

HISTORY
OF BUILDINGS
AT BYU - IDAHO

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Table of Contents

<u>(History of) Buildings Authorized</u>	3
<u>Agriculture Mechanics</u>	4
<u>Arboretum</u>	5
<u>Austin</u>	6
<u>Auxiliary Services</u>	8
<u>Badger Creek Ranch</u>	9
<u>Baseball Field (new)</u>	11
<u>Benson</u>	12
<u>Building Construction &Technology Lab</u>	14
<u>Clarke</u>	15
<u>Horticulture & Demonstration Gardens</u>	17
<u>Hart</u>	18
<u>Heating Plant</u>	22
<u>Intramural Playing Fields</u>	24
<u>Island Park Natural Science Center</u>	25
<u>Kimball</u>	26
<u>Kirkham</u>	27
<u>Land Acquisitions</u>	31
<u>Landscaping, Tennis Courts, Parking, and Quad Areas</u>	33
<u>Livestock Center</u>	36
<u>Manwaring</u>	37
<u>McKay Library, etc</u>	40
<u>Multi-Use</u>	46
<u>Observatory</u>	47
<u>*"Old Gym"</u>	48
<u>Physical Plant Building (PPLT)</u>	50
<u>Planetarium</u>	51
<u>Radio Graphic Services</u>	53
<u>Residence Halls</u>	54
<u>*Trailer Court</u>	60
<u>Romney</u>	61
<u>Smith (COB)</u>	63
<u>Snow</u>	67
<u>Spori</u>	70
<u>Viking Stadium</u>	80
<u>Statues, Paintings, etc</u>	83
<u>Streets</u>	85
<u>Taylor</u>	87
<u>Telephone System</u>	89

BUILDINGS AUTHORIZED (year first used)

(* number assigned by college news releases, others assigned by author)

No. 1*	McKay Library (later ADMIN)	1963
No. 2*	Romney	1963
No. 3-7	Dormitories (5 buildings) (William F. Rigby, Annie S. Kerr, Sarah Ann Barnes, Edna Ricks, Virginia H. Perkins Halls)	1963
No. 8-	Heating Plant	1963
EIGHT BUILDINGS (ABOVE) DEDICATED DEC. 11, 1963		
No. 10-12	Dormitories (Ensign Hall; 2 Women's Residence Halls)	1964
No. 13	Manwaring Center	1966
No. 15*	Smith (COB)	1968
No. 17	Hart	1969
No. 18*	Austin	1969
HART & AUSTIN BUILDINGS DEDICATED SEPT. 22, 1972		
No. 19*	PPLT (Physical Plant)	1973
No. 20-21	Dormitories (2 Pioneer Halls)	1971
No. 23	McKay Library	1976
No. 24	Clarke (Family Living Center)	1975
ENSIGN & WOMEN'S RESIDENCE HALLS, COB, PPLT, PIONEER HALLS, FAMILY LIVING CENTER DEDICATED APRIL 13, 1976		
No. 25*	Auxiliary Services	1975
No. 26*	Benson (LSA-Phase I)	1975
No. 27	Agriculture Mechanics	1978
No. 28	Benson (LSA-Phase II) LSA (Phase I & II), Agriculture Mechanics, Livestock Arena Building & Stable dedicated Sept. 16, 1980	1978
No. 29	Livestock Center	1978
No. 30	Badger Creek Lodge	1980
No. 31	Snow	1980
No. 32	Football Stadium Stands, etc. (End of free-standing construction projects.)	1980
No. 33	Benson (LSA-Phase III)	1984
No. 34	Romney Addition (End of major construction projects.)	1987
No. 35	Taylor	1997
No. 36	Kimball (Above announced 1991; authorized 1993; Snow Addition on hold)	1999
No. 37	New Spori (Above announced 2000; construction begun 2001)	2003
No. 38	Multi-Use (Above announced 2001; construction begun 2001)	2002
No. 39	Thomas E. Ricks (Above announced 2001)	2005

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS BUILDING

1978

16,299 sq. ft. Gross/13,252 net

Later shown as follows: 11,191 sq. ft. Ag Mechanics shop with classroom and office building.

2,808 sq. ft. Farm building construction lab

7,700 sq. ft. Machinery & equipment storage.

Authorized in 1977

Architect: Richard Hindel (Twin Falls)

Construction started November 1977 by Davis Construction, Rexburg

Includes: large machine shop for repair and servicing of farm machinery, classrooms, and faculty offices.

First used in fall of 1978

DEDICATED: Sept. 16, 1980 by Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve Apostles

Summer of 1982 — A new welding mini-lab has been installed to accommodate students who need to practice welding and make repairs on machinery in the farm lab.

Summer of 1993 — Three new faculty offices and secretarial space added to southwest corner of building.

Summer of 1996 — Building re-roofed by Hampton Roofing of Idaho Falls.

Summer of 1997 — Flammable storage building built near facility.

ARBORETUM

1992

August 1992 — Approval received to begin design and development of an arboretum on newly acquired property south of campus. (Portion of 160 acres acquired from DeLoy Ward.) Approximately 40 to 50 acres would be used.

“Development of the arboretum will be done primarily through donated funds from private individuals and corporations,” said Kim Black, chairman of the Division of Agriculture. Entrance to the arboretum to be on Seventh South. The facility to include paths to accommodate joggers, hikers, bikers and cross country skiers. The low maintenance arboretum will also feature grasses, shrubs and trees native to southeastern Idaho planted in their natural setting. Project to take an estimated 15 to 20 years. Arboretum to be managed by horticulture department.

July 1994 — Leonard Grassli of Grassli & Associates of Salt Lake City donated services and developed a master plan for the arboretum. Edstrom Construction of Rexburg donated labor and equipment for pond excavations.

This spring some grading and moving of soil has occurred to establish a parking lot and paths. (Ultimately 3 miles of paths are planned.) Two ponds have been dug but additional designing and grading needs to be done before they can be lined and filled. More than 250 conifer trees (pines, spruce, Douglas fir, and fir) have been planted, most of which came from the forest. Additional trees are being donated and will be planted on a yearly basis. A nursery has been established and trees will be moved to the arboretum as they develop. A substantial amount of pruning has been done on the existing Russian olive trees on the property. A drip irrigation system has been installed, with water coming from a well on the property. Grass has been planted on some of the pathway areas and the entry-way parking lot is under construction.

May 1996 — Bike trails and walking paths are being built this summer. Archie and Margaret Millett of Meadow Vista, Calif., are on a six-month service mission to the arboretum. They trim, mow, prune and oversee a student crew that is doing much of the physical work. They are the first called to serve at the facility.

May 1997 — Volunteer labor toils at facility. Sprinkling system is being completed. Sewer line is being installed for a restroom facility. Power lines are being brought onto the property. A liner is being installed in the manmade creek. The parking lot is being completed. An amphitheater will be finished.

MARK AUSTIN INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE BUILDING

1969 (identified as 18th major building project since 1962)

75,975 sq. ft. Gross/50.990 net

Authorized in early 1967, announced June 5, 1967

Architect: Grant Brower, Pocatello, Idaho

Ground broken March 20, 1968 with President John L. Clarke; Daniel S. Hess (administrative assistant), Marion Forsyth (chairman of Division of Technical Education), Rexburg Mayor A. H. Brock, contractor Richard “Dick” Davis, Student Body President Ken Scott, architect Grant Brower, and Ray Pocock (county commission chairman) participating.

Contractor: Davis Construction of Rexburg, Idaho (Total of 12 bidders) Gordon Shirley, superintendent of construction

Mechanical: Engineering Inc., Pocatello; Charles Sudweeks, engineer

Structural: L.H. Balliff & Assoc., Pocatello; Brent Ballif, engineer

Electrical: Nielson Engineering, Pocatello; Arthur H. Nielson, Jr.

Cost exceeded \$1 million

Original use: Agricultural and technical education departments, including automotive technology, electronics, welding and metallurgy, drafting, machine shop, industrial arts and construction.

Building contained 16 laboratories and seven classrooms

Machine Shop program introduced with completion of the building

Building was inspected on July 15, 1969; completion date was August 19, 1969; occupied by start of classes for 1969-70 school year

DEDICATED & NAMED: Sept. 22, 1972 by Elder Delbert Stapley of Council of the Twelve Apostles (see Hart Building dedication for details).

Named after Mark Austin, first bishop of the Sugar City Ward. He selected and directed the building of Sugar City. Was named a member of Ricks Board of Education in 1905 as counselor in Fremont Stake presidency. Named as president of the board (and stake) in 1911 and served until 1925.

March 1976 — Manwaring Construction of Rexburg to build storage shed at Austin Building for automotive department.

June 1982 — A computer room with 6 to 8 micro-computers to be installed during the summer. “It’s the explosion in the use of micro-computers which has hit the campus,” says Chuck Frost.

—Page 2 of Austin—

Summer of 1989 — Wheelchair lift installed to second floor.

Summer/winter of 1993 — Excavated basement provides 3 faculty offices, two large classrooms and storage space.

Summer of 1996 — Cannon Builders of Blackfoot is renovating classrooms and offices in the construction management area. An elevator will also be installed in the building and much of the building will be re-roofed.

Summer of 1997 — Renovation of large lecture hall with seats replaced and multi-media equipment installed.

AUXILIARY SERVICES

1975 (identified as 25th major building project since 1962)

34,214 sq. ft. Gross/27,854 net

Authorized in early 1974.

Architect: (not known)

Ground broken June 11, 1974.

Contractor: Heyrend Construction, Idaho Falls

Original use: College Press, central warehouse (Stores & Receiving), Purchasing Department (College Press and Purchasing moved from B-2).

Building was first used by fall of 1975.

“The Ricks Press and the Central Purchasing Department have moved from the B-2 Building to the new Auxiliary Services Building. The presses are being moved into the new building and will be in operation as quickly as installation is completed. Press operations will continue in the B-2

Building on the larger machines and on the smaller presses in the new building until the entire move is made later this year. Work on the Scroll, the campus newspaper, was done in the new building for the first time this issue. (11-75 news release)

Not dedicated.

Summer of 1982 — Bulk mailing room with expanded post office facilities installed.

Summer of 1989 — Division of Continuing Education moves into building.

Summer of 1991 — 1,200 sq. ft. Of second-story office space created for Continuing Education offices. Space previously utilized as warehouse.

BADGER CREEK RANCH

(Ricks College Outdoor Learning Center)

1979 (located 43 miles east & north of Rexburg off State Highway 33 near Felt and Tetonia, Idaho).

April 1979 — College announces the purchase of the 200-acre R. Bar C. Ranch in the north end of the Teton Valley four miles north and one and Half mile east of Tetonia. The farm spreads over open and aspen covered hills with Badger Creek flowing through the lower section of the property.

According to Richard Clark, coordinator of the Ricks Department of Outdoor Experiences and Resources, the ranch will be a setting for learning programs for families and families-to-be.

A master plan for improvements includes a dining room-kitchen complex, restroom and showers, a campground, corrals and tack shed, special resource centers including nature and art, a lodge and storage buildings.

Old corrals and small outbuildings were torn down. A new corral, a catch pen and a tack shed were built to handle about 20 to 30 head of horses. These animals are used for riding on marked trails or for backcountry trips. A concrete slab, the foundation for the present-day lodge, was poured during the summer of 1979 and some of the framing was completed. An old stove, acquired from Deseret Industries, served as the center piece for a make-shift kitchen and plastic screening was used to keep elements out. The staff was living in canvas-walled tents.

A July 1979 news release talks about completion of the lodge (might be the caretakers lodge), a tack room and four family cabins.

October 1979 — Some 60 Idaho National Guardsmen began construction Oct. 27 of a two-lane 38-foot vehicle bridge and 200-yards of access road over Badger Creek on each side on Ricks College property. The project, valued at \$25,000 to \$40,000 was undertaken as a two-day weekend engineering drill by Company C of the 116th Engineering Battalion because the college did not have funds for the project.

The project came under scrutiny by the Idaho Falls Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union based on a complaint by a contractor from the Tetonia area. "It seems very clearly a violation of the principle of separation of church and state," the ACLU claimed.

Eventually the college asked the project be discontinued short of its completion. Culverts for the bridge had been installed and the job would have been completed after one more weekend of labor. "Since the bridge is of no great consequence to Ricks College, we are not willing to let the possibility of further misunderstanding by the public jeopardize our excellent relationship with the Idaho community," President Bruce C. Hafen is quoted as saying.

The work was completed three staff members and some students.

1980 — The lodge, with about 3,427 square feet of floor space (gross, with 3,125 net) on three levels, was completed. It houses the kitchen, a storage room and restrooms with showers. The kitchen has an electric stove, refrigeration, a gas grill and cabinets. Cooking pots and pans are provided.

— Page 2 of Badger Creek —

On its second floor are tables for dining and seating for about 30 to 75 people. It is used for activities and gatherings. A wood stove heats the room. The third floor is a loft with 20 beds for staff members. In the winter it is used for groups staying overnight.

Four cabins, sleeping six each were built. A “ropes course,” designed by Dave Westcott, a former recreation education instructor, was one of the first activities to be developed. Some 10 campsites, each with picnic table, fire pit and garbage can are available. There are two amphitheater-style campfire areas for programs.

1982 — The caretaker’s cabin was completed. Kari Archibald, chairman of the department of Recreation, was the first to live in the cabin.

1986 — A rope tow was installed for cross country skiing and sledding.

1989 — A logistics center for storage of supplies and equipment and providing additional restrooms and showers, and a classroom, was completed. The building was built from donated funds. It was built close to the road and on the highest elevation available on the bottom lands, safe from flooding. The log building measured 3,500 square feet. Upon completion of the logistics center, the old wooden storage tents were torn down and burned.

Summer of 1992 — Six sleeping cabins were built.

1997 — New bridge over Badger Creek was completed.

DEDICATION: of Badger Creek Logistics Center on August 12, 1998 by President David A. Bednar.

Among the programs currently offered are youth camps for wards and stakes and the Outdoor Especially for Youth program. Families may use the facility for reunions or family gatherings. An inter-generational Elderhostel program is also offered. Activities include horseback riding, canoeing, outdoor art, Dutch-oven cooking, campfires and mountain orienteering. Leadership skills are taught by means of presenting challenges through the use of the rope courses.

Spending the summer at Badger Creek Ranch as a staff member is “a life-changing experience,” says Kari Archibald. Staff members develop lasting friendships and look forward to reunions that allow them to come back and introduce their own families to Badger Creek. (Reunion for all present and former staffers was held Aug. 13-14, 1999.)

The facility annually serves some 5,000 to 6,000 persons during all four seasons of the year.

BASEBALL FIELD (new)

1999

Authorized: May 8, 1996

Location: North of intramural fields, between Center and 1st West Streets (Former biology primitive area).

Architect: Ward & Blake Architects, Jackson, Wyo.

Additional fill for the project will come from the 7th South project.

Contractor: (various) Most of the work done in 1997.

Includes dugouts, bleachers, building containing restrooms, press area and announcer's booth, fences and parking.

First used: spring of 1999 baseball season. (Grass on field was not ready for play during 1998 season.)

Additions: Scoreboard first used for 2000 season.

EZRA TAFT BENSON AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING

(Formerly Life Science-Agricultural Building, or LSA)

1975 (identified as 26th major building project since 1962)

Original size (Phase I): 7,000 to 8,000 sq. ft.

First addition 22,000 sq. ft.; second addition 30,750 sq. Ft. (60.750)

Authorized in early 1974; bids opened May 21, 1974; architect not known.

Ground broken June 11, 1974 with President Henry B. Eyring, Rexburg Mayor John C. Porter and city officials, county officials and contractors and architects present.

Contractor: Davis Construction, Rexburg

Originally included: two greenhouses; laboratory; conservatory for semi-tropical plants and attached building for faculty offices and storage.

Original portion (Phase I) first used for 1975-76 school year.

FIRST ADDITION — (announced in October of 1976 as Phase II)

Architect: Cedric Allen, Pocatello

Ground broken Sept. 27, 1977 by Jeff Holland, Church commissioner of education; also speaking was Harry J. Maxwell, acting Ricks President, David Allen, chairman of Division of Agriculture, Architect Cedric Allen, contractor Dick Davis; program was Conducted by Daniel Hess, director of public relations.

Contractor: Davis Construction, Rexburg

Facilities: 5 greenhouses, 8 faculty offices, 3 laboratories, preparation rooms for plants, storage space.

In use September 1978

DEDICATED (Phases I and II) Sept. 16, 1980 by Elder Ezra Taft Benson, president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

SECOND ADDITION- (announced in December of 1981)

Architect: Cedric Allen, Pocatello

Ground broken July 13, 1982 by President Bruce C. Hafen, Robert Perkes, chairman of Division of Natural Sciences; contractor Richard “Dick” Davis; Charles “Chuck” Frost, physical plant director.

— Page 2 of Benson —

Contractor: Davis Construction, Rexburg (from eight bidders)

Facilities: 3 lecture rooms, at least 4 laboratories, wildlife display area (now known as Natural Science Museum), 15 faculty offices, etc. (Project was considered last in construction phase begun 1962) In use by start of winter semester 1984.

REMODELING —

Basement storage area in second phase of building was converted by students into classroom space, a design studio, a study skills laboratory, and a lounge area. Project was completed in fall of 1983.

Summer of 1988 — Some 8,000 square feet of classroom and lab space were created in the basement. (A trailer from the Livestock Center was moved to the site to provide temporary classroom space.)

Summer of 1991 — Two classrooms remodeled to handle additional media presentations.
NAMED: Sept. 19, 1998, by President David A. Bednar.

(Painting of President Benson by Leon Parson unveiled at naming.) Named for President Ezra Taft Benson, 13th president of the LDS Church from 1985 to 1994. Also was U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1953 to 1961.

Facilities: 6 greenhouses and head house work area; soils lab; 2 plant science labs; computer lab; agriculture business classroom; landscape design studio; floral design studio; interiorscaping demonstration area; 10-acre horticulture research and display garden; 80-acre field crops research and display farm

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY LAB

1998

40 by 60 feet, 2,400 sq. ft.; located on portion of former Ricks Trailer Court

Built through cooperative effort between college and businesses.

Building suggested by Construction Technology Advisory Board (J. Bagley)

Started in early June 1997; supervised by John Bagley and Chuck Frost; Rudy Puzey involved as chairman of Division of Engineering & Technology

(Formerly used old Agriculture Department quonset storage building, which was not heated. New facility has hydronic heating system with heating coils in the concrete floor.)

