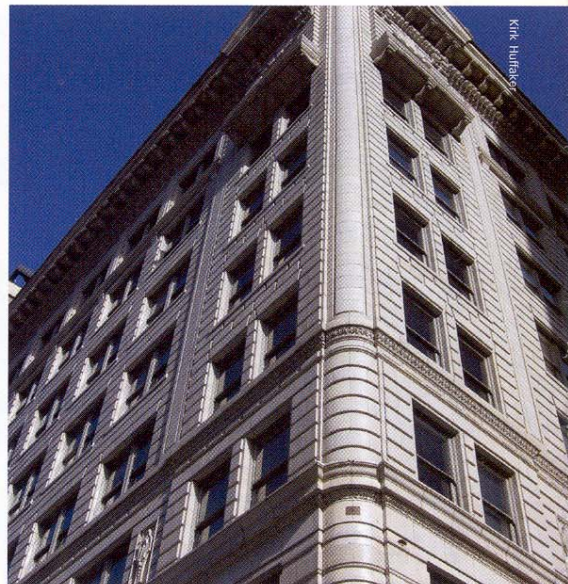


## Utah Architect Remembered: Slack Winburn / By Kirk Huffaker



The Mayflower Apartments, SLC



Clift Building, SLC

**Slack Winburn (1895-1964)** practiced architecture for over 40 years in Utah and Idaho designing elegant buildings that are still admired today. Winburn grew up in the Twin Falls, Idaho area. As a young man, he served in France during World War I and later attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris to study architecture. Upon returning to Utah, Winburn worked in the office of prominent Salt Lake City architect Walter Ware. However, he soon set up his own practice. Although Jack Chesbro was his partner early in his career, and his son, David Winburn, worked with him toward the end, Winburn spent the majority of his career as a sole practitioner.

Winburn's career falls into two distinct halves: commissions before 1930 and commissions after World War II. Between 1930 and 1946, it is difficult to find documentation of any work done by Winburn. Because of the collapse in the construction industry caused by the Great Depression, there was very little design work to be had during this period. However, in 1934 Winburn did participate in writing a study on water resources in Utah supported by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, a New Deal-era program.

Winburn was never beholden to one style of architecture. He believed a beautiful building combines "a logical plan and practical exterior in such a way that in form, outline, and color, the beholder is inspired beyond what the eye beholds." During a distinguished and eclectic career, he designed apartment buildings, churches, commercial buildings, private residences, theaters, and monuments. His work covers an amazing breadth of architectural styles. His classical training helped him create refined Period Revival-style designs which were very popular with clients. His adaptability to new situations helped him experiment with modern architectural forms in the second half of his career.

Winburn designed buildings that have stood the test of time and are still relevant to our lives and our communities today. The elegance of Memory Grove Park's entry gates and World War I monument greets visitors with respectful grace. The Elaine Apartments (440 East 300 South, SLC) is noted in *Utah's Historic Architecture* as one of the best examples of a garden style apartment building in Utah and is still a great place to live. (I should know after living there for two years.) Other prominent buildings that represent some of Winburn's best work include The Charleston Apartments (1300 East and 500 South, SLC), the SLC Public Safety Building (200 South and 300 East, SLC), and the Clift Building (Main Street and 300 South, SLC).

"The smallest cottage has as good a chance of being good architecture as the skyscraper or state capitol," Winburn wrote. Take a moment to examine some of Slack Winburn's buildings next time you are in Salt Lake City. You will see his devotion to "good architecture" in each one. \*

### Winburn's major commissions included:

Clift Building, SLC  
(1920 with Jack Chesbro)

Capital Theater, Logan (c. 1920)

World War I Monument and Entry Gates,  
Memory Grove Park, SLC (c. 1925)

First Unitarian Church, SLC (1926)

The Elaine Apartments, SLC (1927)

The Mayflower Apartments, SLC (1927)

Kimball Garage, Park City  
(1929) (currently the Kimball Art Center)

Boulevard Gardens, SLC (c. 1929)

University Gardens, SLC (1947)

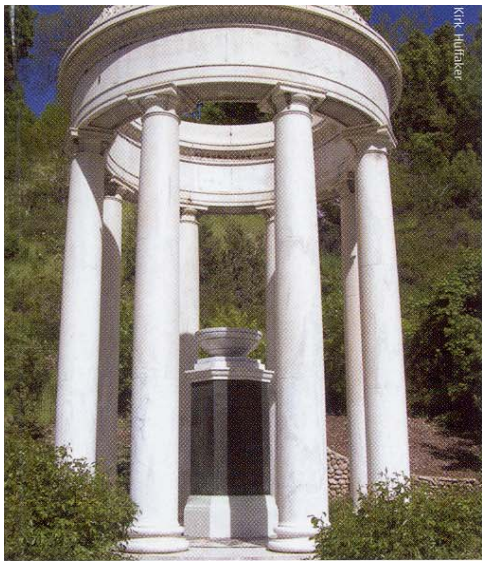
The Charleston Apartments, SLC (1950)

First Security Bank Building, SLC  
(1955) (Served as local architect on the project.)

Ballif Hall, University of Utah, SLC (1956)

Pacific Northwest Pipeline Building, SLC (1957)  
(currently SLC Public Safety Building)





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World War I Monument, Memory Grove Park, SLC



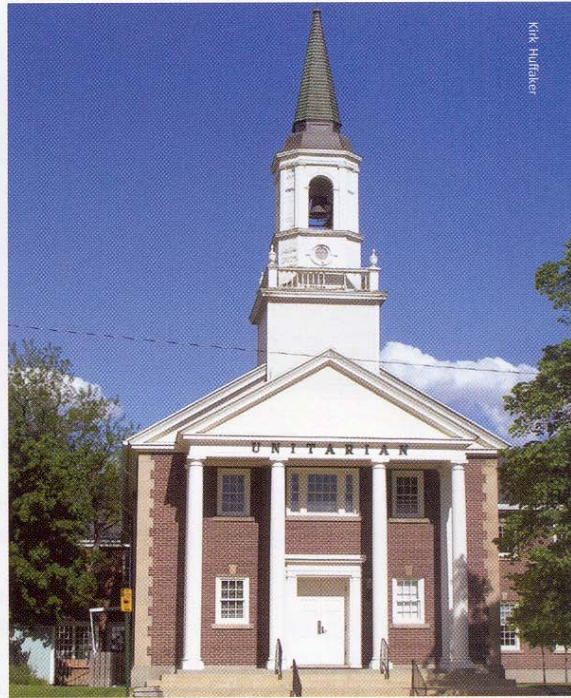
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Elaine Apartments, SLC



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The Charleston Apartments, SLC



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First Unitarian Church, SLC



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Northwest Pipeline Building, SLC (SLC Public Safety Building)



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Ballif Hall, University of Utah, SLC