#### SALT LAKE CITY HISTORIC LANDSCAPES REPORT Executive Summary

#### **Shipp Park**

**SLCHLR NO. 12** 

Shipp Park is located in the Avenues National and Local Historic Districts, Salt Lake City, Utah. It fronts on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is located between H and I Street at 579 East Fourth Avenue. The park is not considered historic in and of itself, but instead in recognition of its namesake Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp, who was one of Utah's first female doctors. Dr. Shipp did not live in the home that once stood on the site. She resided and practiced medicine from a residence on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue a few blocks from this park. Shipp established her career in Salt Lake City, and in 1878 founded a school of training for obstetrics and nursing.

The small, quarter-acre park was established as a neighborhood pocket-park in 1987 within a well-established, verdant residential neighborhood that is characterized by single-family homes and low-density apartments, including historic residences which flank sides and rear of the park, with additional historic structures facing the park from on the opposite side of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which is also the main entrance into the park. The terraced site is located in an area with significant south-to-north upward grade, which is a common characteristic of the Avenues neighborhood terrain. The park is divided into two character-defining sections - the Entryway and the Playground.

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Latitude: 40° 46'26.76" N, 111° 52' 19.74" W (southwest corner of the park, Google Earth)

**Significance:** The Shipp Park landscape is not considered historic in and of itself (Landscapes 6), although it is significant as a result of the recognition it provides to its namesake Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp, one of Utah's first female doctors who established her career in Salt Lake City and in 1878 founded a school of training for obstetrics and nursing.

**Description:** In 1987 Shipp Park was established as a neighborhood pocket-park (Landscape 6). The quarter-acre park is nestled within a well-established, verdant residential neighborhood characterized by single-family homes and low-density apartments, including historic residences which flank sides and rear of the park, and look upon the park from across the street. Access to the park is from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The terraced site is located in an area with significant south-to-north upward grade, which is a common characteristic of the Avenues neighborhood terrain (see figs. 3-5).

> As illustrated in the accompanying site map and described below, the park is divided into two character-defining sections (see fig. 6):

#### Section A – Entryway

The entrance to Shipp Park is defined by a replica of a Victorian-era wrought iron fence mounted on a low concrete retaining wall along the length of the street frontage. A low hedge of Lodense Privet (Ligustrum vulgare 'Lodense') is planted in front of the fence. A staircase leads through the main gates, where a pair of Radiant Crabapple trees (Malus Radiant') are planted in rectangular patches of grass on either side of the entrance gate. The trees flank the sides of a concrete sidewalk leading to a second staircase to the north. A second shrub border of Otto Luyken Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken') is planted in front of a second low concrete retaining wall (see figs. 7-8).

An accessible entrance ramp into the park is located to the west of the main entrance along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The ramp ascends to the north and is bordered on the east and west with rows of William Penn Barberry (Berberis gladwynensis 'William Penn'). The ramp eventually turn east, meeting grade with the second set of stairs from the main entrance (see figs. 9-12).

To the west near the entrance into the playground is a plaque identifying and providing interpretive information on Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp. A Cleveland Maple tree (Acer platanoides 'Cleveland') and a mass of Dwarf Pink Bridal Wreath (Spiraea Bumalda 'Anthony Waterer') frame the plaque (see figs 13-14).

#### Section B – Playground

The playground is located in the center of a north-south running central axis. The playground is composed of three pieces of play equipment, including a two single-person spinner tops and a simple set of swings. The play area is surfaced with a bed of engineered wood chips which provide a safe fall surface. Two decorative metal benches are located on either side of the entrance along the south side of the playground in symmetrical fashion, each mounted onto a concrete pad (see figs. 17-18).

The playground is surrounded by a retaining wall and chain-link fence to the west and a concrete retaining wall and wooden fence to the north. Mentor Barberry (*Berberis mentorensis*), Burkwood Viburnum (*Viburnum Burkwoodi*) and Bigleaf Periwinkle (*Vinca major*) border the east and west fences. Beyond the playground to the rear of the park is a moderately-steep grassed slope. Two Maple trees (*Acer sp.*) flank the east and west grassed area (see figs. 19-22).

To the east is located a playground informational sign and additional decorative metal bench. The sign reads:

"WELCOME. This unique play area is designed for children 2 to 5 years of age. Adult supervision is recommended. KOMPAN. kompan.com." (see fig. 23)

#### **History:**

Located in the northeastern extents of the City on a sloping bench of the Wasatch Mountains, the Avenues Neighborhood extends from downtown Salt Lake City to the south and west, and the University of Utah to the east. The neighborhood is named after the closely laid out grid of blocks separated by numbered, west-to-east running roads called *Avenues*, and the north-south running "Streets" that slope up the steep hillside, which are named after the letters of the alphabet.

Unlike the original ten-acre (435,600 square foot) block grid pattern in the valley below, the Avenues layout deviates from the "Plat of the City of Zion", the blocks here half of the dimension of the standard City grid - 330 by 330 feet in dimension and 2.5 acres (108,900 square feet) in extent. The streets and sidewalks are narrower as well, resulting in a poor connection with the ten-acre blocks and associated streets on the south side of South Temple Street. Originally, all of the north-south streets were named for trees, and the first four east-west avenues were named "Fruit", "Garden", "Bluff", and "Wall". For example, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue where Shipp Park is located was originally named Wall Street (see figs. 24-25) (Haglund 3).

By 1885 the north-south streets gained their current alphabetical designations (A Street through V Street, although V was eventually changed to Virginia Street). The east-west running avenues were still known as streets until 1907, when they were officially retitled.

As a site, Shipp Park has no known historical significance. Sanborn maps from 1911 and 1950 illustrate the location and demolition of a one-level framed dwelling and detached outbuildings respectively. Salt Lake County archival tax assessment documents the earliest property owners as William W. and Agnes C. Williams (no specific date provided). However, by 1982 ownership had transitioned to Mr. Wallace L. and Darlene B. Williams. Additional notes indicate that the lot was subdivided into two parcels (04-1329-075 and 04-1329-076). Details and photos documenting the physical characteristics of the dwelling and outbuildings are unknown (see figs. 26-27) (Sanborn; Utah State).

In October 1981, the City identified and selected 579 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue as the location for the development of a mini-park. Construction documents were developed in 1982. In 1984, lighting details were added to the plans, and in July 1987 an interpretive plaque was added prior to completion and dedication of the park. The interpretive plaque highlights Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp, one of Utah's first female doctors. The park was named after her to acknowledge her many contributions and leadership to the community. A ribboncutting ceremony was held in 1988 (see figs. 28-29) (Avenues; Eason; Salisbury; Swain).

