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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name MOYLE HOUSE AND INDIAN TOWER  
other names/site \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 606 East 770 North N/A not for publication  
city, town Alpine N/A vicinity  
state Utah code UT county Utah code 035 zip code 84004

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Nov 12 1992  
Signature of certifying official Date

Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>12/23/92</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

## 6. Functions or Use

### Historic Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

DOMESTIC / secondary structure (watch tower)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE / storage (dugout/root cellar)

### Current Functions

(enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / museum

DOMESTIC / single dwelling (caretaker's residence)

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY

Other: Vernacular (watch tower and root cellar)

Bungalow/Craftsman

### Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Granite

roof Shingle (house); Other: Sod (tower)

other Log (outbuilding)

STONE (cellar)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Moyle House and Indian Tower sits in an area of former farmland west of Dry Creek, with new houses slowly filling in surrounding open space in the north section of Alpine, a small agricultural/residential village in northern Utah Valley. The complex has been preserved, in part, because it was built before surveyed roads in an isolated location rather than along one of the main city streets where it would have been more vulnerable to demolition.

The original Moyle homestead consisted of a dugout residence expanded to a two-room stone house (the north portion of the existing house), a small stone dugout food cellar to the north of the house (recently restored) and the stone Indian watch tower to the west of the house (restored and partly reconstructed in 1951 and more completely in 1976). These three structures were built c. 1858-66. Wood-frame outbuildings were erected later, such as the large chicken coop (extant on the private lot to the west) and others which no longer exist. In recent decades two late 19th century log outbuildings were moved to the site and placed northwest of the tower. In 1991, after the site was converted to a pioneer house museum, a non-contributing caretakers residence was built north of the complex along the north property line (see site plan). South of the property and not included in this nomination sits a smaller, altered Moyle house built for a polygamous wife of John R. Moyle. A description of the three contributing buildings follows.

### 1) Moyle House: c. 1858-1917

The Moyle House was built in three distinct stages. The original house, built by English stone mason and owner, John Rowe Moyle, was a small "dugout" type structure, about half below grade. A substantial hall-parlor type house was soon built, facing south and consisting of two rooms and a basement (the original dugout home) with an underground tunnel (either never completed or caved in) running west to the Indian Tower. Each room had a fireplace, an outside door and two windows. One of the original six-over-six windows exists in the north wall of the east room. The house had thick walls of river rock taken from Dry Creek to the east. The roof was gabled and probably contained a sleeping attic as was common in local houses of this period (see historic photo). Many of the features of the original house remain except for modifications made when a large addition was built to the south.

In 1917 John Moyle's youngest son, Joseph Edward Moyle, added the present dining room, kitchen, bath room and porch, giving the house plan its current, nearly square

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Moyle House and Indian Tower, Alpine, Utah County, UT

shape.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, a stairway was built and four small sleeping rooms were enclosed under a new gabled roof (see floor plan). Built during the Bungalow/Arts and Crafts Era when cobblestone was a popular material, and taking advantage of the still-plentiful local stone, Joseph Moyle used this stone for the south addition and matched the random rubble masonry technique employed by his father. As a result, the addition is relatively compatible architecturally, although it now conveys Bungalow rather than vernacular styling. Among the alterations made in 1917 are the north picture window, paneled interior walls (later walls currently being removed as part of a restoration effort) and the larger gabled roof with plastered end walls. The newer roof ridge runs east-to-west as did the original ridge, though it is broader to encompass the south addition. The Craftsman influence is noted in the masonry; exposed purlins and rafter ends; and tripartite divisions in the windows with multiple lights in the upper sash in the southwest room (see Photo #2).