1. KB Concrete (Kevin Bloxham) excavated, placed footings and foundation.
2. High Valley Concrete (Cary Sargent) footing and foundation concrete.
3. Ricks Physical Plant excavated, did plumbing and electrical work.
4. Familian Northwest (Brett Johnson) and Cornell Davidson (Ricks HVAC) install & coordinate hot water heating system in concrete floor.
(Wirsbo Company: hot water tubing; Weil McLain Company: gas boiler; Taco Pump Company: pumps & valves; Mansfield Plumbing Projects: water closet and lavatory fixtures.)
5. Jacobson Concrete (Eric & Bryant Jacobson) placed concrete floor.
6. Walter Ready Mix (Dave Walter) concrete for floor.
7. John Walker Construction (John Walker) erects building.
8. Daw Inc. (Chuck Law) building insulation.
9. Russ Overhead Doors (Dale Russell) doors and installation.
10. Willow Creek Tools (David Spencer) power tools and equipment.
11. Associated General Contractors of Idaho provides money for hand tools.
12. Maddox Compressor (Brad Nelson) air compressor.

Students, faculty and others from Ricks Support Facilities provided labor. Used by carpentry, construction and masonry students.

Dedicated Aug. 28, 1998 by President David A. Bednar.

JOHN L. CLARKE FAMILY LIVING CENTER

1975

74,149 sq. ft. Gross/48,084 net (prior to Health Center addition)

Authorized: late 1971

Architect: Harold Collard and Max Call of Idaho Falls, Idaho

Contractor: Davis Construction of Rexburg

Ground broken: April 10, 1972

Among those in attendance were Annie Spori Kerr and Elizabeth Spori Stowell, both daughters of Jacob Spori. (Kerr was born 1889 and Stowell in 1888.) Also present was Dr. Harvey L. Taylor, administrator of the church's school system for 18 years and instrumental in the planning of the building. Another speaker was President Henry B. Eyring. Helen Lamprecht, co-chairman of the Division of Family Living; Rexburg Mayor Henry Shirley, chairman of the Madison County Commission, Morgan Garner, architect Max Call, contractor Dick Davis, and Dan Hess, administrative aide to the president, all spoke.

By late May of 1972 it was announced that building plans were being altered to include a student Health Center of some 4,000 square feet on the north end of the building. To accommodate the center a portion of the nursing facilities were to be shifted from the north end to the south end of the building. Included in the Health Center: 4 examination rooms, an observation room, nursing station, a nurses' office, a treatment room, an emergency room, a laboratory and x-ray room and dark room for developing x-rays, and a waiting room.

The Health Center had been previously announced in April of 1970 as a separate building. Architects Harold Collard of Idaho Falls and Richard Sharp of Salt Lake City were retained to design the building to be located west of the tennis courts across the street from the women's dorms. The building was never built. This site was eventually developed in 2000 as a building for KRIC and Graphic Services.

Named: October of 1974 after former Ricks President John L. Clarke

(Clarke and his wife, LaRae, spoke at a school devotional. The announcement was made by President Eyring following their address. The Clarke's had returned in July after serving as president of the Boston, Massachusetts Mission. Clarke was president of Ricks from 1944 to 1971.)

Completed: August 25, 1975

Purpose: Nursing and Health Science are to occupy the first floor; child development and an auditorium on the second floor; clothing and sewing, food laboratories, a dining room and multi-purpose room on the third floor.

— Page 2 of Clarke —

Dedicated: April 13, 1976, by Elder Ezra Taft Benson, President of the Council of the Twelve.

Summer of 1979 — Built design laboratory. The rooms in the lab simulate a home where students do actual interior design work. There has been some donated labor and materials along with work done by Ricks physical plant.

Summer of 1987 — Laboratory rooms used for experimentation studies remodeled.

Summer of 1991 — Three classrooms remodeled with new sewing machines, cutting tables and cabinets installed.

Addition to the north side of the building to expand the student Health Center was begun in late summer of 1993 and completed in 1994.

It increased examination rooms from 6 to 10 and expanded the lab, waiting room, and offices, pharmacy and nurses station. (Increase from one to three doctors called for increasing the facility as student population doubled.)

Summer of 1995 — Child development play yard on the east side completed.

Summer of 1996 — Building re-roofed by Hampton Roofing of Idaho Falls.

HORTICULTURE AND DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

1977

10-acre site south of campus began development with the start of the Landscape Horticulture Department. (Site was previously used as an airport, prior to acquisition by college.)

1981 — Main entrance to the garden next to the large sign constructed. “The rectilinear entrance is a striking contrast to the natural woodland garden that surrounds it. Quaking aspen, birch, spruce, alder and generous plantings of ground covers and perennials surround a private brick patio and lazy stepping stone path. The entrance passes under an overhead structure that provides shade and seating adorned by hanging baskets and container plantings.

1986 — Picnic shelter north of the main entrance built. The walks of exposed aggregate and red brick provide a dramatic entry.

1987 — Backyard garden and game area built immediately east of the picnic structure. It serves as an excellent example of a low maintenance back yard.

1989 — Waterfall and pond added (near main entrance.)

1990 — Observation deck with sunken bowl area and wall garden northwest of the bowl built. (Located above shade garden.)

1991 — Shade garden built, connected to the water garden it includes shade loving plants which grow in this heavily wooded area.

1992 — Water gardens built next to the perennial mound. It boasts several water falls, a stream and a generous pond with a variety of water and bog plants. The log-pole bridge, stepping stones, winding trail and meditation deck are surrounded by ferns, hostas and other woodland plants.

August 13, 1996 — “Sunbird Springs,” a decorative waterfall opened to the public from funding received from “Sunbirds,” visitors to the Rexburg area during the summer months. (\$2,200 donation.)

JOHN W. HART PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING

1969

Seating capacity: 3,741 for athletic events

Approximately 4,980 for concerts, depending on need & configuration

Chair seats: 1,700 (Sections A through L)

Portable chair seats: Maximum of 1,239

Bleachers: 2,041 (as marked)

179,915 sq. ft. GROSS/142,315 net (after addition) original size 126,730

Authorized in late 1966 or early 1967

“(Circa 1961-1962) John (Clarke, president of Ricks College), being conscious of the hard winters in Rexburg, began to dream, in his newborn hope, of a covered field house for athletic events and other purposes. As things were, the last football games of the season often had to be played in the snow, and spring came so late that the track and baseball teams had difficulty preparing early enough to meet teams that came from lower elevations. John mentioned the idea of a covered track and playing field to Dr. (Ernest) Wilkinson (commissioner of education for the Church), who at first did not respond favorably, but John persisted, reminding Wilkinson of it every change he got.

“In the meantime, John was out looking for someone to support his case. In Salt Lake City were two young architects who had been students under R. Buckminster Fuller, who invented the geodesic dome. They were trying to establish a business and get some credentials, so they said to John, ‘We’ll do some doodling for you, and we won’t charge you a dime.’ Elated, John took the matter to Wilkinson, saying, ‘It won’t cost anything to let these fellows fool around with this a little bit.’”

“Finally Wilkinson gave his permission for them to go ahead, which they did. The first design looked like a big sombrero. The central part would cover the athletic field and was high enough that there was no danger of kicking a football into it. Around the brim of the sombrero were offices, swimming pools, wrestling and dressing rooms, and other rooms necessary to an athletic facility.

“With Wilkinson’s permission John, in company with Daniel Hess, his administrative assistant, and Sam Brewster (in charge of physical facilities at Ricks), flew to South Dakota where a building built on the principles of the geodesic dome had already been erected. The trip was funded by the Behlen Company, headquartered in Nebraska. That company was promoting the sale of the building. The men spent a full day looking over the building, which was used for rodeos and farm displays, and then flew home. After all of that, Wilkinson said that he didn’t think he could sell the idea of a covered field house to the board of education, so the matter was dropped without going any further.” (pgs. 62-63 from *Make Good Where You Are*, a biography of John L. Clarke by Robert Worrell.)

— Page 2 of Hart —

Architect: Keith Sundburg of Idaho Falls, Idaho

Ground broken Oct. 12, 1967

President John L. Clarke conducted; speakers were Lowell Biddulph, chairman of Division of Physical Education; architect Keith Sundburg; Rexburg Mayor A.H. Brock; County Commissioner John Parkinson; Ken Scott, Ricks student body president.

Cost: \$3,071,000

Contractor: Woodrow Arrington Construction of Idaho Falls (12 bidders)

(Was the largest project ever undertaken by the firm at the time)

Robert Ovard, Superintendent of construction

Mechanical: Bridgers & Paxton, Albuquerque, N.M., Robin D. Adair, Jr.

Electrical: Nielson Engineering, Pocatello, Idaho

Structural: Hoffman Hughes, Salt Lake City, Utah

Specifications included a field house (153 sq. ft.) with a dirt floor (to be used for football, baseball, track and golf practice), a main gymnasium, two auxiliary gymnasiums (dividable by a curtain), an Olympic-size swimming pool (with one-meter and high dive platform; underwater lighting and viewing), classrooms (including weight-lifting room and wrestling room, dance studio) and faculty offices. Dressing rooms, including varsity dressing rooms, corrective therapy room, first-aid room and laundry are also included. Also included were two handball courts.

“The building will be used for basketball games as well as for assemblies, graduation and special events. The gym will have a well-equipped stage at one end. Seating capacity for special events, with (1,700) chairs being set up on the floor, will be approximately 5,000 seats. The gymnasium also will have radio and television booths for basketball coverage, along with a press box. U-type seating around the floor will include theatre-back seats and upper bleachers. (Chairs said to be same as in use in Oakland and San Diego football stadiums.) The electrical and sound systems were patterned after Arizona State University.”

Open house held Thursday, Sept. 25, 1969

Completion date: Nov. 1, 1969

Dedicated and named Sept. 22, 1972 by Elder Delbert Stapley of the Council of the Twelve. Ceremonies conducted by President Henry B. Eyring. President Eyring spoke of two pioneers (John W. Hart and Mark Austin) at the dual ceremony which included the dedication of the Austin Building. Others speaking were Dr. Kenneth H. Beesley, associate commissioner of education for the Church.

Named after John W. Hart, former bishop of the Menan ward and member of the Rigby Stake High Council. He was president of the stake for 24 years and chairman of the Ricks Board of Education from 1927 until 1935.

— Page 3 of Hart —

Alterations and Additions —

Synthetic floor in Fieldhouse installed during summer of 1973 by placing asphalt base under textured floor covering.

Five handball courts added in 1974. Also asphalt floor in field house.

Addition to building authorized in 1978; 16,000 to 20,000 sq. ft. of new space and 4,000 sq. ft. Remodeled. New are a women's training room, women's athletic shower and dressing room; adaptive physical education laboratory and two adaptive physical education examination rooms, a men's faculty and staff athletic shower and dressing room, men's varsity athletic equipment storage room, varsity athletic shower and dressing room addition, a classroom, two faculty offices, a Fitness for Life laboratory, wrestling room addition, restrooms for the handicapped, a weight training room, ski equipment repair and issue room, storage and hosting and reception room, and food concessions serving room and storage room.

Basketball floor replaced during summer of 1981. Ottly Floor Company of Salt Lake City installed 50 x 120-foot floor with 475 sheets of plywood as part of sub-flooring. Broken water pipe of building's fire protection system broke in an upstairs storeroom in late December of 1983, flooding the basketball court. Repairs done in about two weeks.

A wall, 150 feet long and eight feet high was installed in foyer roof area as part of an insulating program to conserve energy. Work was done by Davis Construction of Rexburg.

Summer of 1984 — Basketball floor and floor of five handball courts refinished “as part of the largest floor refinishing contract in the history of the school (at the time.)”

Summer of 1985 — Replacement of six cast stone panels on exterior.

Summer of 1990 — Re-roofed; roofing deck above swimming pool replaced, inside walls sealed and new lighting fixtures installed.

Summer of 1991 — Gymnasium main floor sanded and refinished. Additional 100 lockers in the men's faculty and staff dressing room installed.

Summer of 1992 — Sound system improved, Auxiliary Gym floor redone.

New organ to replace original was donated by anonymous Utah couple (\$90,000) in April of 1993. (3 Manuals Rodgers-Oxford 945)

Summer of 1993 — Electrical switch gear installed; new organ installed.

— Page 4 of Hart —

Summer of 1994 — “Viking Blue” surface installed in Hart Fieldhouse. Racquetball courts given new surface. Upgraded restrooms for disabled accessibility. Railing placed around basketball court in late fall of 1994.

Summer of 1995 — Elevator installed; overhead lighting in auditorium modified to increase light levels and eliminate shadows and dark areas on the playing floor. Project also reduced power use.

Summer of 1997 — Loudspeakers for stadium placed on building roof.

Summer of 2000 — Portions of roof replaced. This was of an unexpected nature. “Major work has been done on the walls of the swimming pool.” Outside walls of building were power cleaned. New fire alarm system installed.

VIKING STATUE IN HART LOBBY

Fall of 1988 — A heroic-size Viking statue was recently given the college by the 1988 student body in honor of the college’s Centennial. It was unveiled at a football game. The fiberglass statue was sculpted by Karl Quilter of Bountiful, Utah.

HEATING PLANT

1963

15,664 sq. ft. (Original size 10,531 sq. ft.)

Specifications: Detroit coal stokers and Eire City boilers of 10,000 and 20,000 pound-per-hour capacity “An up-to-the minute electronic console in the plant automatically detects defects in the heating systems of any of the buildings. Treatment equipment purifies the water prior to its entry into the system and its conversion into steam. The steam is led by insulated pipes, underneath the walks in many cases, to the various buildings. An interesting feature of the system is the conversion of the heat when it reaches the buildings. In the residence halls the heat is transferred to hot water which then heats the building. The (Romney) buidling utilizes the heat in the form of hot air. (From dedication program in 1963)

Architect: C. A. Sundberg and Associates

Contractor: Paulsen Construction

Chris Paulsen, construction superintendent

Mechanical: Bridgers and Paxton

Structural: H.C. Hughes and Associates

Electrical: Arthur H. Nielsen, Jr.

Boiler equipment: Erie City Iron Works

Groundbreaking: Jan. 4, 1963

Dedicated Dec. 11, 1963 by Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve

Third boiler at 30,000 pounds added in 1965 under direction of Bridgers and Paxton, mechanical engineers from Albuquerque, N.M.

Addition: authorized in summer of 1972

Architect: Sundberg & Associates, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Contractor: Detweiler Bros., Inc., of Twin Falls, Idaho

(Built by Davis Construction of Rexburg)

Specifications: three-levels, 65 by 57 feet building, includes a
35,000 pound boiler with room to spare for a fifth boiler (never installed)

First used in May of 1974

Building equipped with emergency generator.

Summer of 1993 — A new ash removal system installed to replace worn-out system. Completed in September 1995.

Planning begun in 1998 on renovations to Heating Plant.

— Page 2 of Heating Plant —

Work started during summer of 2001 — Building enlarged by 1,200 square feet to house boiler controls.

“A 35-year-old, 10,000 pound coal-fire boiler, the smallest of four, will be replaced by a 45,000 pound natural gas boiler. ‘The boiler has reached the end of its useful life,’ says Chuck Frost, director of physical plant. ‘We want to be environmentally friendly.’ The 100-foot tall smokestack will be replaced with smaller, more earthquake-safe smokestacks for each of the four boilers. Seismic upgrades include replacing the roof of the Heating Plant.” (From college news release)

INTRAMURAL PLAYING FIELDS (south campus)

1985

Summer of 1985 — Restrooms installed. Landscaping placed.

Summer of 1989 — Wheeler Electric of Idaho Falls installed lighting for a ball field. The \$110,000 project from private donations also includes an underground sprinkling system and landscaping for three ball fields.

Summer of 1990 — “The upper playfield will receive a walking track, new lights, sprinklers and lawn areas will be installed. More than 20 poles illuminate the three softball or three soccer fields on an alternating basis.” (News release)

Summer of 1994 — Three new playfields completed west of the fields in existence for a total of six playfields.

Summer of 1996 — Lighting installed on remaining three playing fields for use at night.

Summer of 1997 — Work begun on two new intramural fields west of new baseball stadium.

ISLAND PARK NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

38.1 acres north of Rexburg in Island Park area, wedge-shaped situated adjacent to Forest Service property on north and west East fork of Hotel Creek runs through the forest-covered acreage accessible west on Kilgore Road (paved) and north on Yale Creek Road (unpaved) Located approximately 45 miles north and west of Rexburg off U.S. Highway 20.

Property leased from Ferguson family in 1989, purchased in 1996

Buildings date from early 1970s

Specifications: lodge, basement and two floors (11,925 sq. ft. GROSS/8,662 net), garage (1,440 sq. ft. GROSS/1,357 net, 60 by 24 feet), dog kennels and wood storage rooms (321 sq. ft.), two ponds, and a concrete slab (58 x 40 feet)

Renovations: Lodge re-roofed, chimney rebuilt in summer of 1997

SPENCER W. KIMBALL STUDENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUILDING

1999

Approximately 66,000-70,000 sq. ft./315 feet long by 120 feet wide.

Authorized in May 1996, after approval of new building program in 1993 which originated with approval of a building study and planning effort authorized in June of 1991 (second building to be approved; first was Taylor; third was addition to Snow Building; later rescinded in 1998.)

Planning committee: Jim Smyth (chairman), Chuck Frost, Jim Gee, Ken Howell, Carla Ricks, Jim Sessions, Ron Martin, Wilma Jephson.

Architect: FFKR (Fowler, Ferguson, Kingston & Rubin) of Salt Lake City Jim Lewis, principal architect.

Contractor: Commercial General Construction of Idaho Falls, (7 bidders)

Electrical: Electrical Consulting Engineers, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah

Structural: Tanner Smith & Associates, Inc., Bountiful, Utah

Civil: AGRA Earth & Environmental, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah

Acoustical: David L. Adams Associates, Inc., Denver, Colo.

Groundbreaking: July 1, 1997 by Elder Richard G. Scott of Council of the Twelve Apostles (Building was also named).

Specifications: To house admissions, registration, housing, financial aid, advising, placement and employment, and counseling (all student services), and accounting, personnel services, public relations, development, administrative services, academic services, police, cashiers, and executive offices.

