

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 27 1982

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Baker, George Washington, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 115 North 100 West \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Mendon \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district

state Utah code 049 county Cache code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Ruth P. Anderson

street & number 115 North 100 West

city, town Mendon \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cache County Courthouse

street & number -----

city, town Logan \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Utah Historic Sites Survey/Century Register has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date 1972/1982 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

city, town Salt Lake City \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The George Baker house in Mendon, Utah, is a one-story vernacular house constructed of locally quarried metamorphic stone. The walls are coursed rubble, with special attention devoted to the regular jointing on the facade. There are large ashlar quoins at the corners. The stonemasons who worked on the house are not identified in the Baker family records. It is known that two Cache Valley masons, Robert Crookston and Robert Murdock, worked in Mendon, but no specific information is available to link these individuals with particular houses. Also, the 1870 census for Mendon includes Richard Mills, an immigrant mason from England, who could have assisted in the construction.

The original 1869 house (figure 1) consisted of two roughly square rooms (15'4" x 14'4" and 14'6" x 14'4"--the difference being the width of the internal partition). The house had a symmetrical six-bay facade and two front doors. There was a large, centrally placed stone fireplace in the south room. External ornamentation was limited to Greek Revival returns and entablature. The sills and lintels are plain. The house originally had a porch spanning the length of the facade, but it was removed after the present owner purchased the dwelling (ca. 1940s). A rear "T" extension (figure 2) also of coursed rubble stone, and containing two rooms, was added to the house. Judging from the quality of workmanship and material, this addition probably occurred in the 1870s. A lean-to shed was attached to the north side of the rear "T" in the 1940s and the large central fireplace was removed at this time. Later, after the porch was removed, hooded coverings--one a gable and the other a shed roof--were placed over the two front doors. These alterations do not detract from the historical visual integrity of the Baker home. The structure remains in good condition with some deterioration evident on the external woodwork.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 1869, 1875 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George Washington Baker house in Mendon, Utah (located in Cache Valley), was constructed in 1869 and is significant as an example of a one-story stone "double-pen" vernacular type. This house form, with its distinctive six-bay, double-door facade, is significant as one of a small number of traditional house forms common in Utah communities during the 1850-80 "pioneer" settlement period. The "double-pen" type migrated out of the upland South into the Midwest during the early nineteenth century. There it was utilized by early Mormons and transferred to Utah in the late 1840s and 1850s. This dwelling was the home of the George W. Baker family, and remains one of four stone houses that exist in original condition from the early years of Mendon's settlement. The James Gardner House was listed in the National Register in 1982 and the Samuel Baker, Joseph Baker, and James G. Willie stone houses will be nominated to the Register in December 1982. Baker was an early settler in Cache Valley and one of Mendon's original inhabitants. He was a farmer and in 1870 served as the first mayor of the incorporated town of Mendon. The small two-room house was enlarged around 1875 with a stone addition of several rooms to the rear.

Mendon, in Cache Valley, Utah, was settled in the 1856-60 period by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as part of the larger colonization of the Great Basin region during the second half of the nineteenth century.<sup>1</sup> In the 1850s, Cache Valley served primarily as range land for the LDS church livestock herd, but in 1856-57 the Valley became the home of a small band of farmers. The effort to settle the area was temporarily interrupted by the Utah War of 1857 when an army was dispatched from Washington to quell the so-called Mormon "rebellion." At this time, outlying colonies were abandoned and settlers pulled back to the larger towns. Mormon families came back into Cache in 1858 and permanent settlements were established, including the one at Mendon on the west side of the valley. Mendon was surveyed in 1859, and in 1860 a fort, consisting of two rows of joined log cabins, had been erected.<sup>2</sup> The year 1865 found the people of Mendon breaking up the fort and moving out onto their city lots. The first permanent houses were built at this time, often of locally quarried stone. George Baker completed the original section of his new stone house in 1869.

George Baker was born in 1837 in Pomfort, New York.<sup>3</sup> His parents were converts to the LDS church and migrated westward to Utah in 1847, settling first in Salt Lake City. During the 1850s a young George Baker worked as a herder on the LDS church ranch in Cache Valley and eventually made the area his home in 1860. Baker built one of the log houses in the Mendon fort and in 1861 married Agnes Richard. By 1862, the first of the Baker's ten children was born. George's brother, Joseph, constructed the first rock house in

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Arrington, Leonard J. Great Basin Kingdom. Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1958.  
Esshom, Frank. Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah. Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1966.  
Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States.  
Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968. Also, "The Types of the

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Wellsville, UT

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Lot 1, Block 9, Plat A, Mendon City Survey.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Carter, Architectural Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society

date October 1982

street & number 300 Rio Grande

telephone (801) 533-6017

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12-14-82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Tommy Lee Dugan  
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/10/83

Attest: Patrick Andrews  
Chief of Registration

date 2/3/83

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Mendon outside the fort in 1865 and George began work on his own house soon after, finishing the dwelling in 1869.