2) Indian Tower: c. 1860-66

The watch tower appears to have been built in two stages, the last of which was completed before the end of the Black Hawk Indian War of 1865-68. The tower measures twelve feet in diameter at the base and is about sixteen feet tall at the point of the conical roof. Built of local river rock set in a random rubble pattern, the walls are two feet thick. The lower wall utilizes mostly granite stone while the upper section consists of a variety of stones possibly gathered from a greater distance away. In the lower level walls are eight, equally spaced, splayed, horizontal gun ports with cut stone lintels. The holes are about five feet above the floor level of the tower. The entrance to the tower is through a single opening in the west wall with a cut stone lintel and cast-iron bar door resembling a prison door. (This door is apparently a product of one of the restorations and does not seem to be based on historic evidence.) A second story floor with small watch holes in the walls is accessible by a wooden ladder inside the tower. The tower roof is cone-shaped with a medium pitch. It is made of logs, thatching and mud/sod roofing. Due to the collapse of the upper section of tower wall prior to 1917, a partial reconstruction occurred in 1951. A more extensively researched and accurate restoration took place in 1976 as a Bicentennial project. An adjacent, dry-laid stone wall, seen in the historic photos, has also recently been restored.

3) Dugout/Root Cellar: c. 1858-60

This small dugout structure, located behind the house (to the north), is completely underground except for the slightly sloping, gabled sod roof, the ridge of which runs east-to-west parallel to the length of the building. Access is gained through a stairway and single door in the west wall. The structure has a rectangular plan and is built of local river rock laid in random rubble masonry. The collapse of the roof left the dugout exposed to the weather and deterioration for many years. A recent restoration has included the rebuilding of the roof. (Because this structure does not show well, no photographs are included.)

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There are a few non-contributory or out-of-period buildings in the area (i.e., within the city park) but outside the proposed National Register boundaries. They include:

**Log Outbuildings: Late 19th Century**

In order to convey a more complete sense of an agricultural homestead complex following the loss of some earlier outbuildings, a pioneer-era log outbuilding (the old Relief Society granary) was moved to the site during the last decade. It is typical of the kinds of structures believed to have originally occupied the site. Rectangular in plan and constructed of horizontal hewn logs, the building faces east and has a gabled roof with the ridge running north/south. It is a vernacular structure with a single wood plank door, no windows and wood shingle roofing.

A second historic log building, the Whitby Cabin, has also recently been moved to the site. Both the cabin and granary are located along the western edge of the park, outside the National Register boundaries. While the log buildings are from the historic period and in relatively good condition, because they were relocated to the site, they are not included in the Moyle House and Indian Tower National Register complex.

**Miscellaneous Park Facilities: 1990s**

Several typical park structures (e.g., restrooms, picnic pavilion, caretakers residence) have been built within the park recently. None are located within the National Register boundaries.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:  
 nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

### Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE (house, tower and outbuildings)

MILITARY (tower)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT (dugout and tower)

Period of Significance

c. 1858-1917

Significant Dates

c. 1858

1917

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

probably John Rowe Moyle (original house and tower)

Joseph E. Moyle (?) 1917 addition

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Moyle House and Indian Tower site is significant for its examples of vernacular architecture from Alpine's early settlement period. The Indian Tower is especially unique in that it survives as the only structure of its type known to have been built in Utah. While many public and private forts were built during the decades of the Indian wars prior to 1870, no individual towers are known to have been built to protect a single homestead. Very few of the community forts remain (only Fort Deseret and Cove Fort, both National Register, are substantially intact). The tower was constructed c. 1860-66 to watch for and provide defense against Native Americans during the Black Hawk War of 1865-68, a period in which both Mormons and Indians were killed in Utah Valley. Built of local river rock by owner/stone mason John Rowe Moyle, the tower is utilitarian and vernacular in design, as are the house and dugout/food cellar which were built c. 1858-60. The 1859-60 stone house built over the c. 1858 dugout residence, and the 1917 Bungalow/Arts and Crafts style addition to the house using matching stone, reflect the relatively rare, evolutionary method in which small, primitive houses were enlarged as architectural styles and personal fortunes changed. In addition, the use of the Arts and Crafts style is quite rare in the community of Alpine.