The plaque on-site reads as follows:

"DR. ELLIS REYNOLDS SHIPP PARK. Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp 1847 – 1939. When Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp graduated from Women's Medical College in Philadelphia with a specialty in obstetrics and diseases of women and children, she returned to Salt Lake City to practice medicine and open her School of Obstetrics and Nursing in 1878. Dr. Shipp trained thousands of midwives and nurses and delivered over 5,000 babies not only in Salt Lake, but in many other parts of Utah as well. She was a member of the first Board of Directors of Deseret Hospital which was founded in 1882. For most of her life she lived and practiced medicine on Second Avenue<sup>1</sup>, just a few blocks from this park. Park name submitted by Meg Brady, 1987." (Dr. Ellis plaque)

Figures 30-35 illustrate the original park layout. Most recent changes to Shipp Park occurred in 2009 playground improvements were completed to meet Americans with Disability (ADA) requirements (see fig. 36) (Salt Lake City Corporation).

See figure 37 for the 2015 existing conditions map for Shipp Park.

#### **Sources:**

2012 HRO 6 Inch Orthophotography. Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center. Web. September 30, 2015. <a href="http://gis.utah.gov/data/aerial-photography/2012-hro-6-inch-color-orthophotography/">http://gis.utah.gov/data/aerial-photography/2012-hro-6-inch-color-orthophotography/</a>

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"Color Key to Sanborn Maps." *Fire Insurance Maps*. UC Berkeley Earth Sciences and Map Division. Web. March 11, 2016.
<a href="http://vm136.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/images/sandkey.jpg">http://vm136.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/images/sandkey.jpg</a>

Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp Park, 1987. Shipp Park, Salt Lake City, Utah. July 30, 2015. Plaque.

Eason, Barbara Bennett. Letter to John Swain. 23 Jan. 1988. TS. Parks Department, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gust, John. Letter to Dean Coleman. 18 June 1984. TS. Parks Department, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Haglund, Karl T. and Philip F. Notarianni. *The Avenues of Salt Lake City*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah State Historical Society, 1980. Print.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp lived in a home located at 711 Second Avenue (Haglund 11).

- "Historic Preservation Local Districts." Salt Lake City, Utah: Salt Lake City Planning Department. Web. August 2, 2015. < http://www.slcgov.com/historic-preservation/historic-preservation-local-historic-districts>
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- ---. 1950 Map of Salt Lake City: Sheet 44. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Web. September 28, 2015. <a href="http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/sanborn-jp2/id/1754/rec/654">http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/sanborn-jp2/id/1754/rec/654</a>>
- Swain, John. Letter to Wes Dewsnup. 30 Oct. 1981. TS. Parks Department, Salt Lake City, Utah.
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Utah State Historical Society, Classified Photograph Collection, Photos No. 13532.

#### Historian:

JoEllen Grandy and Siri Vlasic

Landmark Design 850 South 400 West, Studio 104 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101 801-474-3300

Prepared on December 14, 2015

## SALT LAKE CITY NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS



Fig 1. National Register Historic Districts Map. Note the star indicating the location of Shipp Park (Historic Preservation – National).

### SALT LAKE CITY LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

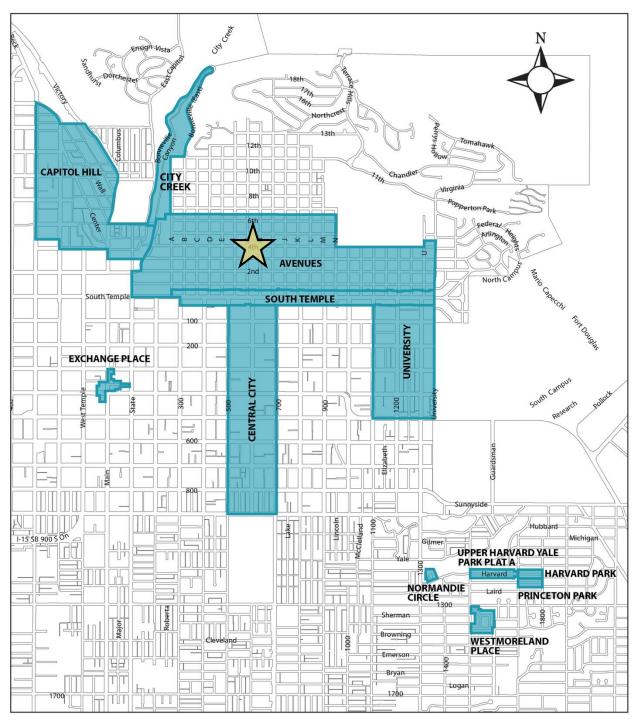


Fig. 2. Local Historic Districts Map. Note the star indicating the location of Shipp Park (Historic Preservation – Local).



Fig. 3. Context Map (2012).



Fig. 4. Approaching view to the northeast looking into the park on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Note the historic 1916 apartment complex to the east (Salt, Architectural) (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).

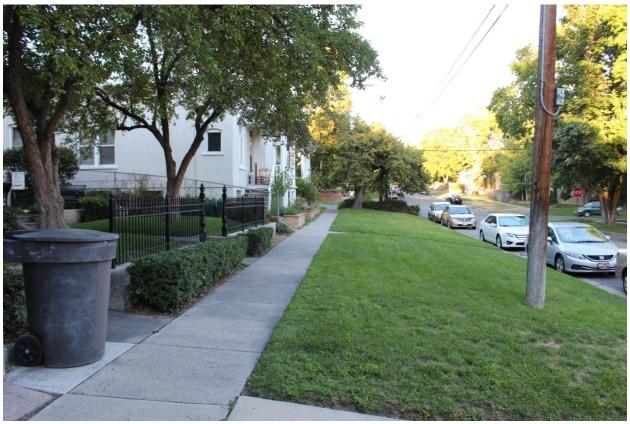


Fig. 5. View to the east standing outside the entrance into the park. Note the wide park strip to the right and the clipped shrub border and iron fence to the left (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 6. Shipp Park has two character-defining sections (2012).

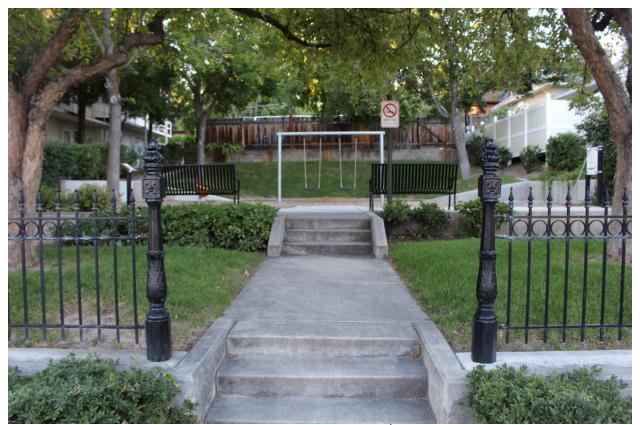


Fig. 7. View to the north of the main entrance into the park on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Note the symmetrical design (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 8. Victorian-era wrought iron fence creates a formal border along the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue entrance frontage (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).