Dedication and Open House: September 7, 1999 by President Gordon B. Hinckley, LDS Church President; with Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

Commissioned portrait of President Kimball by Ricks alum Gregg Thorkelson of St. Anthony, Idaho, unveiled at dedication.

OSCAR A. KIRKHAM BUILDING (Auditorium Building)

1956 (considered the third major building on campus)

Seats 966 in Kirkham Auditorium in fixed padded chairs; up to 230 in Kirkham Arena Theatre in portable chairs

48,391 sq. ft. GROSS/30,832 net (prior to addition)

This was the 3rd building on campus until 1963 and the start of the major building program on campus.

Authorized in November 1951; appropriation made in March of 1952 with \$112,000 for architect fees and construction start-up (part of a \$400,000 program for remodeling, new buildings, etc.)

Architect: William F. Thomas

“Early on, John (Clarke) had attempted various building and remodeling projects with the help of the faculty and the students, but after Ricks College became a four-year institution the Church approved the first major building since 1917--the auditorium. The only thing wrong was that the original plan did not meet John’s expectations or his aspirations for the college. Besides having a few classrooms, it was to be an auditorium only, seating 500 people on folding chairs. The floor would be flat so that the chairs could be removed for dances. John wanted a larger auditorium with multilevel seating and a separate ballroom. Since the things that stood between him and his desires was money, he was naturally in for some difficulty.

“At that time the Presiding Bishopric of the Church was in charge of buildings, so John spent considerable time communicating with their office and traveling to Salt Lake City for meetings. At one time he was talking with a member of the presiding bishopric, probably Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin, and he said, ‘Bishop, we’re a college. In trying to attract students to come to Ricks College, we are trying to get facilities that are comparable to other schools. The proposed building is not suitable for a college.’

“Somehow the phrase ‘suitable for a college’ seemed to catch the bishop’s attention, and after more conversation he said, ‘So you want Ricks to be a college?’ John replied, ‘Yes, that’s what it’s supposed to be.’ After thinking it over, the bishop said he would see what he could do.”

“In a few days John received word that the size of the auditorium has been increased to 800 seating capacity. He still did not think that it was big enough, but it would be hard to convince the Brethren of that since the student body was only 700 at the time. The next general conference, when John was in Salt Lake City, he met President Henry D. Moyle near the Hotel Utah. John had talked with President Moyle about the new building when the latter was in Rexburg for a stake conference, so he naturally asked John how it was going. John said that it was going terribly; that he could not seem to get anywhere with his proposals. Again he told President Moyle that he thought the building was too small because he anticipated considerable growth in the next few years. Moyle said that he agreed and that he would see what he could do.

— Page 2 of Kirkham —

“The next time the two met in Salt Lake City, President Moyle told John that he had some good news for him. Always ready to hear good news, John asked what it was. Moyle said that he had persuaded the Brethren to increase the size of the auditorium by another 200 hundred seats, bringing the total capacity to 1,000. John was still not satisfied because he had been thinking all along in terms of 2,000 or even 3,000 seats, but he had to settle for what was given.

“Increasing the size of the auditorium did not solve the problem with the ballroom. John still thought that the ballroom ought to be separate from the auditorium.

“Obtaining President Mortensen’s (president of North Rexburg Stake) cooperation, John proposed to the Presiding Bishopric that a separate ballroom be added to the auditorium building that would serve both the college and the two stakes.” (pgs. 57-59 from “Make Good Where You Are, a biography of John L. Clarke by Robert Worrell.)

Delay in start of construction announced in November 1952 due to a revision of building plans. “The building was to be larger than originally proposed. The estimated building cost was \$300,000. Church authorities agreed to appropriate \$212,000 of that amount, and the remaining \$88,000 would need to be raised locally. Construction was anticipated to start early in the spring of 1953. The local fund drive started on February 1, 1953. The Rexburg and North Rexburg stakes were assessed \$30,000 each. The remaining \$28,000 would be raised by other stakes in the Upper Snake River Valley. Each ward was assessed an amount based on population.

President Clarke and Marriner Morrell had double duty. Not only were they involved with faculty fund-raising efforts, Clarke was president of the Rexburg Stake and headed that stake effort and Morrell was the counselor in the Rexburg North Stake presidency assigned to head that stake’s effort. The Alumni Association, through its new publication *Alumnus*, encouraged alumni to contribute so that “when you look up College Avenue and see the new structure you’ll want to feel you shared in its building, even if it only be a brick or shingle.”

By mid-March 1953, President Clarke and several faculty members had met with architect William F. Thomas to finalize building plans. Excavation did not start as expected. A “slight delay” was necessitated by the decision to expand the main auditorium from 800 to 1,000 seats. The plan to construct a brick building was again under consideration. Some Church officials thought the building needed to harmonize with the existing stone buildings. Although alterations would push the building’s cost up, no changes were anticipated in the local share already assessed. President Clarke announced community funds of more than \$20,000 already had been raised and the drive was proceeding on schedule. (Pgs. 198-199 from “The Spirit of Ricks” by David L. Crowder, 1997, Ricks College.)

Ground broken September 16, 1953 — “Several hundred students, faculty, and patrons gathered at the appointed hour to witness the groundbreaking ceremony. Several years of planning, fund-raising, and delays seemed to now be in the past.”

— Page 3 of Kirkham —

“Religious leaders and educators from the Upper Snake River Valley were special guests. President Clarke conducted a short service and a few speeches were given. Joining President Clarke for the ceremonial breaking of the sod were Rexburg Mayor J. Fred Smith, Chamber of Commerce President S.M. Meikle, Alumni President G. Alton Anderson, and President Emeritus Hyrum Manwaring. As the ceremony concluded, the crowd was moved back and, as noted in *Alumnus*, a “huge carry-all and drag-line rolled onto the site and began excavation.”

Shortly after the basement was dug and some of the foundation prepared, construction stopped. Apparently, the project was being reconsidered. President Clarke had not been notified of any change in the status of the project. No one knew why the stop, or quite what to expect, and soon an atmosphere was created where rumors quickly spread. The rumor that construction was merely halted for the winter months but would continue in the spring seemed to be largely ignored. Rumors that quickly gained credence and spread far and wide were that the college was to be closed or was to be moved to Idaho Falls.” (pg. 204 of “The Spirit of Ricks” by David L. Crowder, 1997, Ricks College.)

Work on the building resumed during the third week of July 1954.

Cost: \$672,541 appropriated for the project.

“The new year of 1956 started with a great deal of uncertainty about Ricks’ future. Everyone knew that at the end of summer school the school would revert to a junior college. The effects of that transition were unknown. Even though the new auditorium was completed enough so a few classes were being held there, work seemed to have slowed down. (Work had not slowed down. Finish work was being done, seemingly slow compared to erection of the superstructure, but all work was not completed until 1957.)” (pgs. 219-220 of “The Spirit of Ricks”)

Completed for 1956-57 school year. (Actual auditorium seating: 966)

Dedicated Nov. 12, 1962, by Elder Thorpe B. Isaacson, Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve. Also present were President Harvey L. Taylor, vice chancellor of the Unified Church School System. (Building was not named.)

Named Dec. 11, 1963 along with the dedication of eight buildings and the naming of nine buildings by Elder Marion G. Romney.

OSCAR A. KIRKHAM taught music at Ricks from 1903 to 1906. He was called to the First Council of Seventy in 1941 and served until his death in 1958 at age 78.

“For a number of years (after completion) the two Rexburg stakes had exclusive use of the ballroom on Saturday nights and the college held their dances on Friday nights. Then, as programs changed, the stakes relinquished their interest in the building and it became the sole property of Ricks College.” (pg. 59 from “Make Good Where You Are, a biography of John L. Clarke by Robert Worrell.)

— Page 4 of Kirkham —

Remodeling: (June 1978) Announced present auditorium to be divided into a 700-seat movie theatre and a 300-seat theatre-in-the-round in 1981. This was changed per an announcement in August 1980.

Contractor: Shipco General, Inc., Idaho Falls, Idaho

Changes made: 3 new rooms on west side for sculpture and ceramics with a covered courtyard and area for gas-fired and electricity-fired kilns. Ballroom cut in half with south end becoming a dance studio and north end a 250-seat theatre-in-the-round. New restrooms built.

Former band room converted to acting room with sound and lighting facilities. Windows were replaced. Former choir room changed to a Reader's Theatre. "The building will have offices for faculty members of the drama department. Being constructed is a laundry for costumes, along with a costume design shop." (News release)

Loading dock was built to facilitate the moving of sets and equipment. Completed for 1981-82 school year (The wooden building adjacent to the Smith Building which housed the ceramics and sculptor classes the past several years was razed recently. The area will be landscaped. -Ricks News Release August 1981)

Summer of 1982 — Fire sprinkling system installed. (Kirkham was last major building on campus to acquire fire sprinkling system.) Fire Engineers Company of Salt Lake City did the work. Foyer renovated with new carpeting, a new decor, tack board panels to publicize events, and a new ticket sales area.

Summer of 1984 — Dance studio floor refinished (as part of largest floor refinishing contract in history of the school at the time.)

Summer of 1988 — New recording systems in auditorium and Arena Theater.

Summer of 1990 — Stage rigging in Kirkham Auditorium replaced. Foyer renovation completed with new ticket booth and new glass front doors. Painting and carpeting completed prior to summer.

Summer of 1993 — New floor in dance studio; reupholstering and refurbishing the seats in Kirkham Auditorium.

Summer of 1995 — Kiln area re-roofed;

Summer of 2000 — Portions of roof repaired.

"A new trolley system was installed to allow students to safely work with lighting above the stage."

LAND ACQUISITION FOR RICKS COLLEGE

1899-1900 — Original 10 acres (site of proposed building) was a full city block: Block 3 of Parker addition to the City of Rexburg.

Property title transferred from Phina J. Tempest and another property title transferred from Parley P. Parker as a donation to Church Association. The association deeded property to Thomas E. Bassett as secretary and treasurer of the academy (although not yet in existence) and he deeded the property to Fremont Stake Academy. Transfer took place January and February of 1900 and was recorded February 15, 1900.

1937 — approximately 70 to 80 acres purchased south of original property.

1951 or 1952 — “When (John L. Clarke) arrived (at Ricks in 1944), 80 acres of ground, mostly barren, made up the campus. Immediately he began a campaign to raise money for the purchase of land adjacent to the campus. When the City of Rexburg decided to move the airport from the hill south of Ricks College, a representative from the city offered John the first chance to buy the 160-acre piece. Without asking anyone whether he could do it or not, John pooled the money he had with contributions from the community and bought the land for \$5,500.” (pg. 51, “Make Good Where You Are” a biography of John L. Clarke by Robert Worrell.)

(As of 1983 some 80 acres in use; 170 acres undeveloped. It is generally agreed that total acreage now came to about 255 acres.)

1978 — Purchased 113 acres (also listed as 120 or 140 acres) of Riverview Dairy (also known as Jeppson Dairy) property five miles west of Rexburg on Highway 33 to be used as Livestock Center.

1979 — Purchased 200-acre R Bar C Ranch 43 miles west of Rexburg to be known as Badger Creek Outdoor Recreation facility. Built home for President at 459 East 350 South in Rexburg.

1985 — Gotham Enterprises (Utah-based, nonprofit organization) donates its equity interest in Village Apartments at 235 West 400 South. Consists of 18 one-bedroom, 20 two-bedroom and 19 three-bedroom apartments. College converts facility into married student housing. (Placed for sale and sold in 1989)

1986 — Purchased Eulalia Klingler property for last privately-owned lot to complete west and north boundary of campus.

1987 — College buys 95 acres of the 400-acre Squirrel Meadows Preserve, only private land between Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks. (Squirrel Meadows is accessible by driving east of Ashton on the Reclamation Road and the Flagg Ranch Road.) Will be used as “a biological library for out-of-class experience for students and for research purposes,” Ricks President Joe J. Christensen said. Portions of the land acquired through an anonymous donor. (In 1999 the college swapped acreage with U.S. Forest Service for 46 acres in Island Park, Idaho, with cabin sites. Proceeds from the sale of cabin sites went into unrestricted funds and for use in the Island Park Natural Science Center.)

— Page 2 of Land Acquisition —

1992 — Purchased DeLoy Ward property of 140 acres south and west of campus to be used as farm property.

1996 — Purchased 38-acre Hotel Creek property from Ferguson family for use as Island Park Natural Science Center.

1997 — Purchased lot on East Third South for use as student parking lot.

TOTAL LAND IN REXBURG: approximately 400 acres

TOTAL LAND OUTSIDE OF REXBURG: approximately 350 acres

LANDSCAPING, TENNIS COURTS, PARKING AND QUAD AREAS (and leased properties)

July 1969 — Six concrete tennis courts are being built just across from the former KRXX building on South Second East.

Late 1973 — Plans revealed for a plaza between library (under construction) and Manwaring Center to the south and COB (Smith Building) to the east. A sidewalk from the plaza will lead under second floor of library to plaza surrounded by Romney, Spori, Clarke and former Administration Buildings.

1974-75 — Ricks participates in the expansion of the Rexburg city water system.

1976 — The mall between the Manwaring Center and the new David O. McKay Learning Resource Center is being landscaped to include plants, shrubs, trees and rolling hills of lawn. Landscaping is being done at the (first stage of the) new plant science building and at the new Auxiliary Services Building. Houses owned by college at site formerly used as faculty offices and music studies have been sold and will be removed by new owners.

October 1976 — Cannon Structures of Blackfoot was the low bidder on Phase I of the Center Street Mall between the LRC (McKay Library) and the Hart Building. Phase II includes the mall construction on Center Street continuing to Second South and the site of the proposed Fine Arts building. Sundberg and Associates of Idaho Falls are architects for the project to tie in with the mall being completed between the LRC and the Manwaring Center.

August 1977 — All sidewalk work in the new mall between the Hart Building and the LRC (McKay Library) is completed. A sprinkling system is being installed. Planting will begin this fall, depending on how fast the sprinkler system will be installed.

June 1978 — The first stage of the new mall has between the Hart Building and the LRC (McKay Library) has been completed. A parking lot on the west will have an acre for 117 cars, accommodating visitors to the Manwaring Student Center, the David O. McKay Learning Resources Center and the Hart physical education complex. (Ricks news release.)

April 1980 — Second phase begun. Ellsworth Construction of Blackfoot, Idaho, will put in sidewalks, shrubs, grass, trees and work on the parking area. Parking stalls between new Snow Building and LRC (McKay Library) will be eliminated. “But we have permission from the city to have diagonal parking on Second South by the new building and on First East and First West between Second and Fourth South. We will be getting more parking area than we are now losing. It will be on the perimeter of the campus, allowing the center area for pedestrian traffic.” (Chuck Frost) Ricks participates with Rexburg on construction of a new store sewer system.

Summer of 1982 — More than 50 trees have been planted. Outside lighting system has been upgraded. Some obsolete lighting fixtures have been removed and new lights have been installed in dark areas.

— Page 2 of Landscaping, etc. —

Summer of 1984 — Shrubs and grass and sprinkling system installed for area near LSA. Sidewalk replaced west of Kirkham to match Snow landscaping.

Summer of 1988 — Pedestrian mall between Smith Building and women's dorms is completed with cull de sac area to be used to drop off children attending the Child Development Lab. Centennial logo created in flowers for area south of Manwaring Center near portico entrance.

Summer of 1990 — Placement of a new water line across the north end of the campus has been completed. The line runs east and west from southeast of the Kirkham building to south of the Spori Building to an area southeast of the Snow Building. Sidewalk and landscaping were replaced. A plaza with benches and lighting has been created around the Centennial statue. Landscaping was completed around the new Smith Annex. (News release)

February 1992 — Possibility of closing Viking Drive (Fourth South) due to anticipated building projects is explored by a 10-member committee appointed by Rexburg Mayor Nyle Boyle. Mack Shirley and Brent Kinghorn, both Ricks vice presidents are members of the committee.

Summer of 1992 — Sidewalk on south side of Hart Gym installed. Stairs on south side removed and a vehicle entrance to the stage doors installed. Sound system replaced by installing individual speakers scattered throughout the ceiling. "It is the best technology available and should be a significant improvement in sound." (News release)

Summer of 1993 — Sewer line replaced from north side of Kirkham to 2nd South; 2nd East and Viking Drive; 1st West and Viking Drive; 1st East to the Admin Building and near the Clark, Smith, and Snow Buildings. "The improvements are mandated by the City of Rexburg in order to meet metering and testing requirements of our sewage before it enters into the city's system." (News release) Excavation for underground connections of the fiber optic network system.

Summer of 1995 — Asbestos removed from steam vaults.

May 1996 — The architectural firm of FFKR of Salt Lake City has been selected to design the outdoor quad area between the Manwaring Center and the Taylor Building under construction and the newly planned administration building.

Summer of 1996 — Telecomm of Idaho Falls installed Category 5 cable that can be used for video, data and voice transmission in the four women's dorms. Edstrom Construction of Rexburg replaced a 700-foot steam condensate heating line from Smith Building south across Viking Drive. A sidewalk east of the Manwaring Center was removed and placed into parking space. Ormond Builders is constructing a 318-space parking lot west of the tennis courts and east of the proposed administration building. Expected completion is June of 1997. (Lot in use, although sparingly, by late 1998.) A 20-car parking lot east of Riviera Apartments on Third South will be paved and prepared for use.

— Page 3 of Landscaping, etc. —

Summer of 1997 — Some 1,000 feet of steam condensate lines replaced along west side of the library and Viking Drive. New secondary high-voltage feed line into campus installed.

May 1998 — Pacific West of Idaho Falls has been awarded the contract for the quad. The first phase is to be completed by November 1 with the plaza and walkways installed. Next year the underground sprinkler system will be installed, and trees and shrubs will be planted, some of the work coming after the completion of the new administration building.

Part of Viking Drive (north lane) will be permanently closed due to work starting on the new quad area. The plaza, using concrete pavers and accent strips, will measure 145 feet on each side. The construction project will require some 20,000 to 25,000 yards of fill to build up and level the area between the Manwaring Center and the Taylor Building. Steps will bring pedestrians up to the plaza level to the north and west between the two buildings. At each end of the street closure a turn-around area will be provided for vehicular traffic.