The Mormons first entered the area that would become known as Alpine in 1849 at the direction of LDS Church president Brigham Young. Before that time the local Ute Indians had roamed freely through Utah Valley and valued the area for hunting. This most northeast corner of the valley was deemed by the newcomers a perfect place for a cattle range and became first known as Mountainville for the high Wasatch Mountains that bordered it on the north and the east. Hearing of the two large streams of water flowing through the area and the generally favorable climate, settlers came to Mountainville in 1850. Ten families struggled through that first winter living in hastily constructed dugout homes or in their covered wagons.

By Spring of 1851, six families had relocated to other settlements, daunted by the constant presence of Indians and the difficult, rocky terrain. Those who remained commenced plowing their fields and were soon joined by other settlers eager to try their hand in this beautiful spot. Within a year the group had built a small, one

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room log schoolhouse and organized a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.<sup>2</sup>

Mountainville was originally settled on the old Indian trail that led from Utah Valley over the low hills to the north into the Salt Lake Valley. Therefore, Ute and Shoshoni Indians were frequently seen traveling on ponies or on foot along the periphery of this fledgling community. Because of the unpredictable relationship between the Indians and the white settlers during the Walker War of 1853-54, Brigham Young advised the inhabitants Mountainville at that time to build themselves a fort. They laid the fort out on a ten acre plot of ground. A ditch of water flowed through the fort and supplied the settlers with the water they needed. A corral in the center of the fort protected the cattle at night. The next year a mud wall was built around the fort about thirty feet outside of the rows of houses. Each family planted a few acres just beyond the fort walls.

John Rowe Moyle resisted from the first the idea of living within the fort. An English convert of Mormonism, Moyle came to Utah with his wife, Philippa Beer, in 1856, during a lull between Indian wars.<sup>3</sup> An expert stone mason by trade, Moyle and his family lived in Salt Lake City for nearly two years while he worked on Temple Square helping in the early phases of construction of the Salt Lake Temple. In keeping with the Mormon practice of polygamy at that time, Moyle married his second wife, Mary Ann Williams, in 1858.

With his two wives and their numerous children, Moyle moved to Alpine late in 1858 as part of the Mormon "Move South" due to the federal military threat posed by Johnston's Army. It took about two weeks to prepare their dugout home. Moyle dug a hole about three or four feet deep and built walls above so that the room was half in the ground and half above. The structure was covered with logs, brush and a foot of earth. Within two years Moyle built a more permanent house over the dugout using granite stone from the nearby creek and canyon.<sup>4</sup> There was nothing in the design of this hall-parlor house that reflected the polygamous nature of Moyle's family and he soon erected another house for his second wife a short distance south of the first house.

Because of the intermittent threat of Indian attack, Moyle began construction of a stone watch and defense tower to protect his family. The feared attack never materialized and in fact, soon after the tower was completed, the Indians left the

X See continuation sheet

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<sup>2</sup>Vern W. Clark, "A Historical Study of Alpine, Utah for use in the Elementary School," MA Thesis, BYU, 1963.

<sup>3</sup>Vern Clark, "A Historical Study of Alpine," MS Thesis, Brigham Young University, 1963.

<sup>4</sup>Clark, "A Historical Study of Alpine," MS Thesis, Brigham Young University, 1963.

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Moyle House and Indian Tower, Alpine, Utah County, UT

area.<sup>5</sup> The family came to use the structure as storage and a bunkhouse for the children. After his death in 1889, his son Joseph assumed control over the property. He and his wife Matilda lived in the house for decades, enlarging the house with a stone addition in 1917 in the Bungalow/Arts and Crafts style to accommodate their growing family.<sup>6</sup>

The community of Alpine was surveyed for historic resources in 1988.<sup>7</sup> Only eleven bungalows, including the Moyle House, were identified. All dated from 1905-20, with only nine potentially eligible for the National Register. The Moyle House is also one of only six Craftsman style dwellings in Alpine, only three of which are also bungalows. The Craftsman (or Arts and Crafts) style was present in Utah from about 1900-1915, but was of very modest impact in Alpine. In addition to its relatively rare style and house type, the Moyle House is also locally significant because of its over-building, or incorporation of the earlier, hall-parlor house in the later, Bungalow/Craftsman house.