The house Baker built was a traditional type consisting of two square rooms under a gable roof. Historians have often called this house the "double-pen" type.<sup>4</sup> The house form migrated out of the upland South into the Midwest during the early nineteenth century. There are Mormon examples of the type in Nauvoo, Illinois, their city on the Mississippi, and the house occurs throughout the Mormon settlement region in the West.<sup>5</sup> The house often has a four- or six-bay facade with two front doors arranged symmetrically. The presence of the two front doors has caused this house to be erroneously called a "polygamy" house. There is, after all, a door for each wife. This house type might certainly have served such a purpose, and indeed, examples can be found in the state which were occupied by two families. Yet, the double-pen type's firm roots in the traditional architecture of the nineteenth century and single family examples like George Baker's served to effectively dispute it's exclusive association with polygamy. The double-pen house is typical, then, of the early domestic architecture of Utah and becomes significant as one of several stone houses remaining in Mendon from the early years of settlement. (The Robert Gardner House, c. 1875, was listed in the National Register in 1982. Research is continuing on the remaining half-dozen early homes in the town for possible nomination.)

Notes

<sup>1</sup>For a general history of Mormon colonization, see Leonard J. Arrington, Great Basin Kingdom (1958, rept ed. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966). For specific historic material on Mendon, see Merlin R. Hovey, "An Early History of Cache County," manuscript, Utah State Historical Society Collections, 1925, and The History of a Valley: Cache Valley Utah-Idaho, ed. Joel E. Ricks (Logan: Cache Valley Centennial Committee, 1956).

<sup>2</sup>See Merlin R. Hovey, pp. 67-75.

<sup>3</sup>Frank Esshom, Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah (Salt Lake City: Western Epics, 1966), p. 732.

<sup>4</sup>See Henry Glassie, "The Types of the Southern Mountain Cabin," in Jan H. Brunvand, The Study of American Folklore (New York, W. W. Norton, 1968), pp. 338-370, and Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968), pp. 78-79, 82-82.

<sup>5</sup>Leon S. Pitman, "A survey of Nineteenth-Century Folk Housing in the Mormon Culture Region," dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1973, pp. 146-153.

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Continuation sheet 2

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Pitman, Leon S. "A Survey of Nineteenth-Century Folk Housing in the Mormon Culture Region." Dissertation, Louisiana State University, 1973.

Ricks, Joel E., ed. The History of a Valley: Cache Valley Utah-Idaho. Logan: Cache Valley Centennial Committee, 1956.

Hovey, Merlin R. "An Early History of Cache County." Manuscript, Utah State Historical Society Collections, 1925.

GEORGE WASHINGTON BAKER HOUSE  
MENDON, UTAH

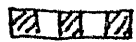
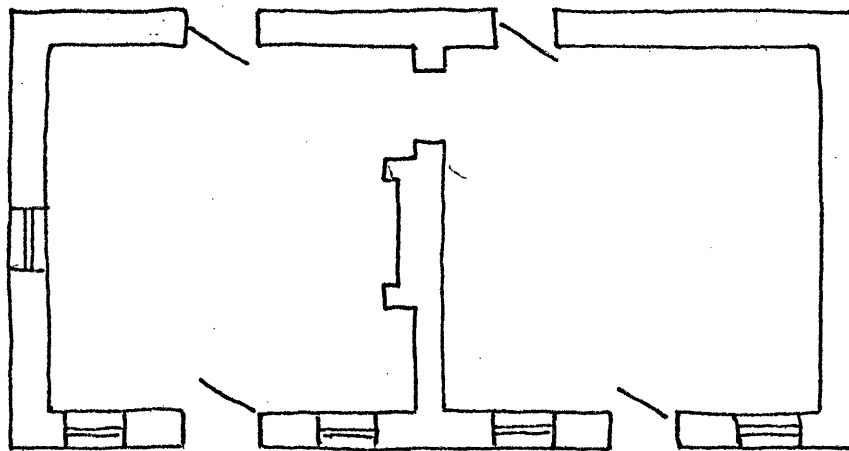
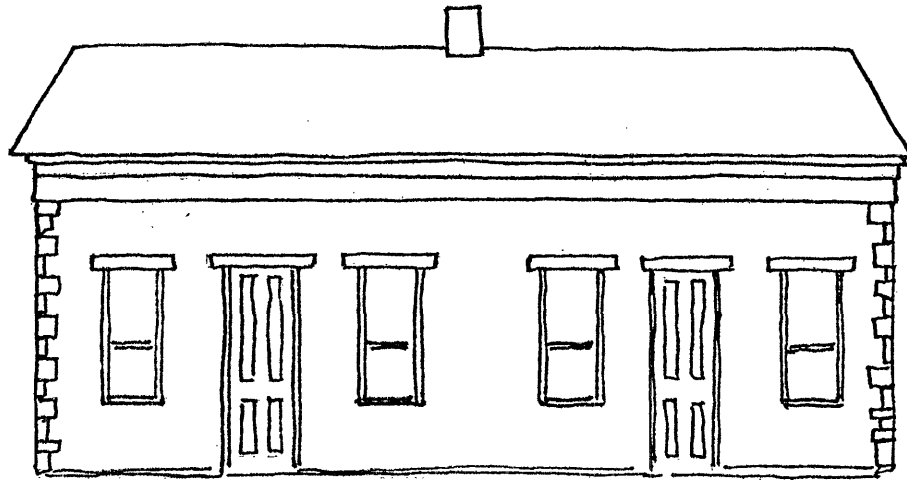