The partial street closure, approved by the Rexburg City Council, will allow work to begin on a large underground storm water detention vault in the north lane of Viking Drive. The vault, which will hold 35,000 gallons of water, will be built to handle water runoff during storms.

July 1998 — Viking Drive was closed as soon as Seventh South was opened by the City of Rexburg. Viking Drive represented the last street to dissect the campus. In return for property to build a new thoroughfare and extend Seventh South, the City of Rexburg allowed Ricks to close Viking Drive.

Summer 2000 — Sidewalk on north side of far-east portion of Viking Drive replaced. East portion of Viking Drive repaved. “A 3,000-foot-long asphalt trail was built from 7th South to the arboretum to tie the floral demonstration gardens to the arboretum.” New steam pipes laid between Clarke and Smith Buildings. New sidewalk installed.

Summer of 2001 — Grass replaced in front of east wing of library. Temporary pavement installed south of new Spori Building site.

LEASED PROPERTIES:

Former Bennion’s Boys Ranch, 70 miles west near Victor, Idaho (Used as leadership center, etc.)

Showtime Office and Rehearsal Building on South Fourth West (Used by Showtime Company until 2000).

Rexburg Racquetball & Fitness Center on South First East (Partial use only by physical education students).

Rexburg 4th & 15th Ward Building on South First East across street from Kirkham Building (used for music classes).

LIVESTOCK CENTER

1978

Former Riverview (Jeppson) Dairy, located about six miles west of Rexburg on Highway 33 was acquired in early 1978. Purchased from Gerald Lowe of Rexburg. Includes 113 acres of farm land, dairy site and river bottom pasture land.

May 1978 — Two trailers (one double-wide, one single-wide donated by First Security Bank) moved to location and used as classrooms.

Architect: Richard Hindel of Twin Falls, Idaho

Ground broken April 1979 by President Bruce C. Hafen and Jerry Halterman, chairman of the Division of Agriculture. Also speaking were architect Richard Hindel, contractor Dick Davis (Belgium draft horses pulled the scraper to scratch the soil.)

Contractor: Davis Construction of Rexburg (9 bidders)

Facilities:

Ag-Education Building: 29,264 sq. ft.

Arena: 6,765 sq. ft. of classroom space.

Includes carcass evaluation laboratory, meat cutting lab, 1,760 sq. ft. of rest rooms, storage, Barn for 70 horses built by BGM of Twin Falls, Idaho 22,000 sq. ft. (Used summer of 1979)

Animal shed: 5,040 sq. ft. GROSS/ 4,929 net

Animal Exercise Lab: 4,123 sq. ft. GROSS/ 4.037 net

Horse Barn: 3,006 sq. ft. GROSS/ 2,546 net

Also includes: 3 loafing sheds, hay barn, 6 cattle pens, silos, dairy, machine shop, three homes, well house

Built for beef management and production; horsemanship and stable management programs.

Completed in early 1980 and used during winter semester 1980

Livestock arena building and stable dedicated Sept. 16, 1980 by Elder Ezra Taft Benson, President of the Council of Twelve

Summer of 1984 — Underground sprinkling system installed.

Summer of 1992 — A new feed building and feed bins were constructed to “handle the feeding of livestock more efficiently.” (News release)

Summer of 2000 — A farmhouse was renovated into a classroom.

HYRUM MANWARING STUDENT CENTER

1966

Includes 266-seat Little Theater with permanent, padded seating 145,278 sq. ft. GROSS/87,743 net (70,000 sq. ft. Was original size)

Authorized in late 1963 or early 1964

Presented at school devotional on May 4, 1964

Architect: Harold Collard and Max Call, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Contractor: Paulsen Construction, Salt Lake City

Groundbreaking: April 26, 1965

Present were school, city and county officials and the architects, members of planning committee were Dan Hess, Eldred Stephenson, Lowell Biddulph, Don Merrill, John Smith, Ron Stone, Ferron Sonderegger. Recognized were Sam F. Brewster and Leland M. Perry, director and assistant of the BYU physical plant.

Named prior to groundbreaking for Hyrum Manwaring, eighth president of Ricks College from 1930 to 1944; taught at school since 1914, was dean for 13 years

Facility to include: Book store, snack bar, bowling alley & barber shop. Post office, poster shop & work room, store rooms, all on the ground floor; second floor with main entrance on 4th South will have reception and information center, offices for student body officials and building manager, conference rooms, quarters for 10 clubs, the serving area for the cafeteria with facilities to feed 2,000 people, a snack bar and small dining room, kitchen, and a ballroom (largest in the Upper Snake River Valley) to measure 55 by 160 feet (divisible into three sections); on the third floor: a 230-seat theatre for films, dramas and recitals; student newspaper and yearbook offices, 3 bishop's offices, 5 conference rooms and a browsing and TV room are to be located on third floor with a balcony that will overlook the dance floor.

Cost: estimated at \$1 million.

First used for 1966-67 school year.

Addition —Authorized in late 1975 to add 62,000 to 70,000 sq. ft. for a second ballroom, larger bookstore, larger snack bar, new offices and a hobby craft area, area for food processing and bakery; expansion will be to west and south. New game room in area previously occupied by bookstore. Ticket sales area enlarged. New student (body officers) offices; new snack bar; new meeting rooms. (15,000 sq. ft. of existing building to be remodeled).

Architects: Max L. Call and Associates and Collard, Beyeler and Bentzen, all of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

— Page 2 of Manwaring —

Contractor: Ormond Construction of Idaho Falls (7 bidders).

Groundbreaking: April 26, 1977

Participating were President Henry B. Eyring, Jeffrey Holland, commissioner of education for the Church, Kenneth H. Beesley, associate commissioner for Church school and college, contractor Keith Ormond, Mayor John Porter, architect Max Call; student body president Ron Bennion, Dean of Student Life Mack Shirley, and Dan Hess, Public Relations director.

During excavation for the addition, “workers dug into a large cavern-type hole that may have been the result of some ancient volcano,” Chuck Frost, physical plant director, said. He called the hole a: “volcanic void.” Keith Ormond, the contractor, said, “We didn’t just find one cavern but two and that’s a good description of the holes. As the hot lava rolled through the area, it left these voids and we are finding them.” Ormond said the next step is to fill them with lean concrete. He expects at least 60 yards of concrete will be needed to fill the holes. “One is about 40 feet long and the other is about four feet high and is between 20 and 30 feet in length.”

Completed for use by start of 1979-80 school year. Building never dedicated due to its use as something “other than academic.”

Summer of 1984 — Ballroom floor refinished as part of “largest floor refinishing contract in history of the school (to that point.)

Summer of 1985 — New sewer line on north side of building to handle the expanding Food Services.

Summer of 1987 — Special Events Room given a new decor.

Summer of 1988 — Bookstore re-carpeted and renovated.

Summer of 1989 — Bookstore loading dock on west side of building installed.

Summer of 1992 — ASRC offices renovated on third floor of building; food service line in Grandma’s Kitchen revamped.

Summer of 1993 — New lighting and sound system in MC ballrooms. Sometime during the year “chimes” were no longer operable.

Summer of 1995 — Office created for administrator of debit card system.

Summer of 1998 — New “chimes” in use. Four speakers replaced on the Manwaring Center roof. A new digitalized bell system installed.

— Page 3 of Manwaring —

Summer of 2000 — “The MC was kept open this summer even with an extensive renovation of the buildings’ ventilation system. New ductwork, ceilings and lights were added to about one half of the building.”

Summer of 2001 — (continuation and completion of the above) new carpeting in Galley and Special Events Room.

Original DAVID O. McKAY LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER (LRC)

(Later became Administration Building); new David O. McKay LRC; remodeled east wing (former Administration Building) as part of library complex

1963- FIRST BUILDING COMPLETED UNDER MASTER PLAN OF EXPANSION

1976- NEW LIBRARY BUILDING CONSTRUCTED (connected to the above)

2000- Former Administration Building remodeled as library space

45,778 sq. ft. GROSS/28,097 net (Original library)

94,343 sq. ft. GROSS/63,361 net (Newer library)

Authorized in December of 1961

Architect: C.A. Sundberg and Associates

Contractor: Davis Construction of Rexburg, Idaho

Keith Greenhalgh, superintendent of construction

Structural: H.C. Hughes

Mechanical: Bridgers and Paxton

Electrical: Arthur H. Nielson, Jr.

Construction started in June of 1962.

Facilities included: book collections number 40,000 volumes (with a capacity of 60,000).

First floor: Special Collections Room, “guest” room, charging desks, general reading area with tables, chairs and carrels (“open stacks”) card catalog, informal reading area near stacks with newspaper racks; administrative offices of the library, technical services area, two group study rooms, two consultation rooms, one conference room, a library science classroom, a typing room.

Second floor: periodical section with reading area with tables and individual carrels, shelving for current periodicals, bound periodicals, U.S. Government documents; seven microfilm and 2 micro-card readers. (550 titles of current periodicals.) Arthur Porter Lecture Room with 192 seats.

First used for 1963-64 school year

Dedicated and named Dec.11, 1963, by Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve Apostles. Named after President David O. McKay, ninth President of the LDS Church from 1951 to 1970.

REMODELING OF ORIGINAL LIBRARY:

(Actual year not known, between 1969 and 1971)

— Page 2 of McKay —

Contractor: Davis Construction (4 bidders)

Cost estimated at \$40,000; job completed by fall of the year

Work done: removed classrooms and interior faculty offices new front entrance and west entrance new study rooms and music listening rooms enlarged audio-visual facilities new library science lab room additional seating for 300 provided on second floor new listening lab with 10 programs feeds into 40 study carrels and Room 278 of building and wired into Spori, Romney, Kirkham and COB (Smith), 1,100 yards of carpet laid on second floor, Newspaper lounge shifted from first to second floor new furniture, more newspapers available more periodical holdings with 1,000 magazine subscriptions enlarged map collection with government documents added microfilm moved to Room 234 with more film and equipment.

Late in 1972 — “Addition” to present library announced; 83,000 sq. ft.

Architect: Keith Sundberg, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Contractor: Arrington Construction of Idaho Falls (5 bidders)

Ground broken April 10, 1973 — President Henry B. Eyring, Mr. Rex Bennion, dean of administration, and others spoke; Dan Hess, assistant to the president for external affairs conducted.

1,100 yards of lava rock have been drilled (by mid June 1973) and blown out of its place to make room for the foundation bed; depths range from 16 to 20 feet in places. By years end (Dec. 1973) “a rocky hole and many steel uprights are the only evidences today of a huge building addition,” a news release said. Construction has been hampered by Idaho bedrock, which is an average of 17.6 inches below the surface.

Facilities will:

- Triple seating space from 500 to 1,875 seats.
- Collections will triple to 160,000 bound volumes.
- Closed periodical section with double to triple volumes of 1973.
- Access to magazines will be restricted.
- Branch genealogical library will be housed at four times present size.
- Microfilm reading machines will double and be in a special room.
- Special collections will go from 600 sq. ft. To 3,000 sq. ft.
- Walk-in vault will protect rare first editions and microfilms.
- Tape listening carrels will increase from 40 to 155; 30 will have TV monitors for closed circuit television.
- Educational Media Center will provide audio visual equipment, 16-mm films, and other media equipment.

— Page 3 of McKay —

- New facilities will be included for graphics and photography, used to produce new teaching materials; students and faculty will be able to make their own teaching materials with the center supplying facilities, supplies and help needed to make them. A charge will be made for supplies.
- A self-instruction lab on media equipment training will be included.
- A movie previewing room will be provided.
- A do-it-yourself recording room to record tapes will be provided.
- Two large circulation desks will handle checking out of materials.
- All reference materials will be combined into one area.
- Number of reference books will double.
- Newspaper and magazine browsing area will be on first floor.
- Basement will have loading dock, storage, mechanical equipment, paper shredder and telephone controls.

November 1974 — New library expected to be enclosed by early 1975 for work on interior. Good weather in fall is credited with progress.

First used in early 1976.

Some minor remodeling done on third floor during summer of (between 1978 and 1982) Moved juvenile area to make room for art exhibit area.

Testing area moved and enlarged. Government documents shifted away from study area. Video viewing center moved west of Room 330 and away from study areas. Some faculty offices were shifted, some eliminated and new office built for testing area.

Summer of 1983 — Meeting House Library moved (from Admin Building) to northwest corner of MC to make room for Housing Office. “The offices of Records and Transcripts, Financial Aids and Admissions will remain on the first floor of the building, but will be remodeled into enclosed office areas for easier access. The Office of Continuing Education, also located on the first floor, will have been enclosed office area. The foyer will be carpeted and redecorated, giving an entirely new look to the first floor,” Church Frost says. Collard, Beyeler and Bentzen of Idaho Falls did the interior design, Acoustic Specialties of Pocatello was the contractor.

Fall 1983 — Computers replace card catalog (Only about 20 such systems are in operation at colleges and universities.) System took six years to implement. Three terminals in use on each floor but only one terminal on each floor is hooked up to a printer. System is called C.H.I.C.O. The movement of all books and periodicals out of and back into the library is kept track of by the system. Patrons purchase a permanent library card which is encoded and used at the time a book is checked out. (Later replaced by C.H.I.C.O. II with a more sophisticated cross conference system and a more in-depth subject search.)

Summer of 1984 — Partition walls for Learning Assistance Lab installed in Admin Building.

— Page 4 of McKay —

Summer of 1985 — Some 6,000 square feet of new carpeting installed and sidewalk and stairs on north side of Admin Building replaced.

Summer of 1988 — Seen-teller cashier line installed; re-roofed; new carpeting for second floor. (Not installed until 1989.)

SEPTEMBER 1986 — Name of David O. McKay Learning Resources Center, commonly called the LRC, changed to David O. McKay Library.

Summer of 1987 — Accounts Receivable Department in Admin Building remodeled with access windows provided.

Summer of 1989 — Some 5,100 sq. ft. of storage space in basement of main library building converted into seating for approximately 235 students as a testing center. “We’ll have better administrative facilities, a reception area and lockers for students’ personal belongings as well as the ability to handle more students,” says Vance Hendricks, director of the testing center. (Entrance on below ground level in “connecting” area between library and Admin Building.) Four E Construction of Rigby, Idaho, is the contractor.

May 1990 — Computer Consulting Lab (CCL) opened in David O. McKay Library. Houses 100 DOS and 20 Macintosh SE computers, all networked into college’s main academic computer.

Summer of 1990 — Asbestos in ceiling replaced in Housing Office and Financial Aid area of Administration Building.

Summer of 1991 — New front doors installed in Admin Building.

Summer of 1992 — Television studio installed on third floor of McKay Library. “The video studio and control room is a facility where we can do vital demonstrations and project simulations. (Previously there was no designated place for actual taping.) The studio has track lighting, a teleprompter, professional cameras and recorders. There also is a control room for editing, graphics, special effects and the ability to ‘spice up presentations with post production.’” (News release).

February 1994 — College’s official records are recycled, rather than shredded; waste paper company picks up sorted paper.

June 2000 — Architect: Nielsen Bodily & Associates of Idaho Falls. Contractor: Ormond Builders of Idaho Falls. Work begun on remodeling third floor of library. More computers and study areas will be added along with added space for multi-media work.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY BRANCH GENEALOGY LIBRARY:

Early 1985- Genealogy management software purchased to use Personal Ancestral File produced by LDS Church.

— Page 5 of McKay —

Housed on second floor (Arthur Porter Special Collections Room) of building covers 15 stakes from Rigby north to the Montana border. College offers about 14 beginning genealogy classes, as well as specialized classes on American, Scandinavian and British Isles research.

Name changed to UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY FAMILY HISTORY CENTER in October 1987.

Library has extensive Census collection dating back to 1790. Also has the Eastern Idaho 1910 Census index and computerized marriage index listing 26,000 union covering nearly every marriage in Idaho from 1862 to 1900.

History Center opens on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. Effective Oct. 14, 1990.

In use are 8 computers, two others run the new “FamilySearch” programs.

February 1992 — New “TempleReady” program is available, avoiding need to send for records from Salt Lake City. Library one of the first to receive it.

Late August 1992 — Auxiliary family history center established in Rexburg North Stake Center to alleviate overcrowding at college library.

November 1992 — Third edition of Ancestral File and 1992 edition of International Genealogical Index (IGI) now available.

March 1993 — Elder Lon and Sister Echo Rigby of Kennewick, Wash., become first-ever missionary couple to work in Family History Center serving for 18 months.

February 1994— Updates received on data bases IGI (up from 170 to 200 million names); Ancestral File (from 12 to 15 million names); and 2.3 release of Personal Ancestral File software program.

REMODELING OF FORMER ORIGINAL LIBRARY INTO “ADMIN” BUILDING:

Announced July 1975

March 1976 — Davis Construction of Rexburg to remodel former library building into Administration Building

Facility will house all of the administrative personnel of the college, including the president and his staff, the counseling center, public relations, dean of faculty, accounting office and cashier, computer center, admissions, registration, student housing, BYU-Ricks Center.

In use by fall of 1976.

— Page 6 of McKay —

Building vacated in early summer of 1999

(All offices, etc., moved to new Kimball Building)

Architect: Nielsen, Bodily and Associates of Idaho Falls

Contractor: Ormond Builders of Idaho Falls

Work started March 2000 with gutting of the building and installation of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, new electrical system, new lighting and new carpeting. Work completed by October of 2000. A total of 144,000 square feet was renovated with work completed in spring of 2001.

MULTI-USE BUILDING (“Institute-type”)

2002 (first building completed in connection with BYU-Idaho)

Authorized in January 2001.

Architect: Jensen Haslam of Logan, Utah

Contractor: Jacobsen Construction of Salt Lake City, Utah

Ground broken April 18, 2001, by Elder F. Melvin Hammond of the First Quorum of Seventy.

OBSERVATORY

“A 24-inch reflector telescope was installed in the “observadome” on top of the building (sometime in early 1963). The telescope and planetarium would allow several new classes in astronomy and meteorology to be added to the curriculum.” (“The Spirit of Ricks” by David L. Crowder, 1997, Ricks College.)

The “observa-dome” is a 360-degree turret.

August 1985 — Moved from roof of Romney Building to Livestock Center grounds. Building consists of a telescope room, a classroom and library, a small office, darkroom and restroom facilities. Moved due to light interference from campus.