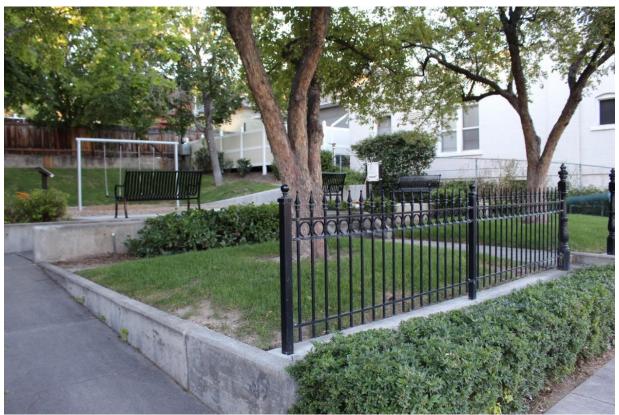


Fig. 9. View to the northeast of ramped access provided on the west side into the park on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 10. Ramped approach into the park. Note the barberry (*Berberis sp.*) and viburnum (*Viburnum sp.*) shrub border along the chain link fence to the west and playground equipment to the rear (Siri Vlasic, 7/15/15).

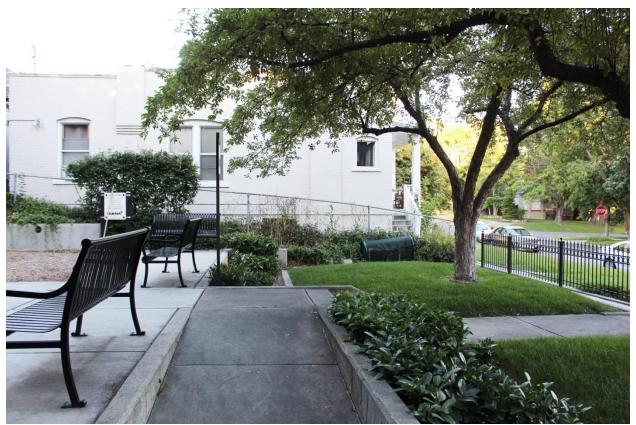


Fig. 11. View to the east of the continuation of the ADA ramp. Note the laurel (*Laurus sp.*) shrub border, low retaining wall and mature crabapple (*Malus sp.*) trees to the right (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).

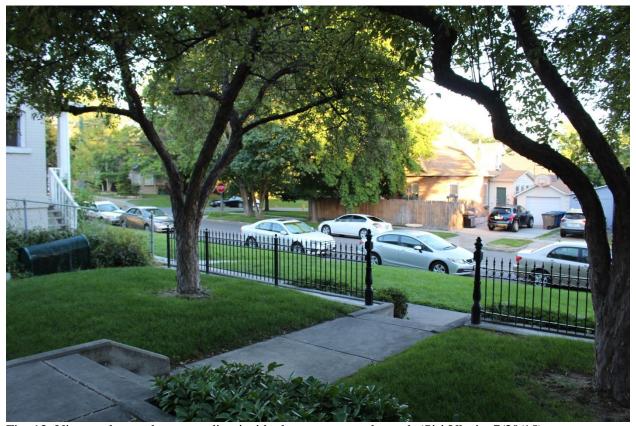


Fig. 12. View to the southeast standing inside the entrance to the park (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 13. View to the northwest of a plaque located along the western edge of the park. Note the 1960 apartment complex in the background and base of the Cleveland Maple and shrub planting (Salt, Architectural) (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).

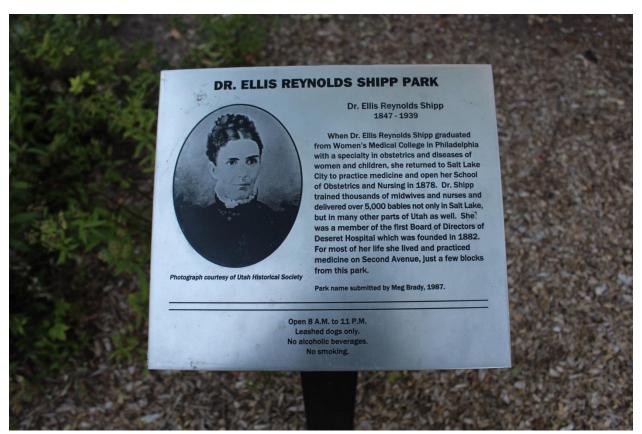


Fig. 14. Plaque tribute to Dr. Ellis Reynolds Shipp (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 15. View to the northeast of the playground equipment – one person spinner top and two swings (Siri Vlasic, 7/15/15).



Fig. 16. Additional view to the northeast of the playground equipment – swings and additional one person spinner top (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 17. Two decorative black metal benches mark the south entrance of the playground (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).

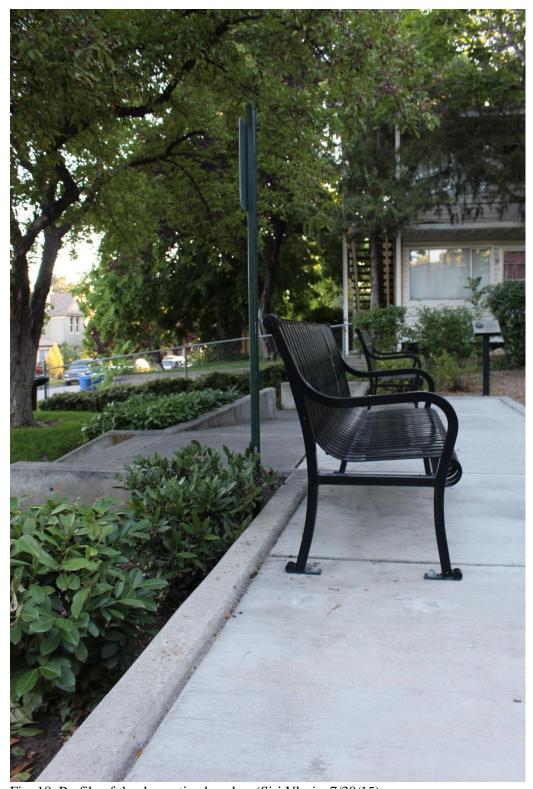


Fig. 18. Profile of the decorative benches (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 19. View to the north of the west side of the park. Note the retaining wall and fences along the perimeter and the moderately-steep grassed slope to the north end of the park (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 20. View to the northeast of the park illustrating a continuation of the retaining wall/fence along the perimeter and grassed slope (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 21. View to the west standing near the northeast corner of the park. Note the chain-link and wooden fences, retaining wall and slope (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).



