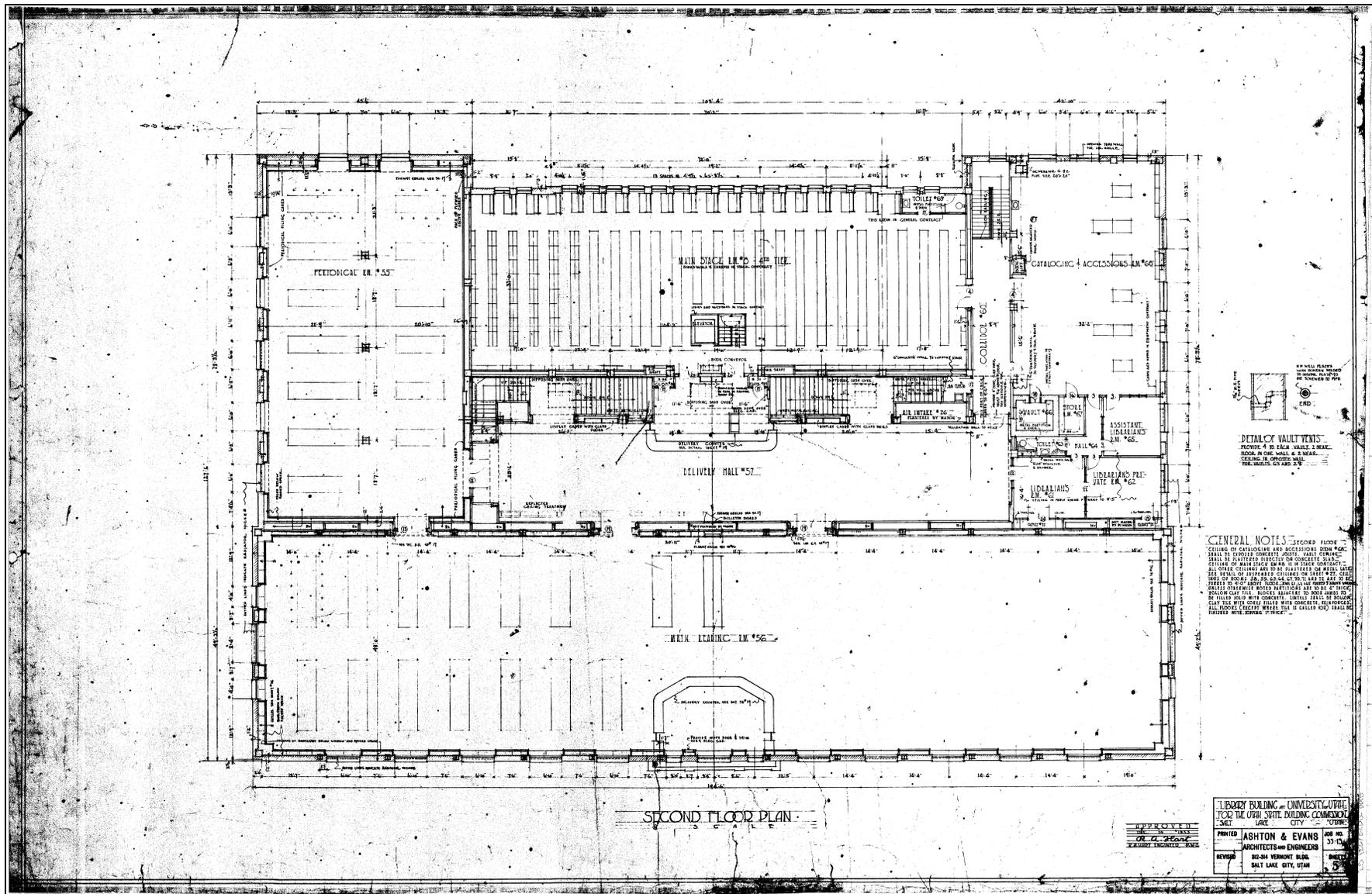
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