“OLD GYM” (also known as B-2)

(Destroyed by fire prior to scheduled demolition in 1977)

1918

Authorized Jan. 14, 1916

Architect: McGrew and Soderland, Idaho Falls

Ground broken: June 16, 1917

Contractor: C.A. Talboe (Tolbo) of Provo, Utah

Cost: \$65,000 (estimated)

Location: west and slightly north of Spori

First used March 1, 1918

Dedicated: Nov. 22, 1919, by Elder George A. Smith of Council of the Twelve. Never named due to demolition plans as early as 1950s

August 1975 — College Press and Purchasing Department moved out of building to new Auxiliary Services Building.

October 1976 — Decision to tear down Old Gym delayed until 1977. “Some classes are being taught there and the building also is being used as a claims office for the Bureau of Reclamation in the Teton dam processing of flood victims.” (News release)

July 26, 1977 — The second oldest building on the Ricks College campus--the old gym building--was destroyed in a spectacular fire Tuesday. There were no injuries reported in the blaze, but flames swept demolition workers from the buildings innards before finishing up much of the job they had started. The building was being destroyed to make way for a new fine arts center planned for the school. A spokesman for the college said the college had hired a demolition firm to destroy the building, though. And he emphasized that the fire was not intentionally started.

Most equipment that could be salvaged had been removed from the building. Another school spokesman said the fire started in the attic area of the three-story building when members of the demolition crew were using a cutting torch to remove some cast iron radiators.

Rexburg Fire Department firefighters and volunteers fought the blaze for several hours, although there was little they could do except kept it from spreading to surrounding buildings. Winds helped fan the flames. But luckily they were from the northeast, blowing smoke and burning cinders onto Center Street and an open area across from the building. Although spokesman at the college said they were afraid the blaze would spread to other buildings, additional damage was limited to a few cracked windows in the Romney Science Building. Five burning cinders which landed on the roof of the Hart Building were put out quickly, says Charles Frost, the director of the Ricks physical plant.

— Page 2 of “Old Gym” —

Frost says workmen and campus police tore up the floor in a vain attempt to get at the fire, but they were forced to abandon their efforts and run from the building. The Rexburg Fire Department was notified and responded promptly, but the fire was already out of control by the time they arrived. “They did what they could to contain it, but it was too far advanced to ever hope of putting it out,” Frost says. Because of the planned demolition, all service including water, had been cut off in the building. The walls of the building were to have started coming down Aug. 4. The building was constructed in 1917 by local people, and originally contained a swimming pool, a theater and a gym on its three floors. It was the second building on the campus.

The building was remodeled about 30 years ago, Frost says, when classrooms replaced the theater on the second floor, and again in 1971 when offices replaced the swimming pool on the first floor. Says Director of Public Relations Dan Hess, “It has a noble old history and great memories for the alumni.” Hess says the gym was one of the largest in the area when the building was first constructed, and state tournaments were held at the facility.

“Thousands of people learned to swim in the pool,” he says. “It was the only pool in the area.” Frost adds that Pres. Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency of the LDS Church played basketball in the facility years ago. The building had been slated for demolition as long ago as the 1950s when former LDS Church Pres. David O. McKay visited the Ricks campus and reached the decision that it was not fitting the college’s need, says Hess. Partly because of the plans for tearing the building down, it was never named, Hess says, but was known by the popular appellation of the Old Gym.

The college building programs called for other buildings to be constructed before a new fine arts center, however, and the building was used until April this year. The contract for demolition was given to Grover Construction Co. of Shelley, and workers for the company were doing preliminary work when the fire began, Frost says. The new fine arts building is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 1981. (Was actually completed by summer of 1980.) Frost says the walls of the burnt-out structure will be torn down Wednesday morning. College spokesmen expressed appreciation for the way the Rexburg Fire Department and Ricks College and Rexburg police handled the potentially dangerous situation. (From Rexburg Standard of 7-26-1977)

PHYSICAL PLANT BUILDING (PPLT)

1973

Considered the 19th building since 1962, later changed to 22nd building

Total of 44,823 sq. ft. GROSS/ 32,148 net

Physical Plant Office building: 9,900 (5,742)

Physical Plant Shop building: 34,923 (26,406)

Announced Feb. 26, 1968

Architect: Kent Parrish and Grant Brower, Pocatello, Idaho

Mentioned again in building plans on Oct. 24, 1969

Contractor: Arrington Construction of Idaho Falls (3 bidders)

Cost: \$826,000

Groundbreaking July 24 or July 25, 1971 with Hugh C. Bennion, dean of faculty, Mayor Henry Shirley, contractor Woodrow Arrington.

This building is equipped to take care of all maintenance functions of the campus and houses the Physical Plant Administrative offices, Security, and the Electronics department of Educational Media and Communications. Also includes campus telephone services.

The shop section houses the Physical Plant Shops, Mechanical, Structural, Automotive (Motor Pool), and Grounds departments. This also included fire and safety office, lost and found, air conditioning shop, electrical shop, paint shop, carpentry shop, upholstery shop, custodial office, and office equipment repair.

Office building in use by June 1972; remainder by later in fall of 1972

Open House held Jan. 17, 1973; completed November 27, 1973

Dedicated April 13, 1976, by President Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

PLANETARIUM (located in Romney Building)

1963

“On the ground floor (actually below ground level) is the planetarium equipped by Spitz Laboratories. Here a picture of the heavens at any latitude for any time or date can be projected on the dome-shaped screen above seating for 63 people.” (Dedication program)

Original projector cost \$13,000 and was supported by a basic console.

Most programs are acquired from Hansen Planetarium in Salt Lake City.

1973 — Some 87,073 admissions in ten years, plus thousands of Ricks students who received instructions. Equipment had grown to about 75 special effects projectors. Console was rewired in 1973 and 10 panoramic projectors were installed, capable of changing four scenes at the push of a switch.

1979 — “Well over 100 special projectors (available).” (Brochure) Some 18 shows were available. Program in 1979:

January “The Creation”

February “Stonehenge”

March “Stars and Galaxies-A Voyage Beyond the Milky Way”

April “The Thunderstorm”

May “Cosmic Motions”

(No regularly scheduled public shows June, July, August)

September “Footsteps”

October “Legacy-American Achievements in Space”

November “Springtime in the Universe”

December “The Christmas Star”

1983 — Acquired new star projector (cost \$89,000). Has additional 1,000 stars in its orb and shows both Northern and Southern hemispheres without tilting projector and leaving a blank on the ceiling. It also projects Andromeda Galaxy, the Hercules star cluster, and two neighboring galaxies in Southern hemisphere. Stars appear sharper and brighter.

1984-5 program: (new shows only)

September: “The Dawn of Astronomy”

October: “To Worlds Unknown”

November: “Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico”

January: “Starbound”

February: “The Universe of Dr. Einstein”

1985 —

September: “The Loneliness Factor”

October: “Footsteps”

November: “A Comet Called Halley”

— Page 2 of Planetarium —

1986-7 —

October: “Earth Whispers”

January: “Adventures Along the Spectrum”

February:

Summer of 2000 — New computerized equipment installed in Romney Planetarium.

RADIO AND GRAPHIC SERVICES BUILDING (RGS)

Authorized in 1999.

Architect: Rulon Nielsen (Ricks College).

Contractor: Vern Clark and Sons Construction of Idaho Falls.

Ground broken April 2000.

4,225 square feet.

Description: One story, steel-fram, brick veneer with stone quoins, metal roofing.

Located between Kimball Building east parking lot and tennis courts near east end of Kimball Building parking lot on Viking Drive.

Houses KRIC and KWBH radio station; Graphic Services.

Open House held Dec. 7, 2000.

Dedicated August 2, 2001 by Elder David A. Bednar.

RESIDENCE HALLS

Summer of 1937 — Ricks College President Hyrum Manwaring negotiated the acquisition of an old garage building on College Avenue. (Presently an apartment complex on second floor; stores (and former dance hall) on first floor.)

Original dormitory was a cooperative dorm with girls on second floor, men on first floor after the automobile showroom was divided into apartments. “In the remodeling process, the old floor was torn up, and in the basement we found several old automobiles, windshields, transmissions and other debris. There were six apartments on second floor, each of which consisted of a living room, bedrooms and a bathroom. Six girls were assigned to an apartment. The girls entered their quarters through a small reception area on the east side of the building where stairs led to the second floor. There was one bedroom, small office and a bathroom located immediately west of this reception area where the couple supervising the dormitory lived. West of that was the kitchen area which extended nearly to the back of the building. In the center of the building was a dining hall/recreation area. On the southeast corner of the building was another reception area for the boys’ living quarters. Each of these rooms had two bunk beds and four boys shared a room. The showers and toilets for the boys were located in the basement. (Room for 36 boys.)” (From recollections of Artell and Verla Chapman)

In the fall of 1943 women students occupied the downstairs and facility no longer housed men.

Dorm parents:

- Mr. & Mrs. Artell Chapman
- Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Bennion
- Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Hart
- Mom and Dad Morgan
- Luella Richmond
- Stella Shail
- Lorraine Wallace

Converted in summer and fall of 1966 to TEMPORARY BUILDING 30; housed art and speech departments.

“Enrollment for winter quarter beginning Jan. 2, 1946, was so high that an appeal was made to the community for housing. The dormitory and other advertised housing in private homes were full.

The Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA) was charged with aiding colleges and communities with housing for veterans and families. Units remodeled from military surplus buildings were available. Each apartment would accommodate a family of six, with Ricks allocated enough units to house 26 families. Ricks and the city were responsible to have foundations built and utilities on site. The buildings, coming from Vancouver, Wash., would in pieces that could be easily assembled. Site preparation began early in April, and the first building materials arrived in Rexburg near the end of April.

— Page 2 of Residence Halls —

While the site was being prepared for 26 apartments, word was received through the office of Idaho's U.S. Representative Henry Dworshak that the additional 36 dormitory units and 15 more family units had been allocated to Ricks College and the city. Each apartment had two bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bath. (From "The Spirit of Ricks" by David L. Crowder, 1997, Ricks College.)

(Name given to complex was College Heights, however they were more commonly known as the "Lambing Sheds" because of the rapid growth of families in the buildings.)

(From Viking Scroll of April 30, 1971) —

The three white buildings on campus, un-affectionately known as "lambing sheds" came to Ricks over 25 years ago from Mountain Home Air Force Base to serve as temporary housing units for married students. They have quite a record of service. Their temporary state has come to a climax this year. They will be removed this summer. In their place will stand the new (Clarke Building).

Some of the present staff and faculty members lived in these buildings. One of them, Dr. Dan Hess, administrative assistant, recalls the cold winter nights and seeing the carpets blown up whenever the wind blew. Another resident, Denton Brewerton, Journalism Dept. Said, "We about froze to death."

There were over 35 apartments. Each had a coal stove, which had to be in use in order to supply hot water, and ice boxes, "with real ice."

Eldred Stephenson, and other teachers living there, paid \$37.50 a month. "We were glad to have them," he said.

DORMITORY BUILDINGS, later Dorms 1 & 2, (women's)

1963

Authorized: December of 1961.

Each women's dormitory 31,157 sq. ft./GROSS, 21,506 net.

Announced (2 or 3 women's dormitories) on May 15, 1961.

Architect: Cedric Allen, Pocatello, Idaho (women's).

Contractor: Davis Construction of Rexburg (women's).

Gordon Shirley, construction superintendent

Structural: H.C. Hughes

Mechanical: Bridgers and Paxton

Electrical: Arthur H. Nielson, Jr.

— Page 3 of Residence Halls —

Groundbreaking date (if held) not known, construction started in summer of 1962

Facility comprised of four halls, divided into two complexes. Each complex had 30 student apartments and one head resident apartment. (For a total occupancy of 240.) Each unit had a tiled kitchen and bath, two bedrooms, and a carpeted living room to accommodate four girls each. Adjacent to each head resident apartment is a social foyer with television where the girls get their mail, gather for meetings, visit, and receive their guests. Each complex has four sets of electric washers and driers and ample luggage storage.

First used for 1963-64 school year.

Dedicated Dec. 11, 1963 by Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve. Named collectively as Pioneer Halls and individually as Annie S. Kerr Hall and Sarah Ann Barnes Hall (later known as Dorm 1), and Edna Ricks Hall and Virginia H. Perkins Hall (later known as Dorm 2).

MEN'S DORMITORY, RIGBY HALL

1963

46,175 sq. ft/GROSS, 23,004 net

Authorized: December 1961

Architect: Glen Arbogast, Jones & Reed Associates of Los Angeles, Calif.

Contractor: Alfred Brown Company and John H. Mickleson & Sons of Logan, Utah; C.H. Stanley, construction superintendent

Structural: H.C. Hughes

Mechanical: Hilberg and Turpin

Electrical: Arthur H. Nielson, Jr.

Groundbreaking: Jan. 4, 1963

Completed by end of 1963, used for 1964 Winter Semester

Facility made up of 120 rooms with two boys to each room (total of 235), except for five single quarters for senior resident students who aid in the supervision. Each room has its own desks. There is also a study room for the dormitory and a commodious living room with television for relaxation. The basement of the building has a laundry room with washers and dryers and also three music practice rooms. (Building with 3 floors.)

Dedicated Dec. 11, 1963 by Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve. Named collectively Ensign Halls, but named after William F. Rigby.

— Page 4 of Residence Halls —

Emergency lighting system and fire alarm and fire sensing system installed in Rigby Halls during summer of 1984.

Renovated in 1992-93 by Intermountain Construction of Idaho Falls, Idaho

Rooms were gutted; received new cabinets, sink, and walls were extended to make the rooms larger; each room is individually heated and air conditioned and received new electric, heating and lighting systems.

The first and second floors of the south wing of Rigby Hall converted into temporary offices for about 40 faculty members. “These will be first class faculty offices with sinks, refrigerators, built-in cupboards and individual air conditioning units,” according to Chuck Frost. (The men’s dorm rooms will be used as offices for several years while new buildings are under construction to accommodate the expanding faculty.)

WOMEN’S RESIDENCE HALLS 33 & 34 and ENSIGN HALLS 45 & 46

1964 - Men

1965 - Women

31,157 sq. ft./GROSS 21,506 net for women

46,175 sq. ft./GROSS 23,004 net for men

Announced June 2, 1964

Architect: Cedric Allen of Pocatello, Idaho (women); Arbogast, Jones & Reed Associates of Los Angeles, Calif. (men)

Contractor: Davis Construction, Rexburg (women)

Brown Construction (men’s #45)

John H. Mickleson & Sons of Logan, Utah (men’s #46)

Ground broken in June of 1964. (No record of ceremony)

Facilities for women had a total of 60 apartments (30 each complex) designed for four women, with kitchen, living room and two bedrooms. (Total of 240 women.) Head resident’s apartment with common living room to meet guests, etc., laundry facilities and private lounge for informal gatherings.

“The (men’s) dormitory, a two-winged structure similar to the Helaman Halls on the BYU campus, will house 234 students. There are three floors in each wing, with a two-story living area connecting the two wings. Each floor in each wings contains 19 double rooms and one single room. Each floor has its own bath area with ceramic tile ceiling and structural tile walls. Each double room has ample desk and study facilities for the two boys occupying it.

— Page 5 of Residence Halls —

However, the living area on the second floor will also have two large study rooms as well as a recreation room. The first floor of the living area will be taken up with a lounge with TV and stereo facilities. On the first floor is an apartment for the hall mother.

The basement, which has been cut down in size because of the lava rock substrata, contains the mechanical equipment for the building, boilers, transformers, etc.; a laundry room with six washers and three dryers; a baggage storage room; and three music practice rooms.

All told, the building contains 114 double rooms, or rooms for two boys, and 6 single rooms. The single rooms are for the floor-leaders, or older students who assist in the supervision of the dormitory.” (Rexburg newspaper of 9-26-1963)

Completed in April 1964 for men; October 1965 for women

Dedicated, but not named, April 13, 1976 by President Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve.

Emergency lighting system and fire alarm and fire sensing system installed in Ensign Halls during 1984 summer.

Ensign Hall renovated beginning in fall of 1992, students moving into newly renovated Rigby Hall in early February 1993. Work completed by 1993-94 school year. Each room has new cabinets, sink, new heating and lighting systems, walls were extended to make rooms larger, and each room has its own heating and air conditioning control unit.

Reassigned names to four dorms in 1996 as follows:

Dorm 1 as Virginia H. Perkins Hall

Dorm 2 as Annie S. Kerr Hall

Dorm 3 as Sarah Ann Barnes Hall

Dorm 4 as Edna Ricks Hall

Named Ensign Hall as Lowell G. Biddulph Hall on Sept. 23, 1995

WOMEN’S DORMS 5 & 6

1971

40,432 sq. ft./GROSS, 25,637

Architect: Cedric Allen of Pocatello, Idaho

Contractor: Arrington Construction, Idaho Falls, Idaho (12 bidders)

Groundbreaking: (Fall of 1968, exact date now known)

— Page 6 of Residence Halls —

Present were Joseph T. Bentley, assistant administrator of the LDS Church School System; Leland M. Perry, director of physical plant facilities for the system; Ricks President John L. Clarke; Rexburg Mayor A.H. Brock; John C. Porter, president of the City Council; John Parkinson and Grant Bowen of the Madison County Commission; Robert Ovard, superintendent of construction for Arrington; other school officials; Mrs. Sterling Magleby, vice president of the Alumni Council and Dan Hess, administrative aide to President Clarke.

Facility to have (35) apartments with three bedrooms, living room and bathroom to house six. A central multi-purpose room provides an area where these women may meet their guests; also available are an area for quiet study and an area with cooking facilities for informal recreation and intra-dormitory functions. “The 420 girls will eat in the cafeteria along with the men students who occupy the two men’s residence halls,” Dan Hess, in charge of new construction said. He noted that more than 400 men eat in the cafeteria along with 120 girls.

July 1969 — A recent 3-week construction strike hit the dormitory the hardest because it wasn’t as far along in its construction. Roof was completed on one of the two dormitory complexes. “This should be ready when the girls arrive on campus in August, barring any unforeseeable delays again,” said Ron Stone, Ricks College engineer. (It wasn’t ready.)

Completed August 26, 1971

Dedicated (but not named) April 13, 1976 by President Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve.

Summer of 1988 — Dorm 1 re-roofed.