Fig. 22. View to the southwest standing near the northeast corner of the park facing southwest. Note the significant grade change from below (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).

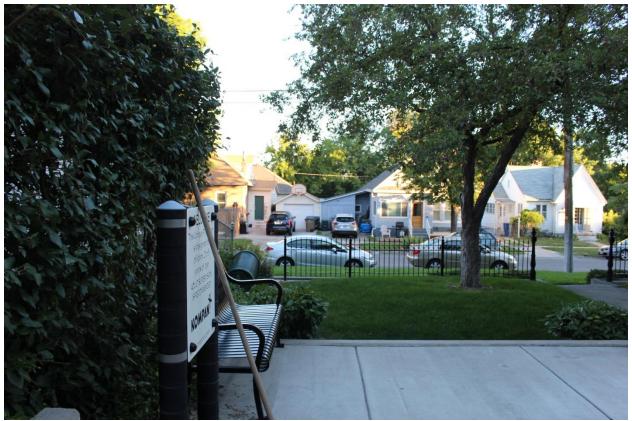


Fig. 23. View to the south of a Kompan sign and an additional decorative metal bench located along the eastern edge of the park. Photograph taken to the south (Siri Vlasic, 7/30/15).

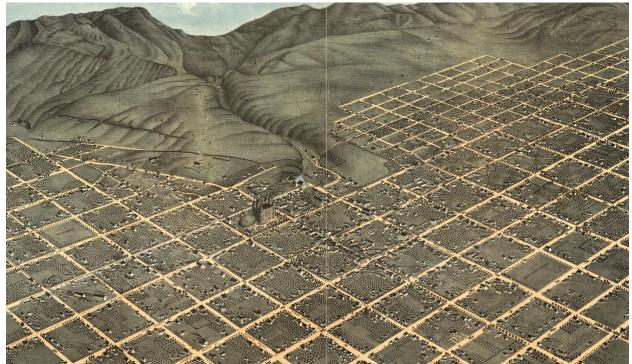


Fig. 24. An 1870 northeastern bird's eye view of Salt Lake City. Note the ten-acre block grid pattern patterned after the "Plat of the City of Zion". Map courtesy of Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division (Koch).

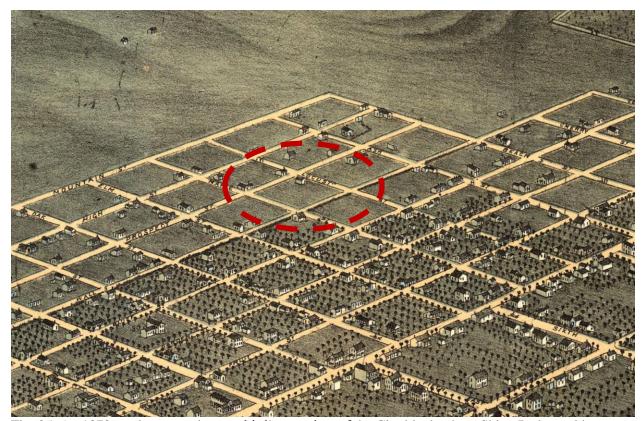


Fig. 25. An 1870 northeastern close-up bird's eye view of the City block where Shipp Park would eventually be located. Map courtesy of Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division (Koch).

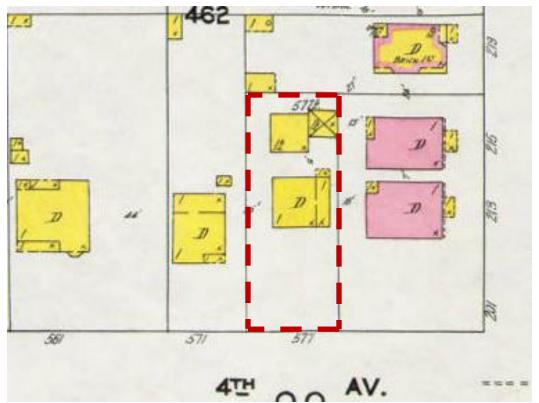


Fig. 26. 1911 Sanborn map illustrates the location of a framed home and detached outbuildings (Sanborn 1911).

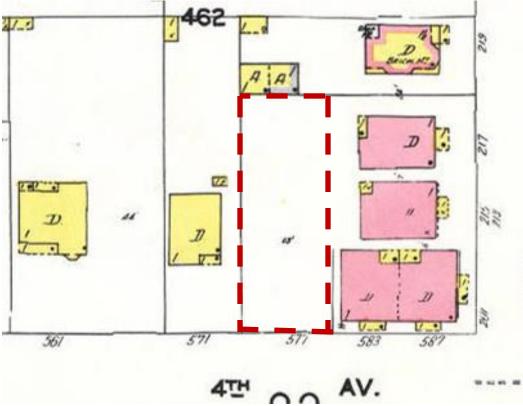


Fig. 27. 1950 Sanborn map illustrates the absence of the framed home and detached outbuildings. Note the apartment complex to the east and the undefined property line (Sanborn 1950).

Fig. 28. See attached map of 1982 original plans for Shipp Park (Avenues).

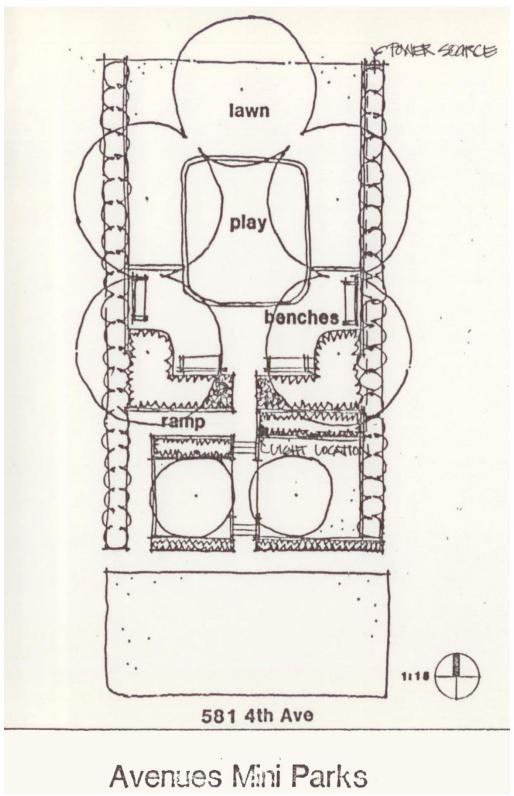


Fig. 29. A single light was added to the plans for Shipp Park in 1984 (Gust).



