



August 25, 2011

## ZCMI Façade Facts

### About ZCMI

Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution (ZCMI) was one of the earliest department stores in the country. It was founded by Brigham Young in Salt Lake City in 1868 as a territory-wide initiative to manufacture, acquire and sell goods as inexpensively as possible. In 1999, ZCMI was sold to May Department Stores and operated under the "Meier & Frank" name until 2005 when May Department Stores merged with Federated Department Stores, Inc. (now Macy's Inc.). When the downtown Salt Lake City store reopens on March 22, 2012, it will operate as a Macy's department store.

### Purpose of the Cast Iron Façade

Cast iron façades emerged as storefronts in the United States in the 1860s. Cast iron was a popular material because it provided structural support to upper stories and because it allowed for large display windows.

Local historian Richard Oman commented on the use of cast iron on the ZCMI façade, "It was a way of saying, 'we're here to stay, and this institution will be around a while'."

Today, cast iron is rarely used in construction due to innovations in engineering and architecture, and due to its high cost. This makes the nation's limited stock of preserved cast iron architecture (such as the ZCMI façade) all the more precious.

### Steps in Restoration Work

The façade was restored by Historical Arts & Casting, Inc., a Utah company with expertise in the preservation of architectural metalwork. Craftworkers carefully disassembled the façade's thousands of pieces; cleaned and removed old finishes and fillers down to bare metal; reconditioned, recast or repaired each piece; primed and painted each piece with new finish that will have greater longevity. The pieces were then reassembled and reinstalled.

### Incorporating the Façade into the New Macy's Store

- The west face of the new Macy's store has a reflective glass exterior. The façade will be attached to this exterior.
- The façade is placed closer to the new store structure (within three feet) than the façade sat to the previous structure (ten feet away).
- Unlike the previous ZCMI mall structure (1970s to 2007), the new building is not taller than the façade, but slightly wider, so the façade is bookended by stone veneer.
- The first floor bays will all serve as display windows and doors.
- On the original ZCMI structure, the upper stories had clear glass windows. Now they will have the look of frosted paned glass.
- Between the glass exterior and the façade is a new LED lighting system that will showcase the building day and night.
- Signage on the new Macy's building is designed to complement the façade aesthetically and to integrate with its historic features.

## Timeline

1868	ZCMI founded by pioneering merchants and manufacturers
1876	First of three sections of ZCMI's cast iron façade constructed (central portion of the existing façade)
1880	Second of three sections of ZCMI façade constructed (south section)
1901	Third of three sections of ZCMI façade constructed (north section)
1970	Façade placed on the National Register of Historic Places (site was subsequently placed on Salt Lake City's historic register)
1974-76	First restoration of façade completed while ZCMI Center is under construction
1999	ZCMI purchased by May Department Stores
2005	May Department Stores merged with Macy's (then Federated Department Stores)
2006	City Creek development began
2007	ZCMI Center closed and deconstructed; façade dismantled
2008-2011	Second restoration work completed while City Creek is under construction
2011	Façade reinstalled as the Main Street face of the new Macy's store

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