After years of sitting vacant, Alpine City obtained the property with the intent of restoring it and using it as a pioneer house museum. An early effort involved the reconstruction of the Indian Tower and adjacent rock wall. Much of this work was completed in 1976 as a Bicentennial project. It was based on historic evidence and photographs. (See historic photo). (The first major repair or reconstruction of the Indian Tower occurred in 1951.) A caretaker's house and other park facilities were built on the site in 1991 and restoration of the house commenced starting with the removal of modern interior paneling and other intrusive elements. The purpose of the work is to return the complex to its late-19th and early 20th century appearance insofar as possible and interpret the original uses of the site.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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<sup>5</sup>T. Michael Smith, "Historic Archaeology at Moyle Tower, Alpine, Utah." MA Thesis, Brigham Young University, 1978.

<sup>6</sup>Joseph E. Moyle. Obituary. 7 October 1938, p. 15.

<sup>7</sup>Zoe S. Smith, "Historic Resources of Alpine, Utah." Unpublished Manuscript, 1988.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Clark, Vern W., "A Historical Study of Alpine, Utah for use in the Elementary School," MA Thesis, BYU, 1963.
- Driggs, Howard R., Timpanogos Town, New Hampshire: The Clark Press, 1948.
- Goodman, Jack, "Moyle Tower in Alpine was built to guard against attack," Salt Lake Tribune, 30 December 1990.
- Moyle, John Rowe, Obituary, Salt Lake Tribune, 15 February 1889.
- Moyle, Joseph E., Obituary, Salt Lake Tribune, 7 October 1938, p.15.
- Smith, T. Michael, "Historic Archaeology at Moyle Tower, Alpine, Utah." MA Thesis, BYU, 1978.
- Wild, Jennie Adams, Alpine Yesterdays, Salt Lake City, Blaine Hudson, 1982.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- \_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- \_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register
- \_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- \_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - \_\_\_ Other State agency
  - \_\_\_ Federal agency
  - \_\_\_ Local Government
  - \_\_\_ University
  - \_\_\_ Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approximately 2.5 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/3/5/0/5/0</u>	<u>4/4/7/9/3/8/0</u>	B	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / / /</u>	D	<u>/ /</u>	<u>/ / / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / / / / /</u>

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point 50 ft. east and 50 ft. south of the southeast corner of the Moyle House, west approximately 400 ft. to a north/south line located 50 ft. west of the Indian Tower; then north approximately 275 ft. to an east/west line located 30 ft. north of the Dugout/Root Cellar; then east approximately 400 ft., then south approximately 275 ft. to the point of beginning. (See enclosed site plan.)

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries enclose the center and most important part of the site associated with the complex of structures being nominated. The site preserves a sense of rural setting such as existed historically. It is entirely located within parcel 11-047-17.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Allen Roberts, AIA / Preservation Consultant; Martha S. Bradley/Historian

organization Cooper/Roberts Architects, AIA date October 1992

street & number 202 West 300 North telephone 801-355-5915

city or town Salt Lake City state Utah zip code 84103



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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 5