Fig. 30. Undated northwest view of the park on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue prior to 2009 ADA improvements. Note the iron fence located after the second stair landing instead of after the first (Salt, Parks).



Fig. 31. Main entrance into the park on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 2009. Note the location of the plaque and original playground equipment (Landscapes 6).



Fig. 32. Original location of the plaque (Salt, Parks).



Fig. 33. Playground equipment in 2009 – two swings and a slide (Landscapes 6).



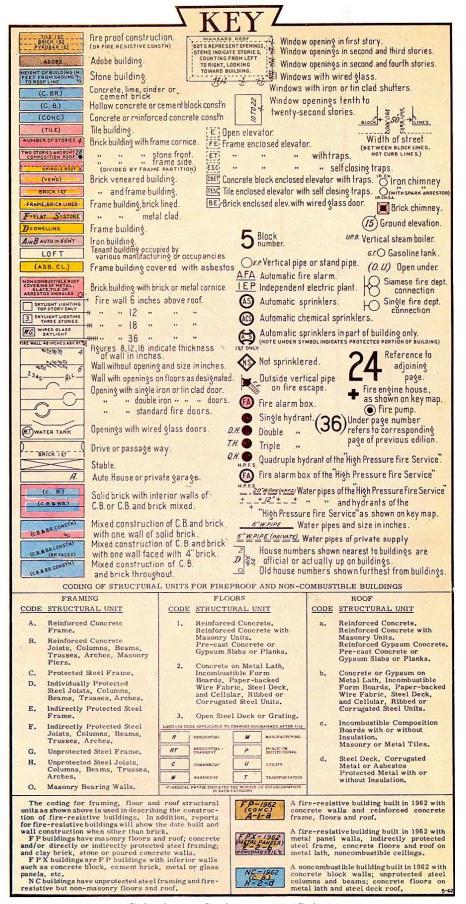
Fig. 34. Victorian-era wrought iron fence detail in 2009 before it was coated black (Landscapes 6).



Fig. 35. Southwest view of the decorative iron fence in 2009 marked the southern edge of the playground (Landscapes 6).

Fig. 36. See attached map of 2009 ADA playground improvement plans for Shipp Park (Salt, Corporation).

Fig. 37. See attached map of 2015 existing conditions of Shipp Park.



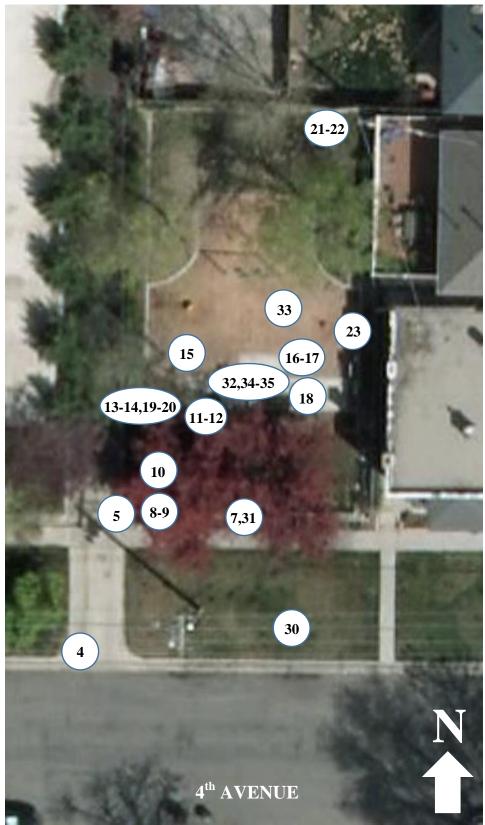
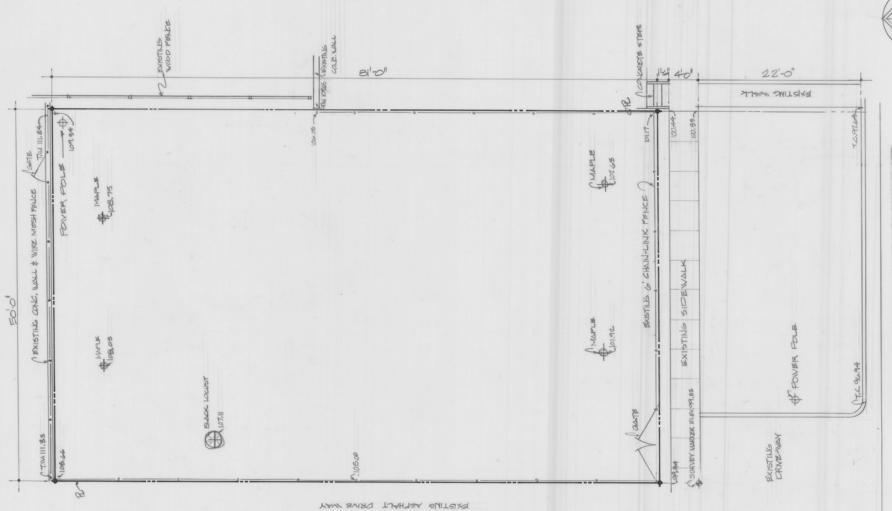


Photo Key (2012)





581 EAST 4TH AVENUE



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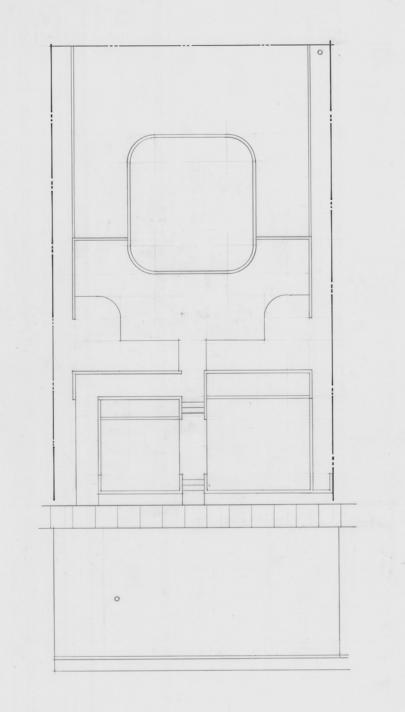
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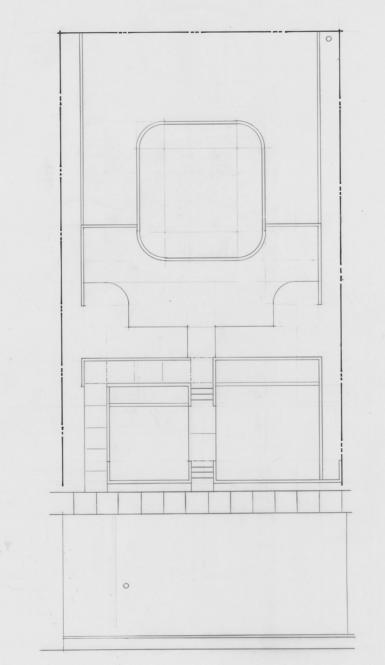
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Your Salt Lake City