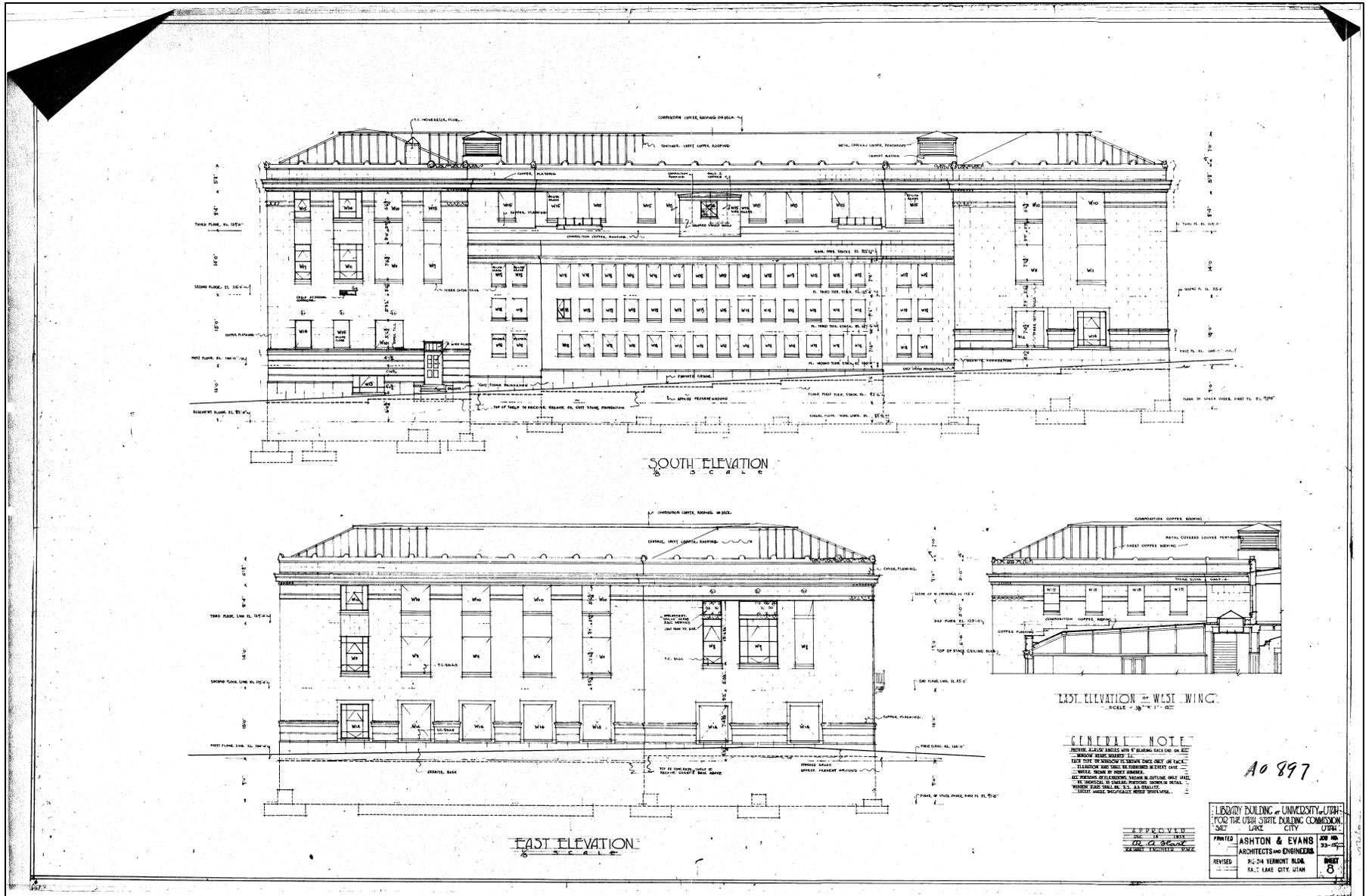
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