Moyle House and Indian Tower, Alpine, Utah County, UT

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### Photo No. 1

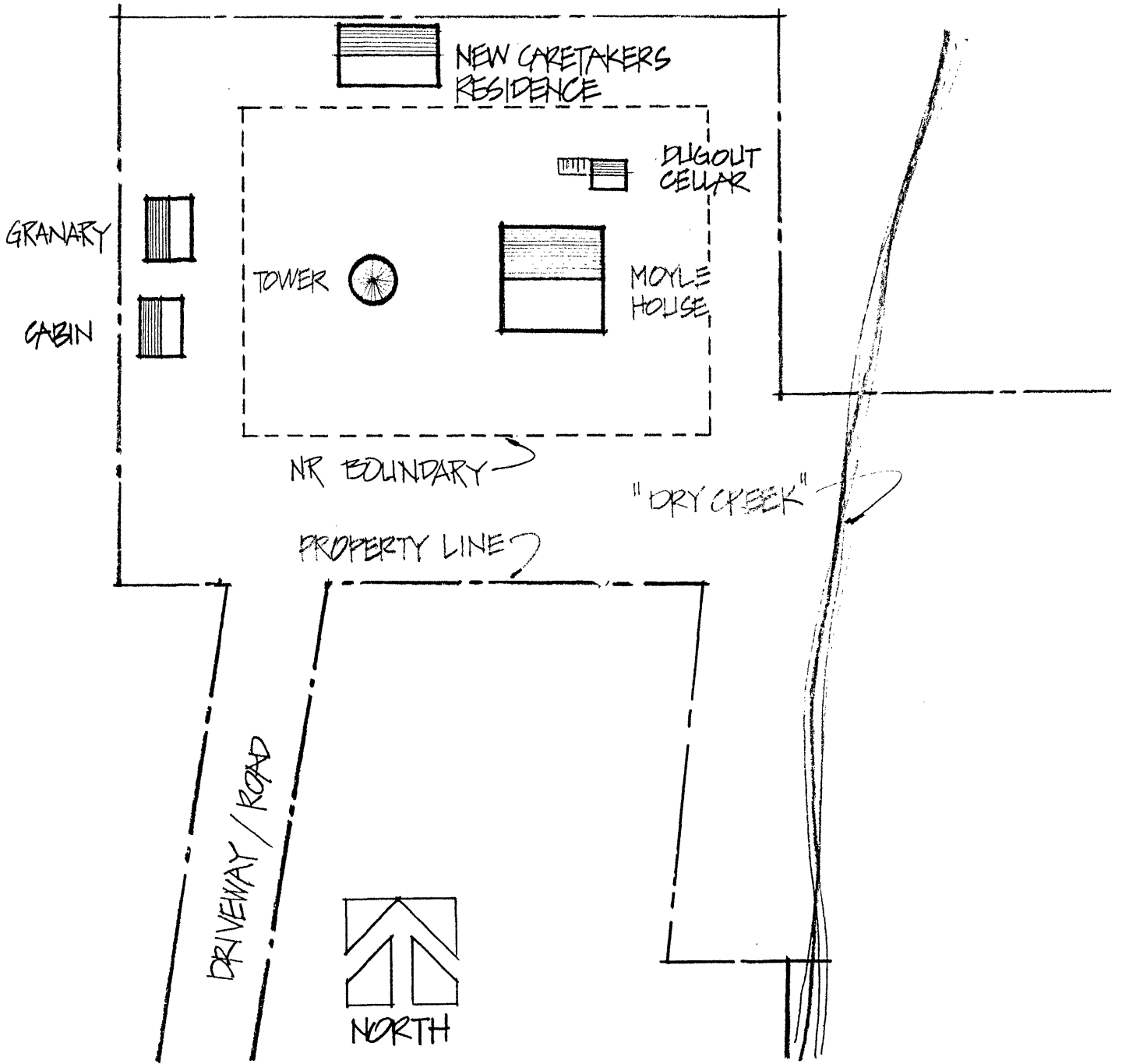
1. Moyle House and Indian Tower
2. Alpine, Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Allen Roberts
4. Date: August 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. West elevations of restored Indian Tower and Moyle House. Camera facing east.
7. Photo No. 1