Dorm 5 named HELEN LAMPRECHT HALL on Saturday, March 30, 1996

Dorm 6 named VERLA J. CHAPMAN HALL on Saturday, March 20, 1999

March 1996 — R.E. Beck Construction of Idaho Falls hired to remodel 126 kitchens in four women’s residence halls. Johnson Brothers of Idaho Falls will do the cabinet and counter work and Bingham Mechanical Inc. Of Idaho Falls will do mechanical and plumbing work (new sinks, dishwashers) as the major sub-contractors. Electrical wiring will be upgraded to handle additional kitchen appliances. (Two dorms will be affected at a time.)

Dorms re-roofed during summers of 1998 and 1999.

Summer of 2001 — Converted Lamprecht Hall into family housing for 37 units. Double E Construction of Idaho Falls was the contractor.

Completed for winter 2002 semester. Three-bedroom units converted (housed 200 students) into two-bedroom units with a kitchen and living area.

RICKS TRAILER COURT (defunct)

July 5, 1968 — Trailer court to be constructed this year for the convenience of Married students.

There would be spaces for 40 trailers, along with a central washroom, playground, and other living facilities.

July 7, 1969 — The Davis Construction Company is building the service building (941 sq. ft.) on the trailer court site. Inspection date is July 15.

In use by start of 1969-70 school year.

October 29, 1992 — Ricks College will close its trailer court next year because of high utility costs and to make way for more parking. The court will close August 31, 1993. “We are facing some major utility revamping and it would be very costly to bring (the trailer court) up to standards,” according to Jerry Price, student life assistant vice president.

The college owns the court and rents space to trailer owners, who in turn rent out most of the trailers. Of the 37 trailers, 19 are rented by students, 11 by non-student residents, and seven by college employees.

GEORGE S. ROMNEY SCIENCE BUILDING

1963, addition in 1987

Considered second in building expansion of 1962.

45,601 sq. ft. GROSS/25,646 net

Addition of 34,000 sq. ft. added in 1987

Authorized in December of 1961

Architect: Norman J. Hamill and Associates

Contractor: Arrington Construction, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Lyman Monson, construction superintendent

Structural: Lawrence Matson

Mechanical: Bridgers and Paxton

Electrical: Arthur H. Nielson, Jr.

Groundbreaking: July 2, 1962 by Harvey L. Taylor, vice administrator of the Unified Church School System.

Facility has two physics laboratories, one biology laboratory, a herbarium on the main floor, two biology and four chemistry laboratories and a zoological collection room on the second floor. Some five smaller lecture rooms on the first four and four on the second floor. The second floor has a photography laboratory and four dark rooms. The building has 17 faculty offices, rooms for receptionists and secretaries, ample storage space, and preparation rooms.

(Building contained 168-seat Oswald Christensen Lecture Room.)

First used: 1963-64 school year

Dedicated and named: December 11, 1963 by Elder Marion G. Romney of the Council of the Twelve.

Expansion to building authorized and announced Oct. 15, 1984.

Architect: Collard, Beyeler, Bentzen of Idaho Falls, Idaho

Contractor: Ormond Builders of Idaho Falls, Idaho

Construction started in October of 1985 (no groundbreaking ceremonies)

Facility to provide room for the Math and Computer Sciences Departments, new photography laboratories and the Natural Science Department offices. It will also provide more room for use by the Chemistry and Physics Departments. Some 10,000 square feet of existing building also renovated.

— Page 2 of Romney —

The chemistry lecture area on the third floor will be gutted and remodeled into a three-tiered classroom with a central instruction area. New ceilings, lighting and floors were added to the older building to match the addition.

First floor of addition — photography and faculty and division chairman office.

Second floor of addition — geology, seismograph area, physical science display area, labs, classrooms, faculty offices

Third floor of addition — math and computer department

Cost: \$5 million (quoted by Ricks College President Joe J. Christensen.)

Completed in spring of 1987. “This is the first time in 17 years that I’ve been here that we haven’t had a major building in the planning process,” said Charles Forst, director of physical plant.

(Addition has never been dedicated.)

Summer of 1989 — Two laboratories in “old” section remodeled.

Summer of 1991 — New steps and glass front doors (handicapped accessible) installed.

February 15, 1994 — Portrait of George Romney by Del Parson unveiled with plaque in lobby of building.

Summer of 1995 — New transformer and switch gear installed to control electrical power.

JOSEPH FIELDING SMITH BUILDING (formerly Classroom Office Building, COB)

1968 (Considered the 15th major building since 1962)

69,913 sq. ft. GROSS/43,318 net (does not include Annex)

“When the plans were drawn for the new classroom-office building, John wanted to add two features that he thought would increase efficiency and cut costs in the long run, even though the initial expense might be slightly greater. The first was to carpet all the classrooms. That would cut down on noise and require only a daily vacuuming, thus saving on the periodic waxing and polishing of tile. The second thing John wanted was to put ceramic tile on all the walls in the hallways, making them easier to clean and unnecessary to paint. When he sent the list of building specifications to Salt Lake, those two items were on it.

“When the proposal came back, the carpet and ceramic tile were scratched out, with a note that they would be too expensive. The list needed to be revised and resubmitted, so John put the tile and the carpet back onto it and sent it in. That time he received a rather nasty letter back telling him the building committee wanted to hear no more about carpeting. It was too expensive and would not be considered.

“Knowing how things get done in this world, John sent the list back the third time, omitting the carpet but including the tile. That time the list came back approved. He decided that the building committee was too busy to read the proposal for the third time or had been worn down by his audacity. He really didn’t care which it was, since he wanted only the best for Ricks College.

“Interestingly, a short time after the building was built and put into operation, a member of the building committee came to speak at the devotional assembly. John always tried, whenever general authorities came to visit, to show them around the campus. It was a good opportunity to let them know what the college needed. So, after the assembly, John took the good brother by the arm and said, ‘We have a new building here (Romney Science Building), and I’d like you to walk through it if you will.’

“John didn’t offer any comments about the classroom-office building as they walked through the halls, allowing the general authority to make his own judgments. Finally he stopped and, running his hand up and down the tile on the walls, said to John, ‘I’ll bet you’re happy to have that. It will save a lot of money in the long run, preventing fingerprints, heel marks.’”

“John said nothing, but thought to himself, ‘The Church authorities like things done well, but they are also very cautious about the way they expend the tithing funds. The problem is not to abuse that, but if you can get them to do it, well, they’ll praise you after it’s done.’”

“John was pleased to have things functional, but he also wanted them to be beautiful. In preparing plans for the classroom-office building, he insisted on a decorative, eye-pleasing exterior.”

— Page 2 of Smith —

“Things were progressing well toward that end until the Church appointed a new architect, Emil Fetzer. Even though John thought he had received permission to ask for bids on the building, he was told that plans would have to be approved by the new church architect. This meant another trip to Salt Lake City, which John undertook at his earliest convenience, since he was anxious to get the building underway.”

“Later, he would recall that Fetzer responded to his drawings of the new building in words similar to these: ‘This is the first building I have had anything to do with since I became the church architect. I was thing about it before you arrived. As church architect, I can take one of two positions. I can say that these buildings are designed by well-prepared architects, and they’ve had a lot of scrutiny by the people who are going to use them, so I will look at them generally to see if anything is wrong and make suggestions. The other attitude I could take is that I am the church architect, and I’m supposed to look at everything, down to the last detail. The latter is the position I have decided to take.’”

“John had wanted graceful cement piers around the windows of the COB, similar to those on the newly constructed student center. The new architect stripped it of those and all other superfluous decorations, and ‘put that little box in front of the main door.’ The building, when finished, was stark but functional. John had to be content that he was getting the facilities he wanted, even though they may resemble the pyramids of Giza more than the temples of the Acropolis. In relating this story, years afterward, John said, ‘By telling these things, I’m not trying to show an attitude of rebellion, but to illustrate that things don’t always happen as easily as they appear to from the outside.’” (pgs. 63-64 from MAKE GOOD WHERE YOU ARE, a biography of John L. Clarke by Robert Worrell)

Authorized: May 11, 1966

Architect: Cedric Allen of Pocatello, Idaho

Contractor: Skyline Construction of Idaho Falls, Idaho

Ground broken: (exact date not known, sometime in 1966)

Facility includes 101 offices and 43 classrooms with a classroom capacity of 2,201 students each hour. It houses the departments of Business, Economics, Education, English, Humanities, and Religion. Also houses campus telephone exchange and the language laboratory, including the Language Training Mission (1969 to 1976) where five languages (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden) are temporarily being taught to missionaries. On Sundays, five branches and two stakes hold their meetings in the building.

First used: 1968-69 school year

Dedicated (but not named) on April 13, 1976, by Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Quorum of the Twelve.

— Page 3 of Smith —

Named in September of 1980 by Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Council of the Twelve. Named after President Joseph Fielding Smith, 10th president of the LDS Church from 1901 until 1918.

Summer of 1982 — Six to 8 micro-computers installed in “computer” room.

Summer of 1984 — Business labs installed.

Summer of 1987 — Some remodeling on first floor due to move of Math area to Romney Building.

Summer of 1988 — Building re-roofed; new work stations in computer lab.

Summer of 1989 — New carpeting, seating and acoustical treatment for Smith 240. The 300-seat auditorium will have a projection room. Painting of President Smith, on display in lobby, donated by four of his six surviving children, on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1989. Unveiled by Elder L. Tom Perry prior to a weekly devotional.

Summer of 1991 — Five classrooms remodeled with new carpeting, wall coverings, desks and cabinets with two of the rooms converted to computer labs for use by the English department.

Summer of 1992 — Media classroom completed.

Summer of 1994 — Smith 340 converted to multi-media room.

Summer of 1995 — Smith 442, 476 and 478 renovated for installation of computer stations.

SMITH BUILDING ANNEX

Smith Annex publicly announced in June of 1989

Approximately 6,000 sq. ft.

Architect: Collard, Beyeler and Bentzen, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Contractor: Burnside Construction, Rigby, Idaho

Facility to accommodate about 25 faculty offices (primarily from the English Department), plus office for division chairman, waiting area, restrooms, a conference room, work and storage room; a corridor will connect the new structure to the Smith Building In use by January of 1990

Renovation of Smith Building announced in early 2000:

Architect: JHS Architects of Pocatello, Idaho

— Page 4 of Smith —

Contractor: R.E. Beck Construction of Idaho Falls, Idaho

Cost: \$2 million

“Inadequate ventilation has become a significant problem with between 400 to 500 computers in use throughout the building,” says Chuck Frost, Ricks’ physical plant director. The building will closed during the summer and will reopen in mid-August 2000.

Work to include asbestos abatement on first floor and in mechanical causeways throughout the building. The asbestos is found in sprayed-on, fire-proofing insulation.

During the first phase of a project that may take several years to complete, much of the work will be confined to the first floor. The chiller and ductwork will be replaced on the first floor. Because of the ductwork, the ceilings on the first floor will also be replaced. Electrical service to the building will be replaced. An economics computer lab on the north end of the first floor will be doubled in size. All windows throughout the entire building will be replaced during the summer of 2000. And the two stairwells on the east side of the building will be enclosed to comply with current fire codes. (Ricks news release.)

Summer of 2001 — Fourth floor to get new ventilation system and cabling for computer labs.

ELIZA R. SNOW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

1980

Seating for 541 in permanent padded chairs in Snow Drama Theater

Seating for 700 in permanent padded chairs in Barrus Concert Hall

93,067 sq. ft. GROSS/46,643 net

Approved: November 1975

Architect: Max Call and Associates and Harold Collard, Beyeler and Bentzen of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

March 1976- "Building will span Center Street at Second South and will occupy area where the old gymnasium is now located and houses now being used as music buildings on the east side of Center Street. The gymnasium will be razed this summer. (Was not done.) The houses are being offered to the public at auction or will be razed.

July 1977 — Architects drawing of building released to public. Work had begun on dismantling old B-2 Building. Building burned to the ground on July 26, 1977.

Contractor: G.E. Johnson Construction of Colorado Springs, Colo. (6 bidders)

Was largest building contract awarded to date.

Ground broken April 25, 1978 following baccalaureate ceremonies by Elder Neal A. Maxwell, former commissioner of education and member of Presidency of the First Quorum of Seventy. Present was Bruce C. Hafen (who would become president of Ricks College May 1), acting Ricks president Harry Maxwell, contractor Gil Johnson, and architects Max Call and Harold Collard, Rexburg Mayor John Porter.

Facility "will bring music and drama together--the music department in an L-shaped construction to include a 700-seat concert hall, a 200-seat recital hall, two 96 seats classroom and 43 practice rooms, including three grand pianos, four organs and 36 uprights. There will be two floors on which will be housed department and faculty offices, eight teaching studios, four classrooms and storage space. The west wing will contain the major performing facility for the Department of Dramatic Arts, including a 500-seat theatre and a full fly loft. A large orchestra pit will be adequate for the largest productions. The scenery shop will be three times the size of the present facilities (in the Kirkham Building.) Makeup, dressing and lighting facilities will be improved. (April 1978 news release.)

Building committee: Robert Powell, chairman; LaMar Barrus, Robert Nelson, Chuck Frost, Randall Miller.

— Page 2 of Snow —

The stage has 24-foot-wide center section that revolves at the push of a button. The loft hovers 55 feet over the theater stage. Curtains, flats and changes of scenery can be hidden from the audience in it.

March 1979 — Building to be called Eliza R. Snow Center for the Performing Arts. The first time a major building has been named after a woman in the Church Education System.

July 1979 — Music programs and offices in nine different locations to be unified. Concert Hall to house large pipe organ. Reverberation time in the Concert Hall to vary from 1.4 to 2.5 seconds due to a huge, mechanically-operated drape. An acoustic wooden “cloud” hangs above the Concert Hall stage and diffuses music. It is operated at the push of a button.

May 1980 — Moving of departments into the new building has begun, including moving from a double-wide trailer parked next to the Spori Building which temporarily housed 15 compartments for piano study.

August 8, 1980— Named Andrew B. Christenson Humanities Halls (after 6th president of Ricks College from 1914-1917.)

Dedicated Dec. 9, 1980, by Elder James E. Faust of the Council of the Twelve at weekly devotional. Unveiling of plaque and portrait of Ruth H. Barrus followed commissioned by the family of artist Leon Parson Concert Hall named in her honor. Tours of the building followed.

1985 — Barrus Concert Hall noted in “Halls for Music Performance: Two Decades,” written by the American Institute for the Acoustical Society of America.

Summer of 1988 — New recording system installed in Snow Drama Theater. New roof for Barrus Concert Hall.

Summer of 1991 — Stage rigging in Snow Drama Theater replaced.

September 1991 — Addition to Snow Building in planning stage.

March 1992 — “Cloud” falls about six feet during maintenance work. Removed.

Summer of 1992 — “Complete overhaul” of entire lighting system in Snow Drama Theater. “The old system, which was installed in 1979, has since only received updates, but never a complete replacement. The new system has a dimmer-per-circuit feature with new programmable house lights, colortran system, sidelights, new lighting instruments. In designing stage productions, the system will expand capabilities. It is not extravagant but brings current technology up-to-date.” Stage floor resurfaced. (News release)

January 1993 — Concept of addition to Snow Building approved by Board of Trustees.

Summer of 1994 — Acoustical “cloud” reinstalled in Barrus Concert Hall.

— Page 3 of Snow —

Summer of 1995 — New transformer and switch gear to control electrical power to building.

Summer of 1996 — Lobby roof redone.

1998— Snow addition put on hold due to new policy of “zero space growth.

RUFFATTI ORGAN (in Barrus Concert Hall)

October 1980 — Francesco Ruffatti of Padua, Italy, on campus to meet officials concerning new organ to be built by his company. (At the time 35 Ruffatti’s in use in the United States.) Organ financed from private contributions, including some \$90,000 from various donors and \$140,000 by George and Lilas Stefan of Los Angeles. Organ to be known as Keith Stefan Memorial Organ.

April 1983 — Installation of second largest organ in use in the LDS Church, (after Tabernacle Organ) begins by craftsmen from Organ Arts Ltd. Organ to have 80 ranks with capability of 100 ranks. (A rank is a complete set of pipes. A typical Church organ has 8 to 12 ranks. Tabernacle organ has 191 ranks.)

Nov. 3-6, 1983 — Dedicatory concert Nov. 3 by Darwin Wolford, A Cappella Choir and Concert Chorale. Inaugural concert by Ted Alan Worth on Nov. 4. Salt Lake Mormon Tabernacle Choir concert Nov. 5 in Hart Auditorium. “Music and the Spoken Word” broadcast from Barrus Concert Hall with choir and organ on Nov. 6.

Spring of 1984 — Installed humidifying equipment and sealed walls in the Barrus Concert Hall. A new console for the Ruffatti organ installed and the entire hall sealed to keep moisture produced by the humidifying equipment from condensing. The process was necessary to provide the proper humidity in the hall for the new organ.

JACOB SPORI BUILDING

May 1890 — “The question of a new home for the academy first came up in the monthly stake priesthood meeting in Rexburg, May 5, 1890. In this meeting the matter of erecting an academy was thoroughly discussed by the stake presidency, high council, and bishops from all the surrounding territory. A decision was reached in this meeting that an academy building should be erected and that a committee be appointed to select a site.

“The committee (then) moved up the gently rising bench (south of Rexburg) to a point approximately one quarter of a mile south of the present Spori Building. Some of the members regarded this as the best site because it commanded a view of the entire valley.

“The committee then moved northward to the first brow of the bench where President (Thomas E.) Ricks, after sighting about in every direction, said, ‘Here is the right spot for the academy. If we be seen for miles in every direction.’

“The site was a full city block of ten acres. The entire block was covered with sagebrush and rocks. It was bounded on the north by a city canal.

“It was a full decade from the time the site was selected to the time work actually began.” (* pgs. 3-5)

September 7, 1899 — Contract made between building committee and architect C.W. Speiermann. (C.M. Squires also credited with providing architectural specifications.) (* pg. 7)

September 25, 1899 — Grounds dedicated by Rudger Clawson of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. (* pg. 9)

January 22, 1900 — J.E. Hibbard, a boy of twelve years, hauled the first rock to the site. (* pg. 10)

March 1900— William F. Rigby, first counselor in the LDS Church’s Fremont Stake, announced at stake conference “that a new Fremont Stake Academy building would be built as rapidly as possible on ground that had been purchased a few blocks south of downtown Rexburg. The modern building, with dimensions of about 126 by 130 feet, would contain three floors with considerable space and a large auditorium, and would cost an estimated \$30,000.” (** pg. 7)

June 12, 1900 — “Contract let to John Grimm to lay the rock of the foundation walls down to the water table. Nine days later the southeast corner stone was brought on to the grounds from the quarry about three miles away. The corner stone measured 4 1/2 by 3 1/2 by 1 1/2 feet and weighed 5,100 pounds. Masonry work continued during the summer. (* pg. 10)

June 25, 1900— “President George Q. Cannon of the Church First Presidency laid the cornerstone. Several townspeople questioned the wisdom of choosing a site so far from downtown, arguing that a downtown location would be more appropriate. Others--perhaps being more visionary--argued that the town would grow to meet the campus.