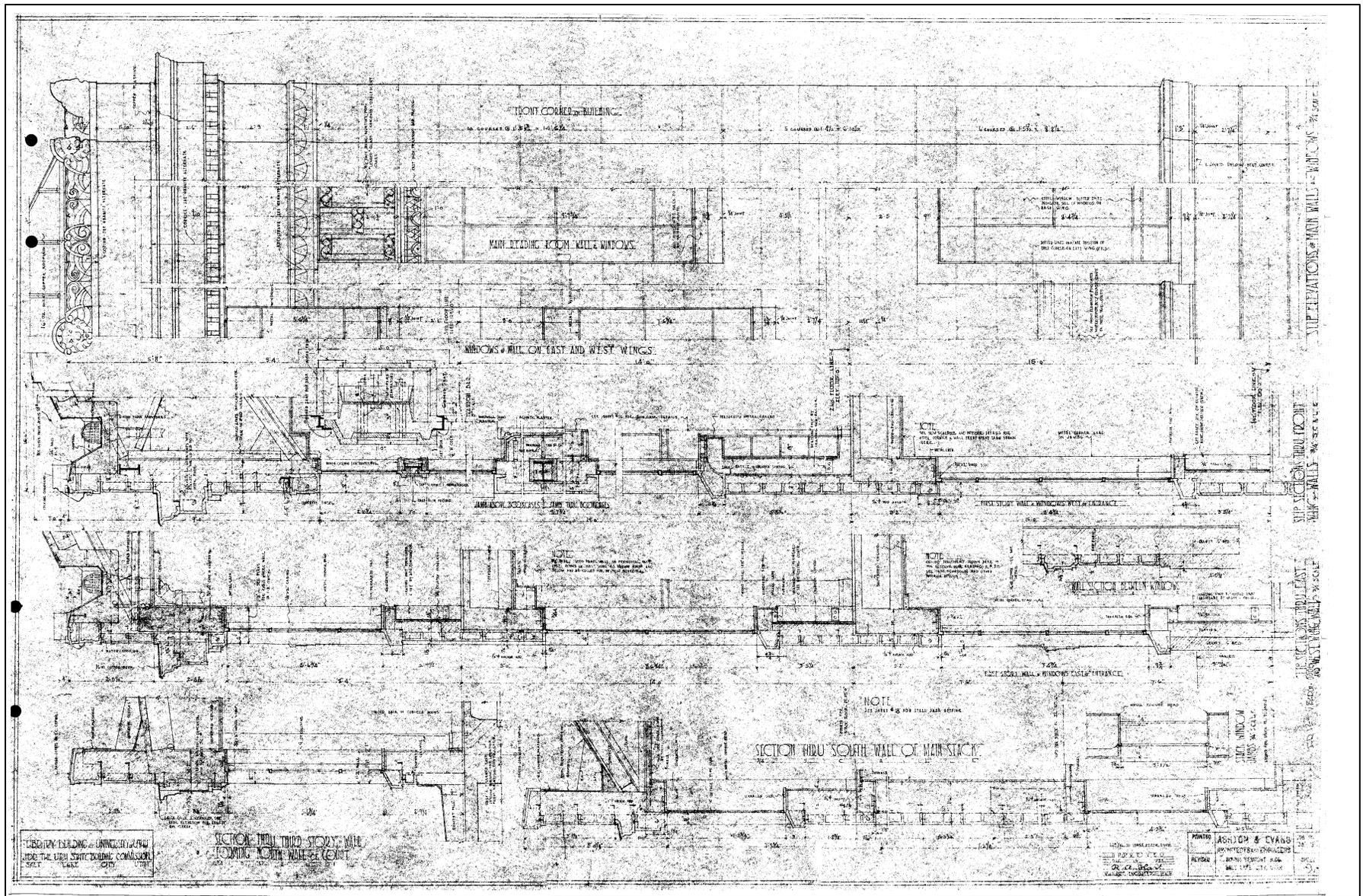
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