### Photo No. 2

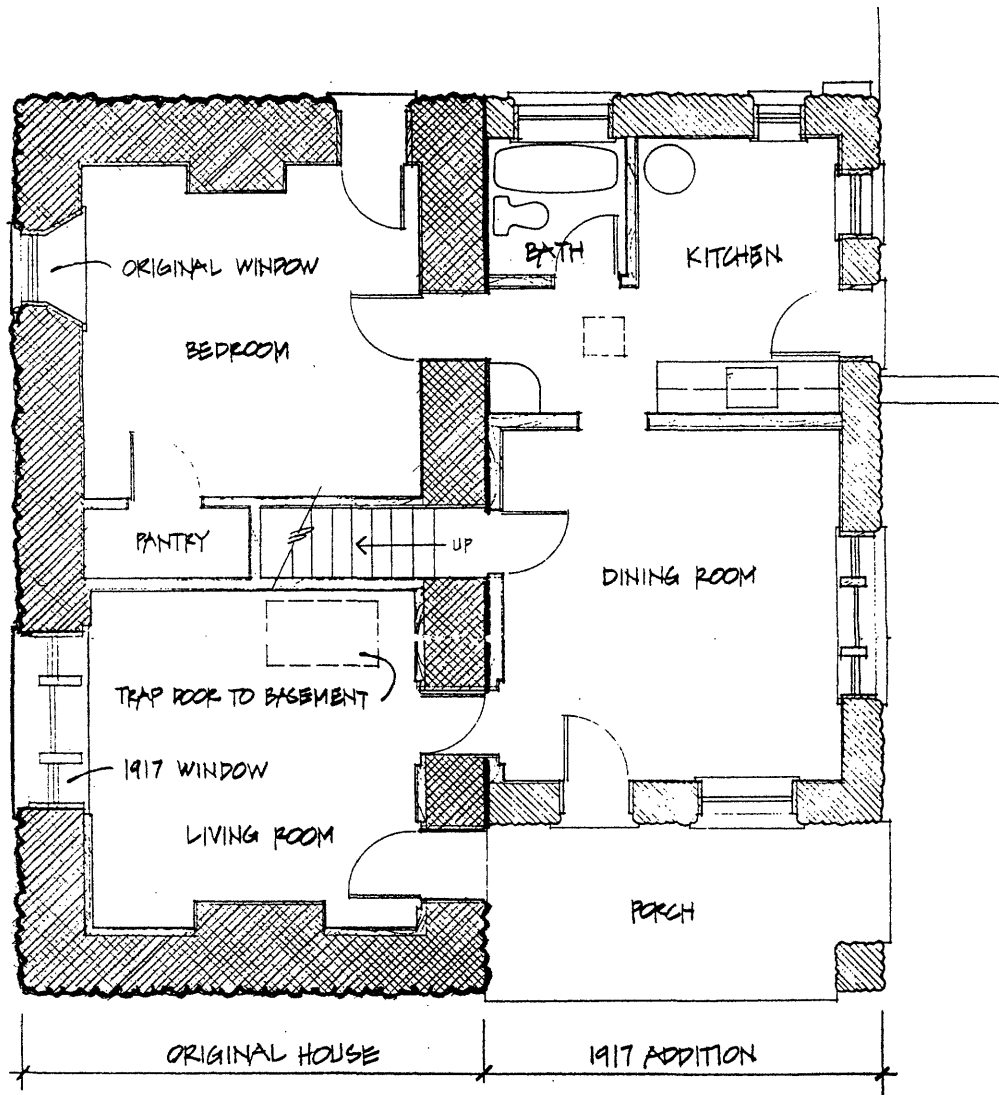
1. Moyle House and Indian Tower
2. Alpine, Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: Allen Roberts
4. Date: August 1992
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. West and south elevations of the Moyle House. Original c. 1859 house still visible as left (north) portion. Camera facing northeast.
7. Photo No. 2

### Photo No. 3

1. Moyle House and Indian Tower
2. Alpine, Utah County, Utah
3. Photographer: unknown
4. Date: c. 1912
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO
6. Ruins of Indian Tower and west and south elevations of house prior to expansion. Camera facing northeast.
7. Photo No. 3