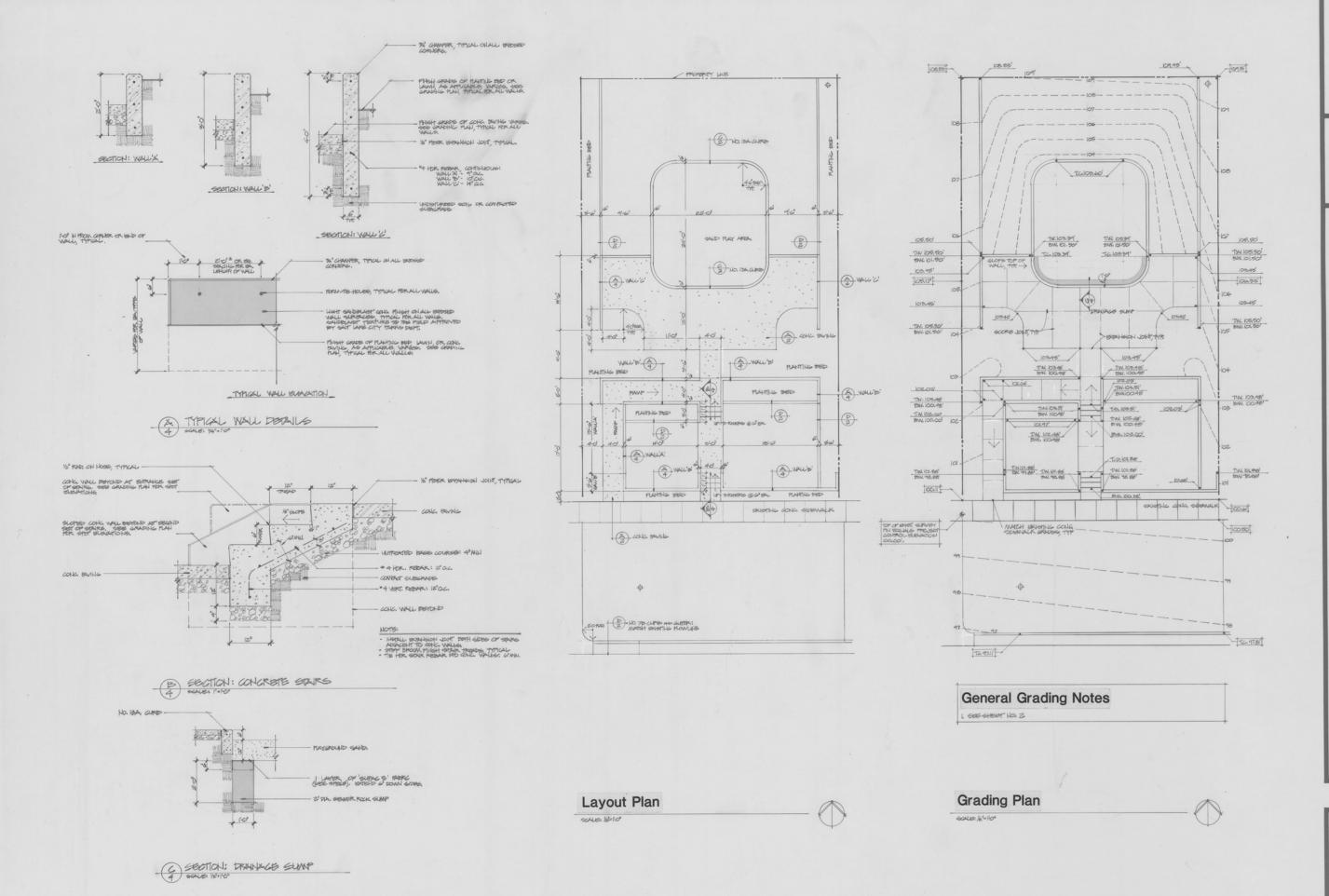
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Your Salt Lake City

