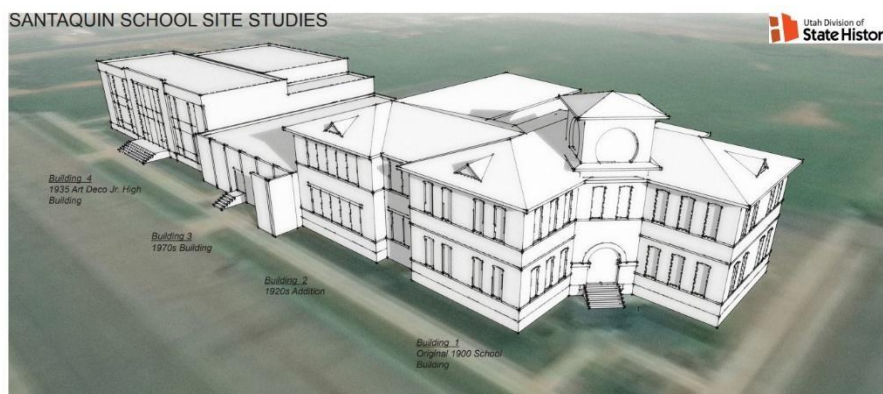


BRIEF HISTORY OF SANTAQUIN JR. HIGH

After the Great Depression, which was extremely hard on Utah, federal agencies allocated funding as part of the New Deal for projects to keep people working. The Santaquin Jr. High School (building 4) was one of the Public Works Administration projects, constructed in 1935. This two-story school located at 45 W 100 S was built adjacent to the exiting Elementary School (buildings 1 & 2). The school included classrooms on the upper level and a library, gymnasium with a stage, bathrooms, and an administrative office on the main level. An addition (building 3) between the two schools was added in 1970 which included functional necessities such as a kitchen, lunchroom, additional bathrooms, meeting spaces etc.

In approximately 1981 Nebo School District and Santaquin City engaged in a property swap, exchanging this property (old Jr High, lunchroom addition, and the old elementary school) for raw land located on 400 W where the new Sanataquin Elementary school would be built. The new Santaquin Elementary School was built and occupied at the beginning of the school year in 1984, leaving all three buildings vacant.



In 1990, following some grass roots efforts, the old Elementary School (buildings 1 & 2) was made into Chieftain Museum, which currently still operates in the building today. Shortly after, the center section of the structure (building 3) was remodeled and began to be used for Senior Citizens programs and as a Veterans Memorial building. After being vacant for nearly ten years, city officials moved their administrative offices from Main Street to the Old Jr. High (building 4) in 1993. From 1993 to 2011 the city occupied this building (building 4) as its City Office and Library, with the gymnasium being used for recreation activities and community events and performances and the basement as the Police Department. Construction of a new Public Safety Facility in 2006 allowed the Police Department to relocate, giving a space for recreation offices.

In 2011, Santaquin City moved its City Offices into the new Public Safety Facility located on Main Street. The main level of the old Jr High (building 4) continued to be used by the City's Recreation Department until 2018 when the old Public Works building was remodeled into a Recreation Facility. Since then, this portion of the structure (building 4) has been vacant. Senior Citizens programs have continued to utilize the center structure (building 3) but will be relocating in September 2023 to the new City Hall.

The approved project includes demolition of the Old Jr. High (building 4) and center lunchroom addition (building 3). The Old Elementary School (buildings 1 & 2) will continue to house the Chieftain Museum.

References

Daniel Olson – City Council Member and Mayor 1981-1985 (current Mayor)

Keith Broadhead – Mayor 1994-2000

Utah County Land Records

Santaquin City Website Historical Sites Pamphlet