MOYLE HOUSE & INDIAN TOWER  
 SITE PLAN , NOT TO SCALE , SCHEMATIC  
 ALPINE , UTAH

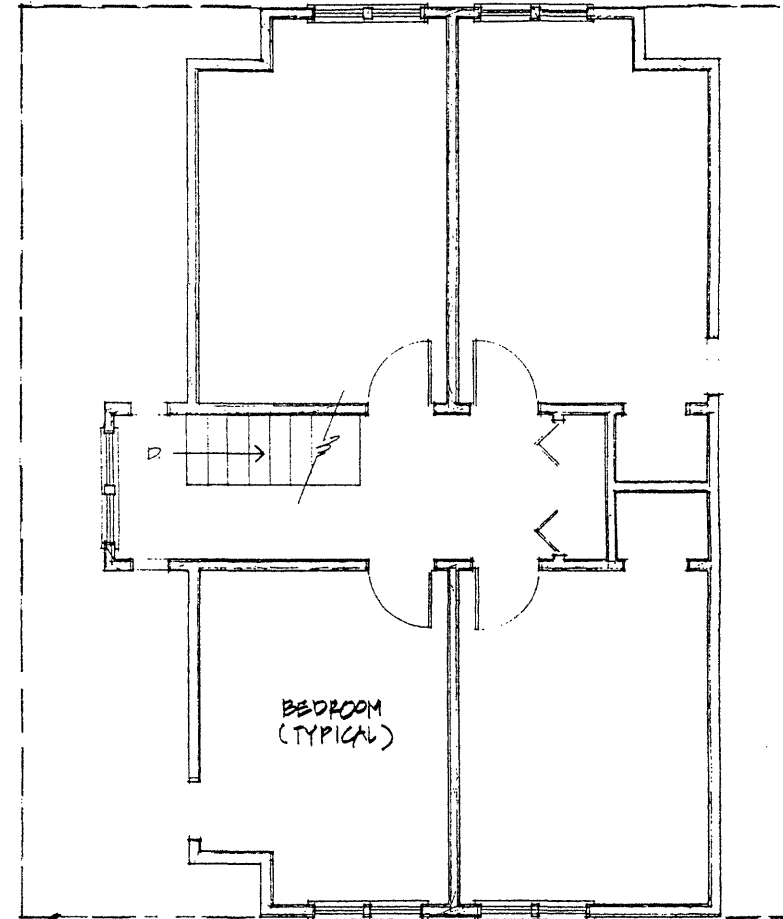


**FIRST FLOOR**

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



NORTH



FIRST LEVEL EXTERIOR

NOTE: ALL ATTIC ROOMS (4 BEDROOMS, CLOSETS & STAIRS) WERE ADDED IN 1917.

**SECOND FLOOR**

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

**MOYLE HOUSE FLOOR PLANS**



Department of Community & Economic Development  
Division of State History  
Utah State Historical Society

NOV 16 1992

NATIONAL  
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**Norman H. Bangarter**  
Governor  
**Max J. Evans**  
Director

300 Rio Grande  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1182  
(801) 533-5755  
FAX: (801) 364-6436

November 12, 1992

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
Interagency Resources Division  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the registration forms and documentation for the following properties which have been approved by the Utah Historic and Cultural Sites Review Committee (Utah Board of State History) and the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Lefler-Woodman Building, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County
- Lehi Fifth Ward Meetinghouse, Lehi, Utah County
- Moyle House and Indian Tower, Alpine, Utah County
- Park Hotel, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County
- Schneitter Hotel, Midway, Wasatch County
- Stanworth, Emanuel and Ursella, House, Hurricane, Washington County

Thank you for your assistance with these nominations. Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Shepherd  
Architectural Historian  
Office of Historic Preservation

Enclosures