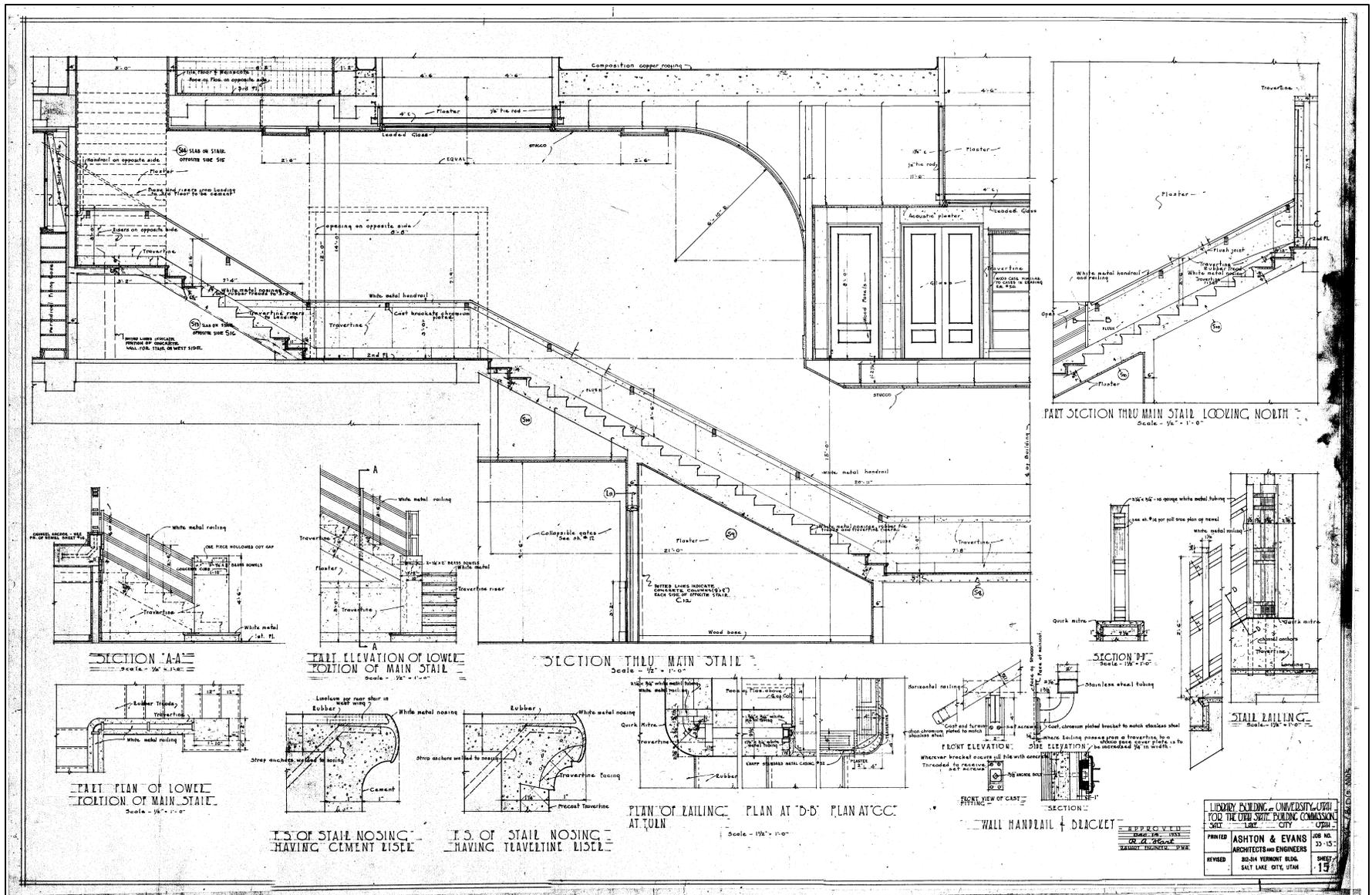
APPENDIX A
ORIGINAL BUILDING PLANS