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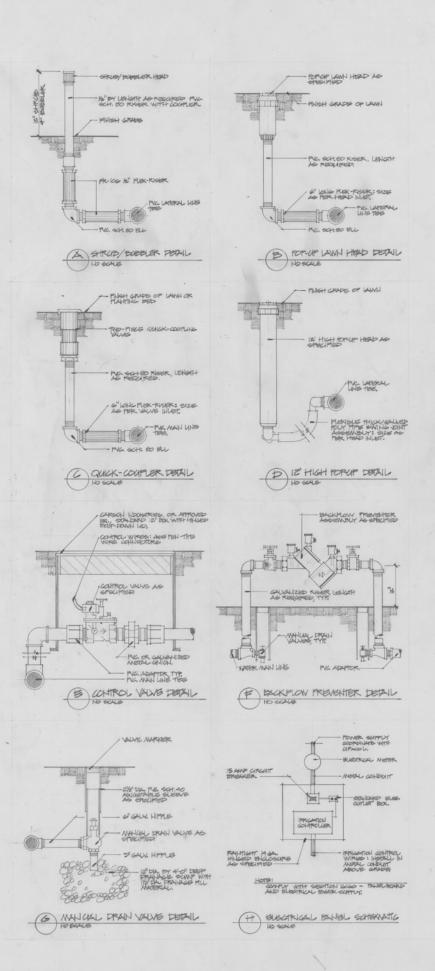
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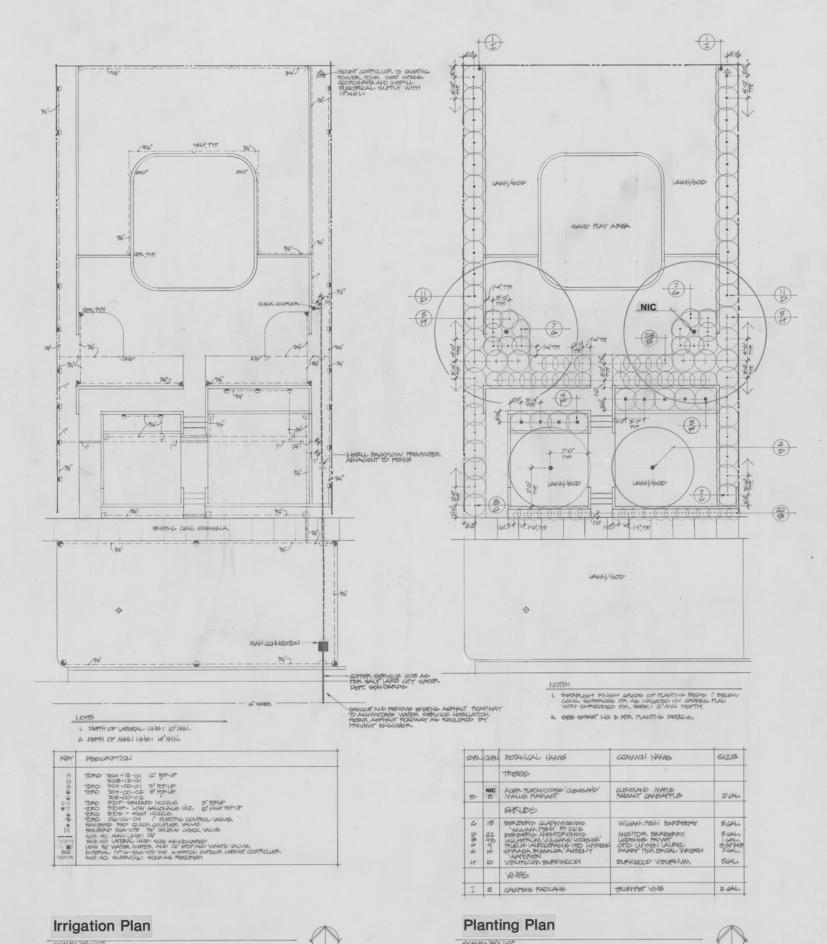
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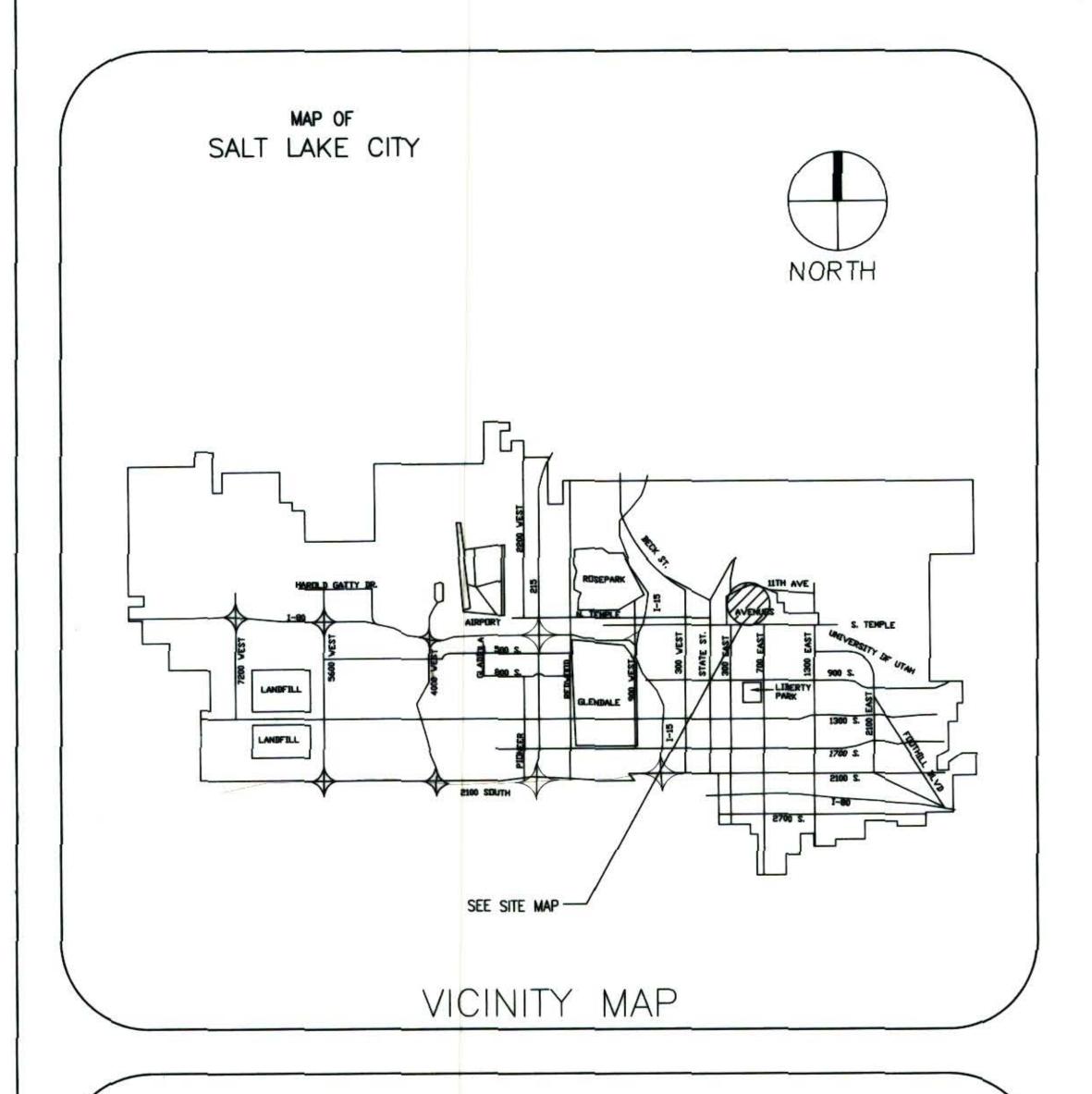
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## SALT LAKE CITY CORPORATION