FIGURE 1

GEORGE WASHINGTON BAKER HOUSE  
MENDON, UTAH

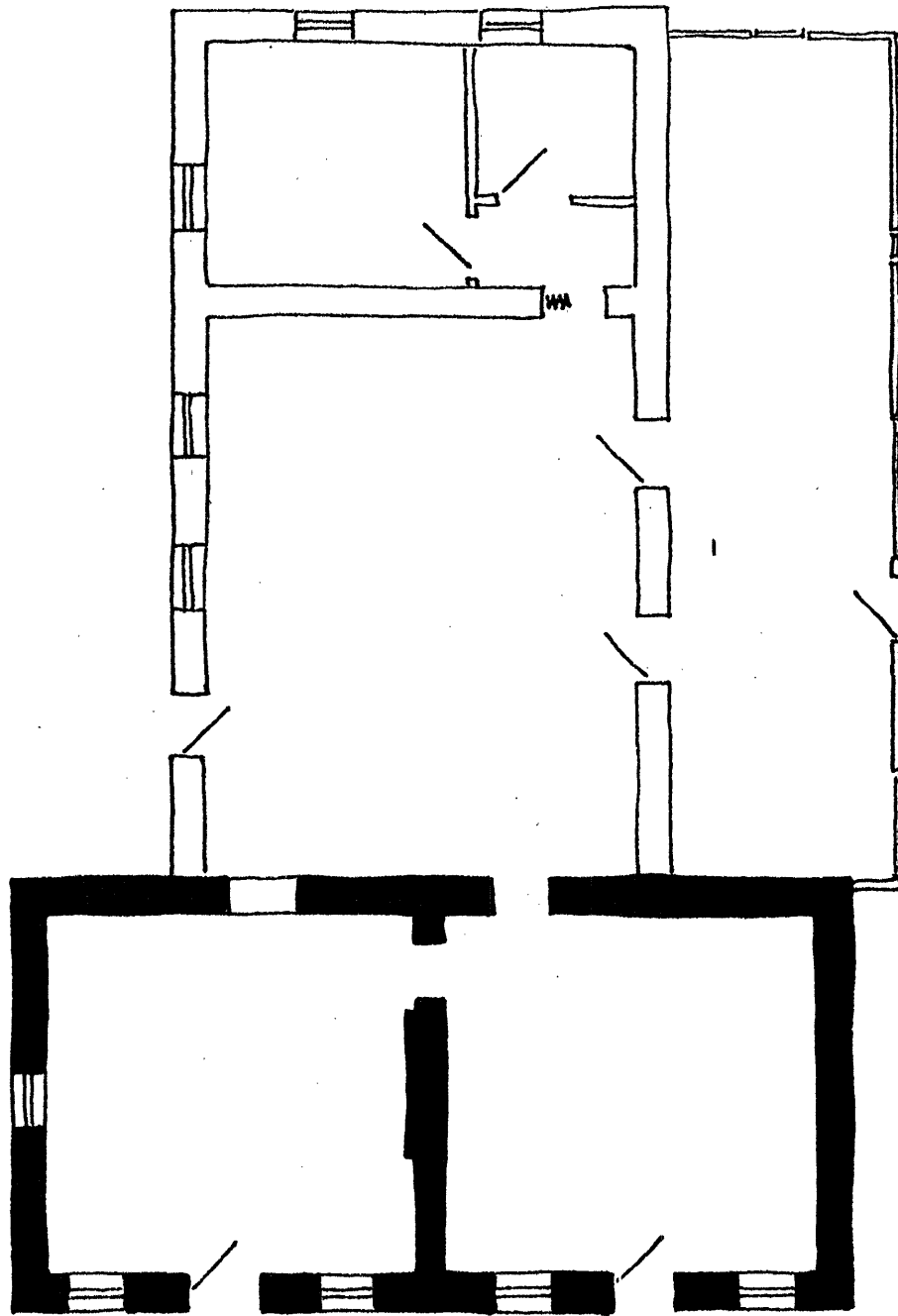


FIGURE 2