— Page 2 of Spori —

To the large number who gathered to witness the ceremony, the laying of the cornerstone was a symbol of their permanency of the institution and anticipated prosperity of the area.” (** pg. 7)

End of 1900 — Walls stood about six feet from the surface of the ground. (* pg. 10)

March 5, 1902 — After having been named Smith Academy for 39 days, the academy is named after the late Thomas E. Ricks.

“The erection of the new academy building required the attention of the (local church school) board for many meetings. The plans, drawn by architect C.M. Squires, were presented by (Fremont Stake) President (Thomas E.) Bassett (and his first counselor, James W.) Webster to the First Presidency during April conference, and were accepted. The building would cost about \$40,000 and be built by a general contractor. President Joseph F. Smith (of the LDS Church) suggested that hot air be used for heat. Rock was to be hauled from the quarry for 65 cents per ton. Transporting of stone and supplies was done with horses.” (pg. 114, “Rexburg, Idaho: The First One Hundred Years 1883-1983” by David L. Crowder, 1983, Caxton Printers).

October 1903 — “The new stone academy building was completed in time for the opening of the school year. According to Hyrum Manwaring’s description, the building was ‘a large stone structure of fine design, and monumental in appearance . . . Three stories high, and very commodious on the inside. There were two offices and six classrooms on the first floor. On the second floor there (were) two rooms for the principal’s offices, a library, and four classrooms. The third floor had a large auditorium and four classrooms. This gave four office rooms, a library, an auditorium, and 14 class and laboratory rooms.’” (pg. 115, see above)

November 12, 1906 — Building dedicated by Elder John Henry Smith of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, accompanied by Elder Rulon S. Wells of the First Quorum of the Seventy. “The eighteenth birthday of Ricks Academy was observed in two sessions. Presidencies of the four stakes comprising the academy district were in attendance as were a substantial number of stake members.

“(Fremont Stake President Thomas E.) Bassett gave a financial report that indicated the total cost of the building, furnishings, and grounds was \$63,475. Of that amount, Church headquarters had contributed \$14,000. The rest had been paid by ‘people in this section of the country.’

“(Elder Smith) delivered the dedicatory prayer invoking the “blessings of God to rest upon the heads of all who are working for the Ricks Academy, and all who have aided in the construction of the building.

“In the *Current-Journal* (Rexburg newspaper) Principal (Ezra) Christiansen (who changed his last name to Dalby in 1907) pointed out that the ‘Academy is now free from debt.’” (** pgs. 19-20)

— Page 3 of Spori —

July 29, 1907 — “The fire bell sounded (and) smoke was pouring from the building. Robert Green had left a five-gallon can of oil and wax mixture heating on the stove. The mixture had to be hot to be applied to the floor. While waiting for the solution to heat, Green went to another floor to work. Wax boiled over onto the hot stove, and being highly flammable, it began burning, filling the building with dense smoke. Green rushed to the kitchen, grabbed a large cloth, and threw the cloth over the flames to smother them. In the process, his face and arms were burned. There was some damage to the kitchen floor, some glass cracked from the heat, and the building was filled with soot. With the help from several people, the building was ready for the start of fall classes.” (** pgs. 30-31)

October 1907 — “When students arrived on campus for fall term, they found several building improvements. Floors were all repaired and oiled. Drinking fountains had been placed in each hall. And, to the delight of all, inside lavatories had been installed. After the experiences of the last few months, a fire hose also was installed and fire escapes built at the rear of the building.” (** pg. 31)

February 1908 — At about 11 p.m. (On a Saturday night) James Anderson, a teacher at the academy, happened to look toward the academy and saw flames leaping from the building roof. He gave an alarm and began running toward the academy. Seeing three students, Claude Ellsworth, Joe Loveland, and J. William Jardine, he shouted for them to help him put out the fire. They ran up to the third floor, after alerting those on the first floor attending a commercial class social that the building was aflame. The four men climbed into the attic and began beating out the flames with their coats. The commercial class had followed them upstairs. One of the girls alertly brought the pan of chocolate milk they were heating for refreshments and handed the liquid up to the men to throw on the flames. Holes were burned into the roof and shingles were burning. Ellsworth climbed out on the steep roof, and, unmindful of his dangerous position, began tearing off burning shingles and throwing them to the ground.

He also poured water down the roof from water handed to him by a bucket brigade that had rapidly formed. Several townspeople shortly were on the scene trying to help. Several started ripping chairs off the auditorium floor, shoving them into the hall and down the stairs.

Soon the stairs were blocked. Two people tried to save two typewriters by tossing them down the stairs. Both were ruined. Others were pushing the pianos toward the stairs when cooler heads intervened and saved the pianos from damage. By the time the fire department arrived, the fire was out, which was fortunate because the fireman could hardly get up the stairs and did not have enough hose to reach the attic of the building anyway. The fire chief, E.H. Barnes, determined that the fire was started by an electrical short next to the roof. Insurance adjusters agreed to fix the roof, as well as repair damage done by overzealous townspeople. The total came to about \$600. Repair work was completed by the end of February. (** pgs. 27-28)

— Page 4 of Spori —

October 1911 — “Students reporting to campus found that the walls and ceilings had been calcimined or papered. C.V. Hansen had contracted to do painting and papering. A new maple floor had been installed in the auditorium during the summer. The building’s underpinnings also had been strengthened so campus dances could be held in the auditorium. The auditorium was fitted out with a basketball hoop so teams could schedule practices. The downstairs hall was remodeled for an ‘exercising gymnasium.’” (** pg. 41)

January 1912 — “For some time academy water pressure had been low. The condition did not seem to warrant much concern until after a narrowly averted disaster. About 9:10 Monday morning, January 8, 1912, a student hurrying down the hall because she was late for class noticed smoke and flames coming through the basement floor in the northeast part of the building near the furnace. She quickly gave an alarm and the building was rapidly evacuated. Several faculty members and students tried to stop the flames, but could not get water quickly enough or in enough or in enough quantity to do much good. They tore a few boards off the floor and were able to smother the flames. By the time the fire department arrived, the fire was out. Within the next few days, the damage was repaired and the city implemented a process to greatly increase water pressure at the academy.” (** pg. 42)

April 1915 — “Academy students and faculty gathered on the school grounds on April 16, 1915. Torches were lighted and a parade, led by the academy band, proceeded up Main Street to the front gate of the academy. School songs were sung and the student-body president, Jesse Roberts, formally presented to Principal (Andrew B.) Christenson the senior and junior classes’ gift, the large R and A letters affixed to the top of the building. The cost of the project was \$250, which had been raised entirely from students. The lights could be seen for several miles.” (** pg. 53)

Fall 1915 — “Principal Christenson was still concerned as school started in the fall of 1915 that an adequate library was not available. He intended to see that situation remedied before a new building (gym) was built. Lucile Christenson Tate noted in her biography of her father than one night after school he took several seats and screwed them to the dance floor in Room 33 (the auditorium). When he reported to the local board what he had done, they were annoyed and considered reprimanding him. They had to decide between redoing the auditorium floor or finding another place for social and athletic events. They chose the latter course and secured the bottom floor of the tabernacle for dances, Woodvine Hall for basketball practice and games, and Flamm’s Hall for ‘dramas, recitals, and operas.’” (** pg. 54)

Fall 1920 — “An innovation introduced to aid faculty and students during the beginning of the 1920 fall term was establishment of a cafeteria as part of the domestic science department.” (**pg. 73)

Fall 1922 — “The library had been enlarged. All high school classes were confined to the first floor and the east end of the second and third floors.” (** pg. 78)

1923 — With the phasing out of high school classes, Ricks Normal College becomes Ricks College.

— Page 5 of Spori —

ca. 1933-1937 — “Because of reduced funding during each of the past several years, coupled with determination to make do and not go over the budget, buildings needed repairs. Some faucets leaked, there were holes in some of the linoleum, floors creaked, and some walls had cracks. Perhaps the deterioration had something to do with some of the pranks played by some students over the last three or four years. President Manwaring arrived at his office one day to find a ‘huge boulder’ on his desk. Another time he found ‘a one-seat privy . . . in his office.’

“M.D. Beal’s cow as the focus of the most infamous prank. President Manwaring was out of town and Beal was acting president. He noticed that his cow was missing early in the morning. Upon arriving at school, he was told by the custodian where he could find the cow. ‘My cow and a dozen chickens belonging to a neighbor were put in the library,’ he wrote in his memoirs.”
(*pg. 141, continued after next item.)

May 1934 — “Mr. Ovard, the custodian, was cutting the lawn in front of the building. He nodded ‘good morning’ to me as I passed. I went on into the building, and up the wide stairs to the second floor, where I could hear water running. The rest rooms were at each end, and I hurried into the one marked “Women.” No taps were running, but the sound of running water seemed to be above my head. I quickly started up the stairs to the top floor. As I turned on the landing, and looked up, I saw a cow tied to Miss (Edna) Ricks’ door. The poor thing had done everything a cow does, except have a calf. The smell was horrid, but the look in its eyes was beyond description.

I made it back down the stairs and out to the front lawn in record time. I ran to Mr. Ovard and started to shout about the noise of the lawnmower. He stopped it, and listened to me. I repeated for the third time, ‘There’s a cow tied to Miss Ricks’ door.’ He came out of shock and shouted back, ‘There’s a what?’ I told him again, but he was not convinced, so he went into the building with me. I left him on the second floor to see for himself. Then I hurried with the dusting as far away as it was possible to get.

Later in the day, I found enough courage to climb the stairs and look. All evidence of the cow was gone except for a freshly scrubbed floor and the powerful smell of Lysol.” (From private collection of stories by Mildred Jensen Johnson, a graduate of Ricks in 1934. (Published in fall 1990 issue of *Summit* magazine.)

“Getting the chickens into the library, which was in the administration building, was no problem. Getting the cow up three flights of stairs into the library meant that several were in on the prank. By the time the cow and chickens were discovered, the library was a shambles. Getting them out of the library and building was no small trick. Beal acted quickly. Using information provided by friends, he called 12 young men to the president’s office. ‘All questions and answers were recorded by Opal Christensen in the presence of Marriner D. Morrell.’ The ad hoc committee voted to expel the ‘rusty dozen.’ The ‘rude’ fellows were notified that they were expelled.

— Page 6 of Spori —

‘They were subdued and apologetic, but they took the bitter pill without comment.’ When President Manwaring returned, he ‘lifted the expulsion upon payment of slender fines to defray the custodian’s extraordinary labors.’ The cow caper became part of the school’s folklore.” (** pg. 141)

Fall 1939 — Due to reorganized educational structure in the Church, Ricks College Board of Education is disbanded.

Fall 1941 — “To help with student socialization, a student union room was provided. Furniture was ordered from San Francisco. Richard “Dick” Davis, the student-body president, led a drive to solicit funds for a phonograph and radio for the student union. Each class pledged fifty cents per member.” (** pg. 156)

February 1945 — “The city fire alarm sounded on February 1. The fire truck, with siren wailing, turned up College Avenue from Main Street and drove to the front of the (Spori) building. Some pipes had frozen and while using a blowtorch to thaw them, some nearby oil-soaked sweeping compound ignited. The fire was quickly extinguished. A sizeable crowd had gathered to watch, and then blocked the fire truck, preventing the truck from leaving. ‘The worst hazard was caused by the traffic congestion of fire followers,’ complained an irritated Fire Chief McEntire. The traffic jam was finally untangled so the fire engine could return to the station.” (** pg. 165)

Summer 1945 — “A special esthetic feature of the interior was the open stairway leading to the second floor. In 1945, the stairway was removed and a new concrete stairway was constructed at each end of the building as it exists today. A large lecture room was made out of two smaller classrooms. What were originally classrooms began to be used for administrative purposes as other buildings were constructed on the campus. When the floor was extended over the open stairwell, more room was available for offices on the north side of the building. Also during this alteration, the president’s office was remodeled and updated to give him a conference room and a study.” (* pg. 18)

April 1948 — LDS Church announces Ricks to become a four-year school. By fall some 100 new courses are added to accommodate third and fourth-year students.

April 1951 — “Vernon Williams, administration building custodian, said he had checked all doors before he left the building on April 18 and ‘everything was in order.’ Yet someone had a key to the building and the treasurer’s office and knew the combination to the vault. Six hundred dollars in cash was discovered missing from the vault Thursday morning. The thief was never apprehended. (** pg. 192)

July 1953 — All Church educational institutions were unified under a single office.

February 1955 — Ricks notified it would again become a junior college beginning with fall of 1956.

— Page 7 of Spori —

Summer 1956 — “Originally the third floor had a classroom in each corner and a large auditorium in the center. The auditorium contained a fixed stage on the north end, and fixed seating. In 1956, the new auditorium building (Kirkham) on campus was completed, therefore, the space in the building was used as a library.” (* pg. 19)

April 1957 — Recommendation is made to move Ricks College to Idaho Falls. Decision in July is to leave Ricks in Rexburg.

November 1958 — First Presidency decides to move Ricks to Idaho Falls.

April 26, 1961 — LDS Church announces construction of three new buildings on Ricks campus, ending move of college to Idaho Falls.

Mid-1963 to early 1964 — “After the completion of the school’s library building (original McKay Library, later used as an administration building), the third floor was used as office space, classrooms, and executive dining room. (* pg. 19)

“Much of the interior of the administration building was redone and refurnished. Remodeling was not completed by October 15, but school started anyway.

“The administration (and gymnasium) building were still not completely remodeled by spring quarter. Remodeling had been slowed because the war effort had first priority on building materials. Finding skilled laborers also was difficult.

“(In a meeting with the contractor and architect) President Clarke and Eldon Hart were informed the remodeling would be completed by September—over a year after the original completion date.” (** pgs. 169, 173-174)

December 11, 1963 — Elder Marion G. Romney of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles names administration building in honor of Jacob Spori.

Summer of 1966 — Bookstore moved to new building, making room for counseling department.

Summer 1968 — “A new annex (or vestibule) is to be built on the south end of the Spori Building. New offices are to be built, along with new entrance and a receiving room for freight. One classroom (lecture room) downstairs is being removed.” (From a Ricks press release)

“The building was sandblasted. At that time new aluminum window frames were installed. The original window frames were (made) of wood.

“The material for the exterior of the vestibule and entry was a brown rubble stone which matched the texture of the original stone fairly well. The reason the new entry was added could be because the strong winds blowing from the south made it difficult to open and close the old doors. Also, as the campus had expanded to the south of the building, more emphasis and use was placed upon the south entrance.” (* pg. 16)

— Page 8 of Spori —

Continuing to be housed on the first floor are the Purchasing Department and the Admission and Registration Offices. Data Processing, cashier's office and an information office are added in 1968. The second floor continues to house the president's office, the phone exchange and the extension center. The third floor contains two classrooms, the Home Economics area, a kitchen and dining area, and a television studio.

Summer 1976 — Classroom space takes the place of offices, including the president's, when moved to the former library building then designated, upon completion of the new McKay Library, as the new Administration Building. Art Department moves into the building. Roof repairs are completed.

Summer 1980 — "(Chuck) Frost (Physical Plant Director) said there will be some remodeling work done in the Spori Building which will be the home of Scroll, the campus newspaper, the communication department, the speech therapy laboratory and the Art Department. Radio and television facilities are (already) located in the building." (from Ricks College press release)

Summer 1987— Graphic arts classrooms renovated on 3rd floor. The expanded areas will simulate design office and studio environment.

Summer 1990 — Area south of Spori landscaped and display of three stones from Nauvoo Temple (Illinois) displayed with plaque.

Summer 1991 — New flooring and carpeting in foyer. Old insignia (logo) discovered on previous flooring. (Was destroyed when removed.)

Fall 1994/Winter 1995 — "In 2045, it is hoped, they'll be talking about the reroofing of the Spori Building that took place back in 1995. Fifty years—that is the length of the warranty, with some limitations, on the new roof now being completed, Neil Baird, manager of construction projects. Working inside the attic, the roof itself was first anchored to the outside walls of the building. Previously it had just been sitting on the walls, Baird says. Then, working in sections, the old shingles were removed and plywood was placed on the original sheeting. This strengthened the roof by fastening it together. Next a rubber-type material was glued to the plywood to provide a water and ice shield.

Two by twos were placed 16 inches apart on top of the shield. The new shingles, three feet long, 16 inches wide and interlocking, were then nailed to the two by twos. The air space created under the shingles is vented at the top of the roof." (From Jan. 12, 1995, issue of 'Faculty and Staff Bulletin')

Summer 1995 — New transformer and switch gear to control electrical power to the building.

March 11, 1999 — "An engineering study recently was conducted in an effort to determine the structural status of the building. While the present safety of those who teach, study, and work in the building is not in jeopardy, the engineering study found a number of serious concerns that need to be addressed in the near future.

— Page 9 of Spori —

“The building is constructed of rhyolite, a soft stone that was quarried nearby. It was built to the standard of the day but does not meet today’s building criteria. The exterior wall is not a single wall of stone. Instead, it is constructed of two stone walls with a rubble/lime fill in between. The interior of the building is constructed of wood stud interior walls and wood floor joists.

“Any renovations done to the Spori Building will need to meet current building codes. Consequently, the entire interior of the building must be removed during a renovation. This includes the roof, floor, interior walls, and electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems. Only the outer wall of rhyolite stone, which is eight inches thick, would remain.” (Ricks College press release).

June 22, 1999 — “After extensive research and deliberation, we concluded that restoring the Spori Building is not a feasible option. During a restoration, the entire interior and roof structure would need to be removed, leaving only an eight-inch-thick exterior rock wall. And even the viability of successfully maintaining the exterior wall is questionable. Also, our engineering studies show, due to the softness of the exterior stone, a restoration could not result in a facility that would endure over time and that restoring the building would only postpone the inevitable.