RALPH BECKER

CARLTON J. CHRISTENSEN

VAN BLAIR TURNER

JILL REMINGTON LOVE

SOREN D. SIMONSEN

**ERIC JERGENSEN** 

**LUKE GARROTT** 

J. T. MARTIN

**MAYOR** 

CITY COUNCIL

DIST. 1

DIST. 2

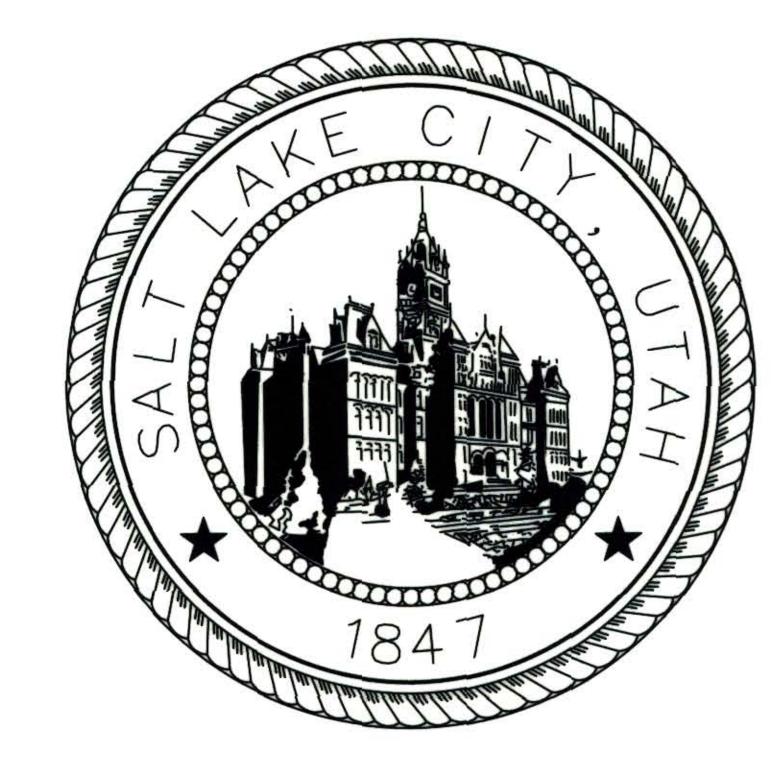
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### CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR:

SHIPP PARK ADA PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS 579 ATH AVENUE

JOB NO. 25/60



DRAWING NO.

DRAWING TITLE

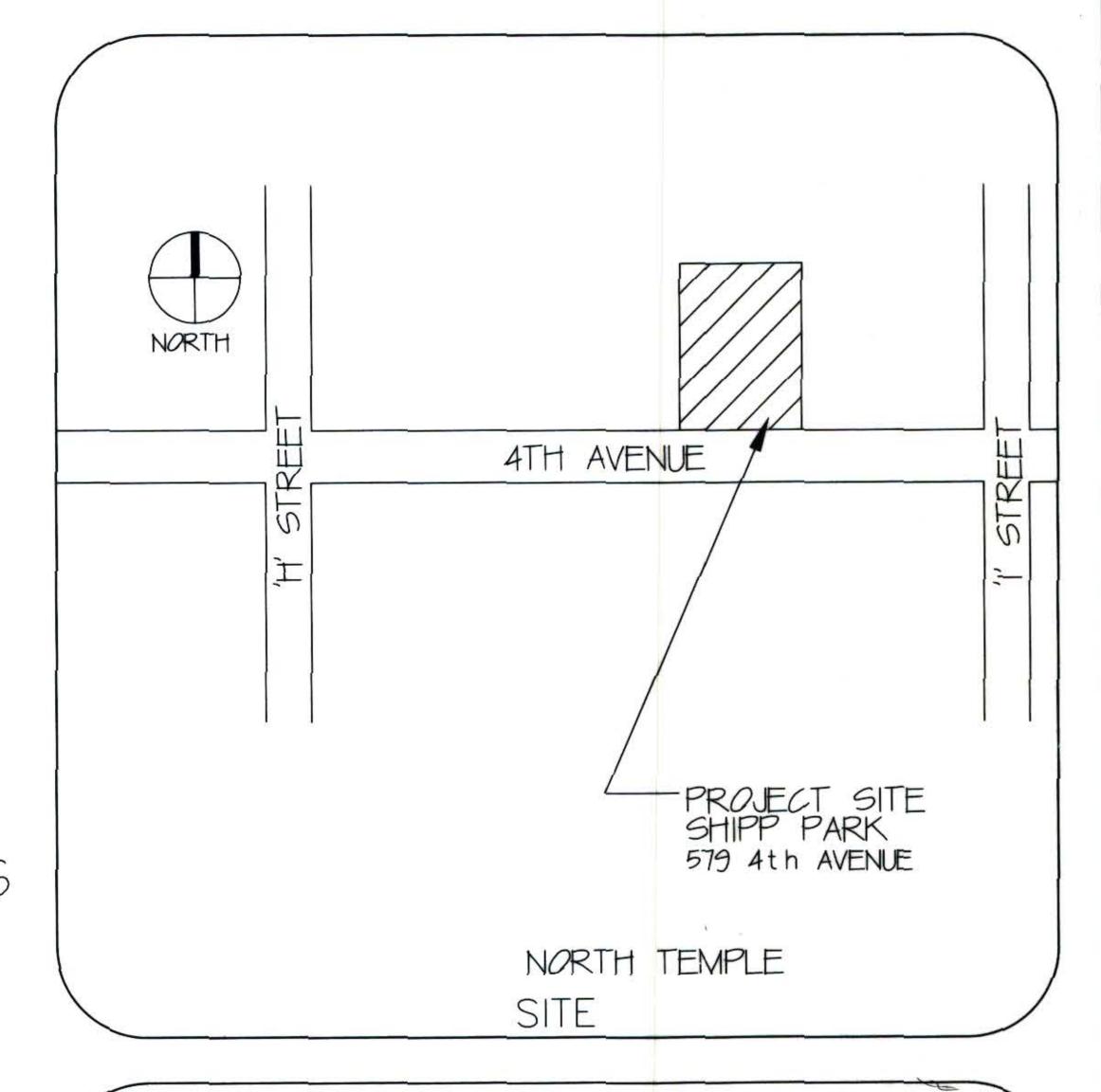
6-00 LSIO

COVER SHEET

LS102

DEMOLITION/LAYOUT PLANS/DETAILS
IRRIGATION/LANDSCAPE RENOVATION/DETAILS

# RECORD



### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

DIRECTOR

RICK GRAHAM

**CITY ENGINEER** 

MAX G. PETERSON, P.E.

**DESIGNED BY** 

ENGINEERING DIVISION 324 SOUTH STATE STREET

SUITE 310

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111

# DOCUMENT

ſ	CITY ENGINEER	PROJECT MANAGER	PROJECT DESIGNER	PLANNING DIVISION	DEPT. OF PUBLIC UTILITIES	URBAN FORESTRY	PARKS DIVISION DIRECTOR	VAULT NO. <u>10080036</u>
-		100000		7		Bill Ruthertord		JOB NO. <u>25 60 </u> SHEET NO.   OF 3 SHEETS
Į	MAX 6. PETERSON, PE DATE	DELL COOK, ASLA DATE	RON SALISBURY, ASLA DATE	APPROVED BY DATE	APPROVED BY DATE	BILL RUTHERFORD DATE	VAL POPE DATE	DRAWING NO. 6-001