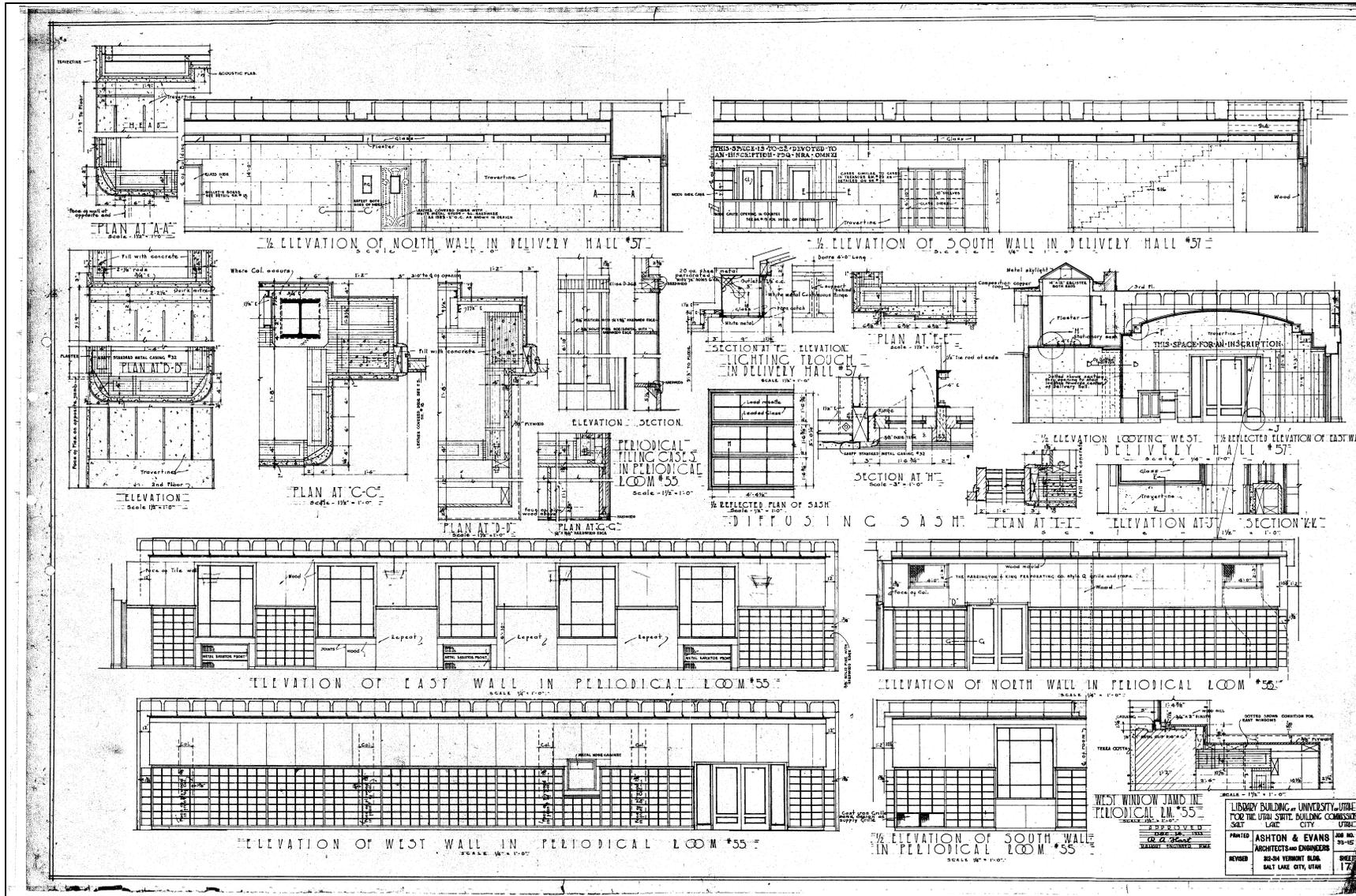












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