“With these concerns in mind, we recently recommended to the Board of Trustees that a new building be erected. This recommendation was approved by that body, and we are now in the process of identifying an architect to design a new structure.” (Ricks College press release)

August 2000 — Last classes held in building.

October 14, 2000- Students and the general public were given one last opportunity to visit the Spori Building and an open house and celebration prior to the annual Homecoming football game. Exhibits of commissioned art works and other memorabilia were on display in the lobby. A free potato-feed was held on the lawn in front of the building and at noon some 1,707 persons gathered for a commemorative photo.

November 29, 2000- Demolition started at about midnight. Building caught on fire at about 3 a.m. During demolition process. Allowed to burn to ground. Rock and debris removed from site within two weeks. (Townpeople allowed to keep some of the rock as souvenirs.)

(Sources: * denotes excerpts from “An Architectural Documentary of the Jacob Spori Administration Building” by Paul W. Jensen, manuscript, 1970, in Ricks College Archives. ** denotes excerpts from “The Spirit of Ricks” by David L. Crowder, 1997, Ricks College)

— Page 10 of Spori —

NEW SPORI

November 1999 — “After a rigorous selection process, FFKR of Salt Lake City was chosen to design a new structure that will be built on the same spot as the existing Spori Building. Work will begin immediately on conceptual design of the new building with construction scheduled to begin in early 2001. ‘As a firm they bring very strong expertise in historical work,’ says James Smyth, chairman of the building committee.

“Smyth anticipates the design process will take most of the calendar year 2000. It is estimated that the new building will take from 20 to 24 months to complete. The Spori Building will be vacated for the fall semester of 2000 and classes will be redistributed to other locations.” (Ricks College press release)

Building committee: Smyth (chairman), Ron Bennett, Kelly Burgener, Chuck Forst, Matt Geddes, Jim Gee, Lee Warnick.

June 21, 2000 — Announcement of Ricks College becoming BYU-Idaho puts architectural plans for building on hold. Planning continues sometime later with decision to enlarge building.

September 28, 2000 — New building to retain name of JACOB SPORI is announced at President’s Club banquet. Preliminary drawing of new building is shown.

May 2001 — Excavation work begins on basement with removal of rocks.

May 29, 2001 — Elder Henry B. Eying presides at groundbreaking ceremonies. First pictures of new building released by FFKR.

Size: Approximately 40,000 square feet; 3 story with full basement

VIKING STADIUM (Football)

1980

Seating for 3,860 in stands (not counting portable stands on east side and temporary stands as needed.)

Chair seats: 512 (32 rows at 16 each)

Bench-back seats: 608 (19 rows at 16 each)

Bleachers: room for 2,740

Games were originally played at the county fairgrounds and, later, at Porter Park from 1919 to 1957. College maintained a practice field only.

1928- Fund raising drive started to acquire football “stadium.”

September 1931- “An early September meeting raised \$565 from Rexburg businessmen and athletic supporters to purchase ‘eight acres of land in the block west of the college’ for an athletic field. Within about three weeks of the purchase the field was used by Ricks and the high school for activities.” (“A Brief History of Ricks College” by Norman Ricks)

It is unclear when football field was used for actual games. (Game against Hawaii high school in 1933 was held at county fairgrounds. Home game against Boise Junior College was played at fairgrounds in 1935)

1936 — “At least some football games were once again played at the fairgrounds.” (Steve Moser, “100 Years of Sports at Ricks College”)

1941-1946 — No football played due to World War II.

1952 — G.C. Klingler and his wife donated enough land, 25 by 66 feet, to allow construction of a football stadium and track.

1957 — Games were moved from Porter Park to the athletic field at the site of today’s Viking Stadium. According to Coach Sonderegger, “We played the first year in Porter Park. That wasn’t for me. I said, ‘We’re going to play on our own field, have our own facilities.’ We had the bleachers moved, what there was of them.” (Interview 2000)

July 1968 — The football field is to be moved south and the present field will be part of the new physical education complex, including grass area and parking. (Part of master plan that was never completed.)

June 1978 — Covered playing area with 6,000 yards of top soil; followed by 100,000 square feet of grass sod; new sprinkler system. A new stadium will be constructed next summer. Clayne Klingler home at 227 South First purchased.

— Page 2 of Stadium —

This home and two other buildings adjacent--the Alumni House and the music building--will be moved next spring. There will be additional parking at the stadium site. (Ricks news release)

1979 — Collard, Beyeler and Bentzen of Idaho Falls named architects for new football stadium. Ellsworth Construction of Blackfoot, Idaho, named contractor on May 5, 1979.

Cost of project announced at over \$1.25 million.

Facility is a metal deck with steel supporting structure. Concession stand and restroom facilities located (and additional building used for jazz band, originally meant for storage) located underneath seating. There are 2,800 bleacher seats, 512 chair seats, 608 bench seats with backs. Lights were installed for night games. A nine-room pressbox sits atop the stadium. (Old stadium stands were sold to Madison High School booster club for use at high school stadium.)

July 1979 — The new football stadium will be completed before Thanksgiving. All Ricks home games will be played at the site this fall. (This did not happen. Home games moved to upper intramural fields.) (Ricks news release.)

September 13, 1980 — Elder Carlos Asay, a member of the First Quorum of Seventy dedicated stadium at ceremonies held in the Hart Gymnasium because of threatening weather. Ricks President Bruce C. Hafen conducted the meeting. (Ricks defeated Yakima Valley 3-0 in first game played.)

August 1984 — Joggers and runners will be using a new rubberized, all-weather running track. Track has a 20-year life span. It is called “Seal-Flex.” (Old track had been in used for about seven years.)

February 1986 — The purchase of a corner residential lot at Second South and First West Streets in Rexburg, adjacent to Viking Stadium, will mean additional parking for football fans this year. The property belonged to the Eulalia Klingler family.

Summer of 1986 — Temporary stands on the east side of the stadium will be reset on a level surface and grass will replace gravel in the area immediately in front of the stands and next to the running track. The college eventually hopes to replace the remaining wooden stands with aluminum stands.

Summer of 1990 — Outdoor track resurfaced and restriped.

Summer of 1994 — Three fake replicas of a great horned owl have been placed on top of the light poles at the stadium to scare off pigeons and starlings and reduce the mess the latter two leave behind.

Summer of 1995 — Stadium press box area re-roofed.

— Page 3 of Stadium —

Summer of 1997 — Repainted stairs and ramps with non-slip-tread paint.

Summer of 2000 — Stadium press box re-roofed.

STATUES, PAINTINGS, etc.

1969-Bust of Thomas E. Ricks (on display in Manwaring Center as of 2000) Presented by Ricks family to college on Oct. 16, 1969. Sculptor is Edward Fraughton (who later did the Centennial Statue).

1980 — Eliza R. Snow Statue (on display in lobby of Snow since 1980) on loan from State of Utah via LDS Church. Sculpted in 1956 by Ortho Fairbanks of Holbrook, Ariz., a nephew of Ovard Fairbanks. Complete history of statue not available. According to Linda Gibbs, art registrar of the Arts and Sites Department, a division of the Church Historical Department, statue is one of two in existence. (The other is in front of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Building in Salt Lake City. It is owned by DUP.) Statue at Ricks was given to the state of Utah by sculptor or someone who purchased it. It had never been displayed. Statue needed work (touch-up). Statue restored by Matt Geddes of art faculty in 1988 for Ricks Centennial.

1983 — Historical wall display on second floor of Manwaring Center. Unveiled July 5, 1983 as contribution to Rexburg's Centennial celebration and as starting point for our preparations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the college in 1988 by Ricks President Bruce H. Hafen and joined by former president John Clarke.

Consists of four original oil paintings by Richard Bird of art faculty, surrounded by several historical and current photos of the campus and written copy by Jerry Roundy, a religion instructor. (Includes photos of Ricks presidents and is updated continuously.) Others on committee for display were Jerry Glenn, school archivist, Seth Bills, Dale Mortimer and Gary Brock of the alumni office.

1988 — Centennial Statue (boy and girl studying) in quad area north of MC, entitled "A Monument to Education." Commissioned in early 1987. Sculptor is Edward Fraughton. Cost of project estimated at \$125,000. The design for the artwork was selected from 10 proposals reviewed by the Ricks College Centennial Sculpture Committee with Richard Bird, chairman. (Fraughton submitted his proposal in November of 1986.)

"Aesthetically, I have attempted to create a design that works from every angle. The male and female are equal in importance, she being more formal and modest, he appearing more casual and athletic. Their attention is on study, yet their physical closeness is unmistakable and tender. The scriptures form a stark contrast of importance at the foundation, but lead the eye into many nice compositional lines, planes and negative spaces." (From Fraughton proposal.)

Statue unveiled on football field during halftime of September 24, 1988, football game. Weighs 1,000 pounds and was paid for in full by a Utah donor. Moved to final location shortly after unveiling. Landscaping with benches, etc., around statue completed during summer of 1990.

1988 — Viking Statue (in lobby of Hart Building since 1988) Fiberglass statue by Karl Quilter of Bountiful, Utah. Commissioned by 1988 student body through ASRC. Statue on a rotating basis, allowing it to face north for football season and south for basketball season. Gift was in honor of the Ricks Centennial.

1989 — Historical landmark designation with marker on South Second West near Viking Stadium by Idaho Transportation Department and Idaho Historical Society.

— Page 2 of Statues, etc. —

Early 1990 — Mosaic of Joseph Smith kneeling in the Sacred Grove. Originally created by Lucille M. Wilkins of West Valley City, Utah, for South Cottonwood Utah State in 1961. Valued at \$6,000.

Mid-1990 — “Viking Athletics” mosaic above northeast entrance to Hart Auditorium. Donated by Ed Palubinskas, former basketball player (1971-72), who created the mosaic. An entrepreneur, Palubinskas played on the Australian Olympic basketball team and went on to star at LSU (Louisiana State) in basketball after Ricks. Has done mosaics for LDS Church, BYU, etc. Teaches basketball skills on instructional videos; is a world-class free-throw shooter; graduated from BYU and now lives in Louisiana (as of 1990).

1990 — Nauvoo Temple stones in landscaped area south of Spori. Unveiled October 19, 1990 by Ricks President Steven D. Bennion. Stones given to Ricks in commemoration of Nauvoo’s 150th anniversary and as a tribute to the pioneer heritage of (Thomas E.) Ricks and others. (Transported from Nauvoo to Ricks by Ken Howell, Steve Moser, Steven Lewis in a college van and trailer.)

1996 — Gary Price sculptures: “Bookworm” (east entrance to McKay Library) “Wings” (near east entrance to Austin), and “Swan’s Flight” (in Demonstration Garden’s in pool area near entrance.) Given to college (at a reduced cost) by the artist, a student at Ricks in 1973-74. Gary Price sculpts in Springville, Utah.

STREETS (and their closing to thru-traffic)

1976 (?- prior information unavailable). Two blocks of Center Street closed between Second and Fourth South.

1987 — A four-block section of Fourth South Street in Rexburg, beginning at Second West and ending at Second East, will be renamed Viking Drive in honor of Ricks' 100th birthday. College property borders both sides of the street. The Rexburg City Council approved the change by voice vote. The change will be made during Homecoming activities.

Proposal to close First East Street between Third and Fourth South streets to reduce traffic congestion and the potential for accidents is presented to City Council. North portion of closure would become a walkway with landscaping between women's dorms and Smith Building. The southern portion would become a parking lot for Manwaring Center.

May 20, 1987 — Ricks granted permission to close one block per the above. Two dissenting votes on City Council. Council suspended rules requiring three readings. Upon publication of a legal advertisement in newspaper, the closure becomes effective. College agrees to allow city an easement on a future extension of South Ninth Street, but refuses to grant a similar extension of South Seventh Street. Street is blocked off on June 3, 1987, and temporary landscaping is put in. Some protest are made by residents of South Second due to lack of public input and increase of traffic on South Second Street. (South Second was widened by the City of Rexburg in 1988.)

1988 — Area discussed above is landscaped starting April 1.

May 13, 1992 — Ricks President Steven D. Bennion tells Rexburg Planning and Zoning Commission of construction plans at college that would increase traffic crossing Viking Drive near Manwaring Center. College proposes exchanging land south on its campus for the city's construction of Seventh South to extend to South Second in return for the closure of Viking Drive.

May 20, 1992 — Rexburg City Council tables issue of deciding through street. Both 11th South and 14th South are discussed as alternatives. Sometime later in the year an 11-member citizen's advisory committee is appointed to look into options for improving traffic flow in the south end of Rexburg. Committee is chaired by Randall Porter.

March 25, 1993 — Completed survey supports need for closure of Viking Drive. Some 2,364 vehicles traveling east and 2,277 traveling west were counted in one day. Of the motorists, 2,024 were on college-related business heading eastbound and 2,026 westbound.

March 30, 1993 — College prints open letter concerning closure of Viking Drive and the reasons behind it.

April 1, 1993 — College offers to take over maintenance of Viking Drive if it will help complete Seventh South sooner and promises not to close the street until new arterial is open.

— Page 2 of Streets —

May 5, 1993— Ricks College formally petitions City of Rexburg for permission to close Viking Drive. Citizen Advisory Committee agrees that street should be closed. Consensus is that another east-west arterial street is available before Viking Drive can be closed.

June 2, 1993 — At a public hearing Rexburg citizen's support street closure.

June 9, 1993 — Rexburg City Council agrees to closure of Viking Drive as soon as Seventh South is open. Other stipulations agreed upon: Access road between parking lot of (Taylor and Kimball) to South Second East; accesses to Manwaring Center maintained; two-way traffic on Viking Drive to continue in at least one side of street during construction of Seventh South; college donates back in cash and services for city's purchase of Seventh South; land "college will be open to LID request for curb, gutter, storm drainage, but not the road itself."

Summer of 1995 — Viking Drive resurfaced from 1st West to Center Street.

July 1, 1998 — Seventh South opens; Viking Drive closes

Summer of 2000 — Steam pipes replaced between Clarke and Smith Buildings. Necessitates sidewalk replacement.

Summer of 2001 — East Viking Drive rebuilt with new subsurface soil drains. Work done by BECO Construction of Idaho Falls. Grass replaced in front of library addition.

JOHN TAYLOR BUILDING

1997 (First new building in 17 years)

62,500 sq. ft.

Authorized: Jan. 8, 1993 (as part of a two-building and addition to an existing building concept. Original location at approximately present site of Kimball Building)

Architect: Dixson-Watson-Petty Associates of Idaho Falls, Idaho

Building committee: Mack Shirley, chairman; Kris Fillmore, Charles Frost, John Galbraith, Jim Keller, Glade Merrell, Phil Wightman, Wilma Jephson.

Architectural design accepted and unveiled March 1994. Groundbreaking anticipated for July 1994.

May 25, 1994 (Unreleased news release) Groundbreaking to be postponed “to allow for additional program and study design.”

April 25, 1995 (Unreleased news release) “The final architectural design is complete and college officials plan to begin construction by late June.”

Architect: FFKR (Fowler, Ferguson, Kingston & Rubin) of Salt Lake City

Frank Ferguson, principal architect

JRW Associates, Rexburg, architectural consultants

Electrical: Nielson Engineering, Inc., Pocatello, Idaho

Mechanical: Heath Engineering, Salt Lake City, Utah

Structural: Tanner Willmore Smith & Associates, Inc., Bountiful, UT

Civil: Forsgren Associates/P.A., Rexburg, Idaho

Acoustical: David L. Adams Associates, Inc., Denver, Colo.

Facility to house religion and humanities departments; one campus stake with nine wards; space for church social programming; academic & social needs. Permanent chapel will seat 350 to 400. Cultural hall, when combined with chapel to provide seating for 2,000. (Actual count 1,634, with 71 seats on the stand.) A student commons area, under a skylight; two kitchens; and a second floor with 28 offices for both departments are also included. A total of 14 classrooms are provided.

Contractor: Ormond Builders, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Groundbreaking and naming: Thursday, June 29, 1995, by Elder L. Tom Perry of Council of Twelve. Ricks President Steven D. Bennion presided. Also participating was Sister Barbara Perry, a granddaughter of Ida Oakley Taylor Whittaker. Others were Rexburg Mayor Nile Boyle, Rexburg City Council members, campus ecclesiastical leaders, students and employees.

— Page 2 of Taylor —

Dedicated: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1997, by President James E. Faust of the First Presidency with Elder Henry B. Eyring of the Council of the Twelve in attendance. Others participating were building Chairman Mack Shirley; former Ricks President Steven D. Bennion; Ricks President David A. Bednar presided. At luncheon prior to dedication, commissioned portrait of President Taylor by art faculty member Richard Bird was unveiled.

Open house held Sept. 16, 1997.

Musical fireside with organist Rebecca Parkinson at the pipe organ and Collegiate Singers on Sunday, Sept. 21, 1997.

Building contains religious art work including a relief sculpture donated to the college by artist Elaine Evans of Berkely, Calif. formerly hung in Oakland California Temple.

June 1998 — August issue of “American School & University” profiles Taylor Building as part of the Educational Interior Showcase, a program honoring educational interior design excellence.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Summer of 1984 — “The College will own and operate its own telephone system, one of the largest installations in the state. The system will have approximately 1,500 customers on campus alone and will be maintained by the college. It will replace the old Centrex system in use at the college since 1968. The old system is worn out,” says Chuck Frost, physical plant director. Switch became effective August 20, 1984.

Summer of 1990 — Call processing instituted. (Allows a called to bypass a secretary by having call routed to the correct destination.) Some 300 data phones in use, allowing computers to tap into the mainframe or other computers on campus via the telephone. Telephone directory is computerized.

October of 1990 — New 911 emergency line installed on campus. (Necessitates the use of number 8 to receive an “outside” line.)

May 1991 — Some 12 emergency telephones installed at various locations on campus.

Summer of 1995 — Final design are being completed on a new telephone switch and the new system should be in by fall. “The existing switch is being overloaded and becoming outdated. The new upgrade will have 4,000 lines compared to the 1,800 we have now.” (News release)

Allowed the addition of phone mail to students living in on-campus housing. Another addition within the next year will be a centralized fax server. This service will allow users to send and receive faxes from their office computer without the use of a fax machine. System purchased from TRI Touch America in Boise and in use Aug. 28. (New release)